

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 8, 2016
MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA

The St. Mary Levee District (“SMLD”) met on this date with President William Hidalgo, Sr., presiding and the following board members present: James Vidos, J.P. Hebert, Will Terry, Norris Crappell, Kenny Arceneaux, Luther Smith and with Barry Broussard absent.

Also present: Tim Matte, St. Mary Levee District Executive Director; Michael Brocato, Operations Manager of St. Mary Levee District; William Bourgeois, SMLD Attorney; Jeff Pena & Nicole Cutforth, CB&I; Reid Miller, Miller Engineers; Kevin O’Gorman, T. Baker Smith; and members of the public and media.

Mr. Terry moved to dispense with the reading and to approve the Nov. 10 regular meeting minutes. After a second by Mr. Hebert, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hidalgo presented the payables report, which Mr. Crappell moved to approve. Following Mr. Vidos’ second, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte reported he is still working on a land acquisition with the Mayor of Baldwin for the remaining landowners along the Bayou Choupique project.

Reid Miller with Miller Engineers reported his office did submit the permit for the Yokely Levee Project and is waiting to hear from the USACOE.

Mr. Miller reported that the work on the South Willow Street Pump Project is scheduled for completion by mid-January. Mr. Miller stated that the contractors are scheduled to mobilize on site on the 19th at the Franklin Canal Pump station.

Kevin O’Gorman with T. Baker Smith reported that the construction for the Siracusaville section of the Morgan City Levee Construction and Improvements Project is still ongoing; the contractors have used 66% of their contract time. Mr. O’Gorman reported bid opening for the Lake End Park to Justa Street has been pushed to Dec 13 and discussions with SLECA are still ongoing to relocate power lines before construction can begin. Mr. O’Gorman also reported his office received the permit from the USACOE for the LA 70 portion.

Jeff Pena with CB&I reported his office has recently submitted a plan and is currently working on the 60% design, life safety analysis, Environmental Assessment, and Cultural Resources analysis that USACOE is requiring for the Bayou Chene Project 408 permit process. Mr. Pena stated his office recently submitted the life safety information and it’s currently being review by the USACOE hydraulics team.

Mr. Pena reported his office has received all the permits for the Bayou Teche project. Mr. Pena stated Miller Engineers has started on the acquisition process for the project.

Mr. Matte reported in November the USACOE has issued new guidance on section 408 implementation to attempt to have the decision authority at the District level. Mr. Matte stated SMLD will continue to monitor these efforts and to meet with USACOE on a biweekly basis.

Mr. Matte reported a meeting on the Increase Atchafalaya Flow to Eastern Terrebonne Project will be held by the Port of Morgan City on Dec 12. Mr. Matte stated this project plans to utilize the GIWW as a conveyance channel to deliver additional flow during lower river flows.

Mr. Matte reported a meeting will be held Jan 3 to release the State Master Plan with a public hearing being held in Houma Jan 24.

Mr. Matte also reported the ALBL Flood Insurance Coalition has now raised \$130,000 to address the flood insurance issue since the Flood Insurance Program is up for renewal in 2017.

Mr. Matte reported St. Mary Parish Government’s Finance Committee has recommended to the Council terminating the operation of the ferry once our project to repair Avoca Road is complete. Mr. Matte stated that St. Mary Parish Government will be meeting with other entities to help pay the operating fees of the ferry.

Mr. Bourgeois reported gave an update on the ongoing Avoca litigation.

Mr. Matte discussed the amended budget for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016 and the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. Mr. Hidalgo invited public comment.

Mr. Crappell motioned to adopt the district's amended budget for FY 2016 and to adopt the FY 2017 budget, which was followed by Mr. Terry's second, it carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte reported the Amended Restore Act plan by CRPA no longer includes the Bayou Chene project and wishes to draft a letter opposing the exclusion of said project. Mr. Arceneaux moved for Mr. Matte to draft a letter opposing the exclusion of the Bayou Chene project, which was seconded by Mr. Crappell and carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte reported a Stakeholders of Bayou Chene Flood Control & Diversion Project letter has been drafted to inform them that SMLD cannot continue to provide the cost of construction on the Bayou Chene closure without additional assistance. Mr. Hebert moved to allow Mr. Matte to mail out the letter that has been drafted as mentioned above. After a second by Mr. Smith, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Crappell moved to authorize Mr. Matte to make a comment in support of including the Point Au Fer restoration project into NRDA Trustee Implementation Group list of project. After a second by Mr. Smith, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hidalgo asked for further comments and did not receive any. Mr. Terry moved for adjournment, which was seconded by Mr. Arceneaux and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Barry A. Broussard, Secretary
St. Mary Levee District