

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013
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, Norris Crappell, J.P. Hebert, Luther Smith, Will Terry, and with Raleigh Boudreaux, Barry Broussard and Andrew Mancuso, absent.

Also present: Tim Matte, Executive Director of St. Mary Levee District; William Bourgeois, SMLD Attorney; Nicole Cutforth, CB&I Co.; Rick Dugas, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA); Reid Miller, Miller Engineers; Robby Robinson; Glen Hidalgo, St. Mary Parish Council; Jason Kennedy, T. Baker Smith; and, members of the public and media.

Mr. Terry moved to dispense with the reading and to approve the August 8 regular meeting minutes. After a second by Mr. Vidos, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Hidalgo solicited public comments. Mr. G. Hidalgo announced the three nominees for the District IV seat; the nominees are Mr. Wayne Cantrell, Mr. Scott Ramsey, and Mr. Raymond Beadle.

Mr. Matte stated an intergovernmental agreement has been executed with the Town of Baldwin and a meeting will be scheduled with Mayor Breaux, Reid Miller, and a consultant with CDBG funds, Ms. Angela Kraemer.

Mr. Reid Miller with Miller Engineers reported a meeting was held with Gulf Craft about the Yokeley Levee project. The company had concerns about crossing Gulf Craft property; Mr. Miller stated they were looking at other alternatives.

CB&I’s Nicole Cutforth reported the completion schedule on the Franklin Canal Levee and Floodgate project has been extended to November 4 due to rain days. Ms. Cutforth stated the barge is 95% completed, sheetpile for the pump station has been driven, and a change order is in process for a culvert to be installed at the generator pad toe of the levee. Ms. Cutforth also discussed the dedication of the structure which is to be scheduled early November; she is currently waiting on CPRA’s confirmation on the authority of naming the structure. Ms. Cutforth stated that Mr. Brocato, SMLD’s Operation Manager, has a slideshow of the ongoing project.

Ms. Cutforth reported the status of the Franklin Canal Pump Station. The 100% of design documents were submitted to CPRA. SJB Group is now working on the design of the gas line and should have preliminary information back to CB&I as early as next week. Ms. Cutforth reported CB&I is in the process of preparing an official letter to CPRA requesting the short fall funds for the pump station to be able to have bids for construction to move forward. Also requested by Ms. Cutforth was approval to have Cleco install power to the site which is an additional SMLD contribution to the project; Ms. Cutforth stated the permits have been acquired and right of ways are in the process of getting acquired.

Mr. Hebert moved to approved \$9,952 be paid which will allow Cleco to install power poles to bring shore power to the Franklin Canal Pump Station generator pad site. Following Mr. Terry’s second, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Cutforth reported survey data has been collected on the Bayou Teche Recon Study project and the transfer of data to the modelers has been completed. They are in the process of adjusting the grid they currently have once that is complete they will produce two maps with and without gates to show if any adverse effects occur downstream. A meeting will be held to present the findings in mid-November with a formal presentation at the December meeting.

Mr. Miller of Miller Engineers reported the draft of the Coastal Use Permit has been received for the Hanson Canal and all processing fees have been submitted and documented.

Once the permit has been received and logged, the USACE permit should follow shortly after. Also reported was a conference call was held with a geotechnical engineer on the comments of the sheetpile layout stability on the Yellow Bayou design. Comments were discussed and minor changes were made to the drawings. Once the drawings are finalized the plans will be sent to Louisiana Solutions to be reviewed and wait for authorization to advertise for construction.

Mr. Matte reported the negotiation of the contract with T. Baker Smith for certification of the Morgan City backwater levees has been completed and should be signed within the week. Once all paperwork has been completed the surveying and geotechnical work will be the first work that will begin.

Ms. Cutforth reported surveying and geotech data collection is completed on the Bayou Chene project. The geotechnical data is being analyzed in the lab with the report waiting to be reviewed. Surveying for modeling has been completed and the modelers are working on the grid. Mr. Cutforth stated the permit applications have ended and is waiting on comments.

Mr. Matte explained the levee district needs to make a joint request with Terrebonne Parish to get the Bayou Chene project approved at the CPRA level to start receiving funds from Terrebonne Parish on the project.

Mr. Matte reported he attended a meeting with the USACE scheduled as a result of comments from the Low Water Inspection Trip on the levee deficiencies. Mr. Matte stated he asked the USACE to consider raising the West Gordy levee to 12 feet elevation rather than the 8 feet elevation. Mr. Matte said a portion of the levee's base is sufficient to support a 12 foot levee.

Mr. Matte discussed the backwater protection document that was signed by the Division Commander of the Corps stating the USACE and levee district should investigate a project to provide backwater protection for the area as part of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project as a 100% federal project.

Mr. Bourgeois reported that he attended the meeting with USACE's attorney who is drafting the Project Partnership Agreement which would potentially make the St. Mary Levee District the local sponsor for the COE's riverine projects in the Parish.

Mr. Bourgeois recommended a motion be passed to amend the agenda and add 10B as an agenda item to hire another attorney in the legal matter of a demand letter that was received; the attorney claimed a conflict of interest with the district's current legal team. Mr. Hebert motioned to expand the agenda to add the above mentioned as an agenda item. Following Mr. Vidos' second, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte discussed the results of the USACE annual inspection report for Wax Lake West and Terrebonne Basin; both reports stated that the levees are minimally acceptable.

Mr. Smith motioned to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to sign an agreement to hire Mr. Jim Supple as the attorney for the levee district to handle the legal matter in reference to the demand letter received from attorney Nicholas Zeringue, who represents Fontenot's Precision Iron Works. Following Mr. Crappell's second, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hebert motioned to authorized Mr. Hidalgo to sign a contract for T. Baker Smith to do design work on the Morgan City levee project provided that Consolidated Gravity Drainage Dist. #2 approved the contract as intervenor-payor. Following Mr. Crappell's second, 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. Crappell and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Barry A. Broussard, Secretary
St. Mary Levee District