



St. Tammany Levee,
Drainage and Conservation District (STLDCD)
Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 15, 2020

Time: 5:45 P.M.

Location: Slidell City Auditorium, 2056 2nd Street, Slidell LA 70458

Welcome, Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence –

Chair Krieger welcomed members, called the meeting to order, initiated the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silence. Chair Krieger thanked Mayor Greg Cromer for the facility and assistance in providing an avenue to meet and comply with the COVID19 guidelines.

Roll Call –

Members present: Suzanne Krieger, John Faust, Cody Bruhl, Henry DiFranco, Daniel McGovern, Gary Mills, Steve Price and Philip Valent. A quorum was met with 8 members present.

USACE Public NEPA Scoping Meeting – Via Facebook (Amy Dixon)

The Board and members of the public present, joined the virtual meeting via Facebook and were allowed to ask questions via smartphones.

Update on Old Business

A. Completion of St. Tammany Coastal Study – Phase II Gap Analysis

Mr. Don Lancaster and Mr. Glenn Ledet presented an overall update on the St. Tammany Coastal Studies: The study was divided into three phases:

Task I – Data Collection and organization of flood control data which was completed in 2019.

Task II – Gap Analysis – evaluation of gaps in flood protection and flood risk mitigation to add to the protection and restoration of St. Tammany’s coastal area. This phase was completed in February 2020.

Task III – The study is progress into the final phase which will analyze project feasibility and the engineering of individual projects, as well as, initiate SCOPE development. This will be helpful to both CPRA and the USACE to be included in the masterplans. Mr. Ledet then recapped the list of projects starting with the flood risk projects. Beginning on the west side of the parish, all of which have been adopted by the USACE as alternatives moving forward: Mandeville Seawall retrofit replacement; Lacombe flood risk reduction ring levee project to protect lower Lacombe. In the greater Slidell area there are three separate but combined projects: Flood protection for west Slidell; the Slidell Ring Levee which is the protection for central Slidell; and then the protection for Eden Isles. All of these feasibility studies have been submitted to be included in the St. Tammany Parish Coastal Masterplan and have been submitted to CPRA to be included in the next State Coastal masterplan. Will continue to meet with stakeholder groups to receive their input.

B. ***Slidell Levee System*** – East Segments Task Order Initiation with CPRA

Mr. Ledet mentioned that one of the key items that came out of the Gap Analysis was that there was no interim flood protection in the areas on the east side of Slidell, which could be seen as a vulnerable area on the eastern side. Neel-Shaffer looked at the proposal to try to fill that vulnerable area first, if possible. That area is between Lakeshore Estates and Kingspoint and Kingspoint and Highway 190. Glenn reported that his group is currently working with CPRA to initiate that effort. Mr. Ledet reminded the Board that CPRA committed \$9 million of the GOMESA dollars to St. Tammany Parish to help build these type of projects.

C. ***Update on Louisiana Watershed Initiative*** – Round 1 Grant Program

An application has been put together by the Parish, Levee Board and Neel-Shaffer for additional flood protect work in Slidell. The project was found eligible. Neel-Shaffer will now work with both the Parish and Levee District to make the technical application so that it will be able to compete with the other applications.

Public Comments/Questions - There were no comments or questions made on this item.

New Business

A. **St Tammany Coastal Study Phase III Effort**

Mr. Ledet updated the Board as to the progress made in the evaluation of alternative projects and refining project features in the collecting of preliminary geotechnical data in the areas that are missing data. A detailed scope has been submitted to the Levee Board and Parish. As soon as possible, a focus on the projects in the Slidell area which include: the west Slidell levee, the Eden Isles levee and the central Slidell ring levee. This could include pump stations and gate structures (where across waterways).

Public Comments/Questions

Mr. Tom Thompson, Eden Isles, questioned if there is an overlap of projects that are chosen to move forward, who or how will the funding regarding the 35% match that is needed be calculated? Mr. Ledet mentioned that it could possibly be considered depending on construction projects, but that he would have to get back with the Board on that issue.

B. **Introduction of New Board Members**

Chair Krieger introduced the new board members and asked to please tell a little bit about themselves. Commissioners Phil Valent, Cody Bruhl, and Gary Mills all gave a brief introduction of themselves.

Treasurer's Report –

Commissioner Price presented the Treasurer's report to the Board with the following information; A previous balance of \$31,615.51 as of May 31, 2020 was reported. One check in the amount of \$500.00 was recorded leaving a balance of \$31,115.51 as of 06/26/2020. The annual budget will be presented at the next meeting for a vote for fiscal year 2020-2021. Commissioner McGovern moved that the Treasurer's report be adopted, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Mills. There being no objections the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner DiFranco submitted the minutes to the Board. Commissioner McGovern moved that the June 17, 2020 minutes be approved, seconded by Commissioner Price. Without objection minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments – There were no comments made on this item.

Board Meeting Schedule –

The Board will hold its orientation meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Slidell City Auditorium located at 2056 2nd Street, Slidell, LA 70458, and will be open to the public. A public notice of the meeting will be in the official journal of record and on the Levee Board website.

The next Board meeting will be August 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Slidell City Auditorium located at 2056 2nd Street, Slidell, LA 70458.

Public Comments – There were no comments made on this item.

Public Comments –

Mr. Tom Thompson of Eden Isles, asked the Chair for a status on the Commission's resolution letter asking the La. Watershed Initiative Commission to consider new tide gauges funding in the Rigolets and at the mouth of the Pearl River. Chair Krieger has not received any notice from Mr. Fitzmorris on that resolution, but she will follow up with him.

Adjournment–

A motion was made by Commissioner McGovern and seconded by Commissioner Faust to adjourn, there being no objections the meeting was adjourned.