

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

August 15, 2018

Message from the CAO

It has been 18 months since the Authority started regionalizing and moving from three separate districts into one regional organization. As part of that effort, we began a Culture Change Initiative in the summer of 2017. A number of ideas came out of that initiative, and many have already been put into action, including:

- ◆ Focus group meetings to gather confidential feedback
- ◆ Electronic message boards at all locations to improve communication
- ◆ Creation of 7 Tenets that capture the Authority principles (Accountability, Clear Expectations, Open & Transparent Communication, Valued & Appreciated Employees, Teamwork, Professionalism, Mission Focused)
- ◆ New Authority logo, which was placed on all vehicles and now being installed on all floodgates
- ◆ All-Hands Meeting and Crawfish Boil to discuss Hurricane Season and Safety
- ◆ Two week staff exchanges between EJLD and OLD Police Departments

We are now about to start Phase II of the Culture Change Initiative, which will focus on ideas and actions from now until July 2019.

What will that mean for you?

New people participating in the Culture Change group. We recognize the value of new perspectives from throughout the Authority.

More opportunities to provide your thoughts and ideas. Within the next few weeks, you will be asked to participate in another confidential survey, administered by a 3rd party. There will also be more focus group meetings to get more in-depth feedback.

Finally, you will see an emphasis on training and safety – building upon the things we do well now and looking for ways to do more and be better.

Thanks as always for what you do every day to keep the people and property we protect safe.

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr., - President
Richard A. Luettich, Jr., ScD - Vice President
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Herbert I. Miller, P.E.
Herbert T. Weysham, III

*“Be more concerned
with your character
than your reputation,
because your character
is what you really are,
while your reputation
is merely what others
think you are.”
John Wooden*

Derek

Welcome New Flood Protection Team Members



Tori Calice
Mobile Equipment
Operator Light
EJLD
Hired on 7/30/2018

Kevin Menard
Trades Apprentice
LBBLD
Hired on 7/30/2018



Congratulations on Promotion



Darnell Laurent
promoted to Police Lieutenant A
Orleans Levee District Police - 7/16/2018

O.L.D. Police Complex Continues on Schedule



Scheduled to be completed by the end of October, 2018.



FPA Welcomes Herbert Weysham to the Board

Herbert T. Weysham, III, Governor John Bel Edwards' newest appointment to the FPA, began his service on the Board at the July 19th meeting. Although he currently resides in Slidell, Herb was born and raised in New Orleans East, and still has family living in St. Bernard, Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

Herb attended Lake Castle, Brother Martin High School, UNO, and graduated from Delgado Community College (AS Electrical Engineering) and McNeese State University (BS Electrical Engineering Technology). He is the Manager of Projects and Estimating at VersaTech Automation Services. His father had been a police officer for 19 years. At the meeting he expressed his desire to help protect the region from flooding.

Herb's position at VersaTech presents him with an incredible opportunity to see different parts of the world. He planned to work on a project off the coast of Nigeria the week of July 23rd and recently had an opportunity to work on a project in Israel.



Herbert Weysham takes Oath of Office administered by Michelle White, Assistant Attorney General



Herb 1 and Herb 2



Fellow Board member Herbert Miller took the opportunity not only to welcome Herbert Weysham to the FPA, but to help everyone identify who's who, he presented the newly appointed Herb with a "Herb 2" T-shirt — Herbert Miller, of course, is "Herb 1".

Pogo, the Great Horned Owl, Is Rescued !



Pogo Caught in the Basin and with WL&F's Agent Terry Friedman

On Sunday morning, July 15th, LBBLD Operating Engineer Master, Philip Lapara found a lost and very scared Great Horned Owl stuck in a holding pond at Pump Station 8 in Verret. The owl, nicknamed "Pogo" was not able to get out of the water in the basin, and inevitably would have drowned. Thinking quickly, Philip called the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office who gave him the number to Wildlife and Fisheries. Agent Terry Friedman came out, retrieved Pogo and took him to his bird rehabilitation center in Gretna for further evaluation.



Pogo today!



Updates: July 22 – One week later Philip received an update from Agent Terry Fiedman about Pogo. He was doing well, made a quick recovery and was eating like a pig! August 8— Agent Friedman, who has a falconry license, has adopted Pogo, who is eating well and sleeping in the house at night in his mew. Submitted by Angel Shepherd

Outstanding Service Recognized by Board



Peggy Sembera, Sarion Granger and Shannon West (left - right)

CAO Derek Boese recognized Peggy Sembera, Shannon West and Sarion Granger at the July 19th Board Meeting for their exceptional achievements and efforts in Employee Services.

Human Resources, which was recently renamed Employee Services, has undergone a great amount of change, some of which has been tumultuous. Fazande Consulting was retained to provide assistance in Employee Services; however, FPA staff members Peggy, Shannon and Sarion have done a tremendous amount of work through the changes and tough times to keep the FPA going.

Peggy, who formerly served as the administrative manager for LBBLD, has had to relocate her office from the LBBLD facility to the Franklin Avenue Complex and has been serving as a staff member of both Finance and Employee Services. Shannon formerly performed finance duties at the EJLD and has had to relocate her office from the EJLD Administration Building to the Franklin Avenue Complex and now works in Employee Services. Sarion worked at the FPA as a temporary employee; however, she did such a great job in Human Resources that she is now a permanent classified employee in Employee Services. The services provided by Peggy, Shannon and Sarion have excelled despite the change and turmoil recently experienced by the FPA and rave reviews have been received from FPA staff who greatly appreciate their support.

President Hassinger explained at the meeting that the Board recognizes that the past year and a half have been a big challenge for the FPA, and in particular HR. The goal of the FPA is to have an Employee Services Department that is exceptional. Joe stated, "the three names repeatedly mentioned in terms of exceptional service are Peggy Sembera, Shannon West and Sarion Granger. These three professionals have done an incredible job of holding things together and helping the FPA progress, and their exceptional service has been very much noticed and appreciated."



Kudos to Peggy, Shannon and Sarion who are an inspiration to their fellow FPA team members and an extraordinary example of the FPA's values.

Update on EJLD Safe House and Consolidated Facility



Police Officers Receive Special Recognition for Saving Child



Sgt. Schindler (above) and Officer Meunier (below) congratulated by FPA Police Superintendent Kerry Najolia.



where she expelled water from her mouth and regurgitated. Although the child was breathing, she would not wake up despite every effort by officers. JPSO deputies and fire personnel arrived a short time later to assist. A second child, the first victim's twin sister, was located in the apartment and she was breathing, conscious and alert.

The officers recognized that the first child was in desperate need of immediate medical treatment and elected not to await the arrival of an ambulance. The officers along with JPSO deputies and fire personnel loaded the child into a patrol unit and the assisting officers provided an escort to Ochsner Hospital's Emergency Room. The second child was later transported by ambulance to the hospital for follow up care.

A follow up to this report revealed that both children survived this incident and are doing well.

President Joe Hassinger applauded Sgt. Schindler and Officer Meunier for their impressive response during this medical emergency. He added that he was sure that the ability to serve the public was one of the reasons that Sgt. Schindler and Officer Meunier became police officers and that the Board was proud to have them as a part of the FPA team.

Pictured below: Sgt. Schindler (left) and Officer Meunier (center) were presented with Police Department Commendations by Captain Terry Durnin, EJ Police District Commander.



Sergeant Michael Schindler and Officer Scott Meunier were recognized and presented Certificates of Commendation by the FPA Board at its July 19th meeting for Exceptional Performance and Extraordinary Efforts in saving the life of a young child.

On Thursday, June 21, 2018, P/O Scott Meunier and Sgt. Michael Schindler overheard a radio broadcast via police radio of a medical emergency located on Monticello Avenue. The dispatcher advised that two juveniles had just been found drowning and pulled from a pool at the location.

The EJLD officers arrived within minutes and located a two year old female lying naked and in a supine position next to a pool at the apartment complex. The child was unconscious and not responding, but she was breathing ever so slightly. The officers performed lifesaving efforts on the child and kept her in a recovery position

Employee of the Month Recognized by FPA Board



Karl Hoffpauir was recognized by the Board at its July 19th meeting as the FPA's Employee of the Month.

Karl is currently the Facility Assistant Maintenance Manager A for the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps. Karl takes his new responsibilities very seriously and has been learning as much as he can about the recently constructed facilities. He

puts his new training on the PCCP to practical use always trying to find better ways to accomplish various tasks.

Karl was hired by the Orleans Levee District on July 1, 2013, as a HVAC/Refrigeration Master Mechanic in Department 312 where he was instrumental in helping to get the O.L.D.'s new A/C system working correctly. His knowledge of HVAC systems proved to be the turning point in getting the entire system up to speed and working properly.

Karl's maintenance skillset includes knowledge of electrical, plumbing, computer and mechanical systems, and he uses this knowledge to trouble shoot equipment issues. He is well known for his dependability and willingness to help anyone and everyone. Not only can he be counted on to use his excellent skillset to provide assistance, but when needed he will provide help in any capacity.

Board member Rick Luetlich, who Karl had been teaching the finer points of cooking gumbo Louisiana style, commended Karl for his ability to interact with everyone he comes in contact with and for his generous spirit.

Karl practices the values of the Flood Protection Authority. His dependability, eagerness to learn and teamwork make him a valuable asset to the Flood Protection Authority.

The FPA team congratulates Karl for being selected Employee of the Month.

Police Employee of the Month

P/O Marius White was in the area of Franklin Ave. and Robert E. Lee Blvd. on the morning of June 24, 2018 when a call was received of juveniles pulling on car handles in the 6400 block of Arts Street. Officer White was checking the area when two vehicles passed him at a high rate of speed.

P/O White engaged in a chase with the two vehicles southbound on Franklin Ave. The two vehicles split up and P/O White stayed with a white SUV. At the corner of N. Roman and St. Ferdinand the white SUV struck an abandoned garage. Four juveniles in the vehicle were taken into custody. The four juveniles ranged in age from 9 years old to 13 years old. The white SUV was checked and found to be not stolen. The address where the SUV was registered was checked and the owners did not know that their vehicle had been stolen. N.O.P.D. detectives took the four juveniles into custody. They continued the investigation and were able to link these four juveniles by DNA to many of the car burglaries that had been committed on the Lakefront.

Thanks to the excellent work of P/O Marius White quite a few car burglaries were solved and a stolen vehicle was returned to the owner with very minor damage.

P/O White was selected as the Police Employee of the Month due to his exemplary police work and his commitment to the FPA and public service.

The FPA team wishes Marius a long, successful career in law enforcement.



Kerry McKinney Recognized for Exceptional Performance

The FPA Board recognized and presented a Certificate of Commendation to Kerry McKinney at its July 19th meeting for Exceptional Performance and Extraordinary Efforts in providing aid to a coworker during a medical emergency. Kerry is a Maintenance Repair Master in the Floodwall Crew (Department 312).

On May 16, 2018, Kerry rushed to advise Marvin Duret in the Mechanic Shop to call 911 and report that an employee was having a seizure. He then ran back around the building to the docks where the crew was working at the time to provide assistance to the co-worker suffering the seizure or heat stroke. The coworker could not talk and was shaking very severely and had hit his head once when the seizure initially started.



Over the next five minutes Kerry held the coworker down and slowly poured three bottles of water over his head and shoulders until he came out of the seizure. The whole time Kerry was holding him down and preventing him from hitting his head again he was evacuating himself and spitting up. When the coworker was finally able to speak he had no idea what was going on and was very delusional. Kerry stayed next to him and didn't allow him to move until the paramedics arrived.

When he was asked by Marvin how did he know what to do, Kerry responded that he worked on the water and that he had seen this type of situation before. Kerry kept his cool in a very intense situation and put the safety and well-being of his coworker first.

President Joe Hassinger applauded Kerry for his impressive action in responding to this medical emergency and stated that the Board is proud to have him as part of the FPA team.

Administrative Employee of the Month

Pat Johnson, Administrative Assistant 5 in the Operations Department, was selected as Administrative Employee of the Month for her work effort in preparation for the May 2018 I-Storm Peer Review. The event required planning to accommodate a group of 15 I-Storm members from other countries for hotels stays, meeting room times, meal locations, transportation, tours, printing requirements and conference supplies. Pat visited the potential meeting room locations and hotel accommodations, called restaurants and tour offices regarding availability, and ordered supplies for the meeting room. She presented her researched recommendations to Gerry Gillen, Director of Operations, and the itinerary was formulated for the group. Pat also picked up and set up the food buffet for the Welcome Meet and Greet. Pat's effort resulted in a very successful I-Storm Peer Review and the group was able to stay on schedule due to the detailed itinerary.



Pat's regular work day consists of providing assistance with typing and filing for the Operations Department, daily mail courier runs to the Lakefront Airport, front desk duty, and she always volunteers to help other departments when the need arises. The Flood Protection Authority is fortunate to have Pat as a member of the Operations Department team.

Construction to Start Soon on Franklin Complex Renovations



Bids were opened for the construction of the Franklin Avenue Administration and Warehouse Renovations on July 25th. The Board is anticipated to award a contract for the construction of the renovations at its August 19th meeting. Construction is anticipated to be underway by the end of August.

On July 19th the Board awarded a contract to AOS Interior Environments to supply the modular wall/partitioning system and furnishings for the project.

The project will be two phased with the warehouse renovation portion completed in the first six months and the Administration renovation portion completed two months after.



The project will completely revamp the look and feel of the facility and will provide fresh new modern offices with collaboration spaces, break areas and loads of specialized storage as shown in the architect's renderings.

As part of the construction contract, the HVAC capacity will be increased with the addition of a new chiller and cooling tower along with two new generators that will power the facility.

Phase I should be complete by February of 2019 and Phase II by April of 2019.



Helping the Next Generation Expand Their Horizons

Mr. Drew Lehman advised the Board that the Water Environment Federation (WEF) will hold its 91st Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference in New Orleans from September 29 thru October 3, 2018. The conference is anticipated to draw 20,000 water quality professionals from around the world to the Crescent City and includes the Emerging Water Quality Scholars Program, which will introduce 15 young adults and students (18-24) from New Orleans' underserved communities into careers in the water utilities profession. The Program allows participants to gain real-world experience, make personal and professional connections and expand their knowledge of careers in water and utility infrastructure and applied science. Local agencies, including the Flood Protection Authority, are encouraged to support and participate in the program.

The program is patterned after the American Association of Geographers (AAG) Emerging Workforce Scholars Program, which was part of AAG's Annual Meeting in New Orleans in April, 2018. The Program allowed 17 students from Delgado Community College, UNO, Southern University and Landry-Walker High School to interact and network with geoscience professionals, and participate in professional skills workshops and technical sessions. As part of the program, students visited critical flood defense structures and learned about the flood defense system from the FPA's professional and trained team members.

FPA Permits Go High-Tech

The FPA's web-based Permitting Software Management System went live on July 23rd. The permitting software developed by Vinformatix was funded by a Community Development Block Grant. The System allows applicants to electronically submit and track permit applications.

The first step requires applicants to provide coordinates for the proposed work and automatically informs the individual whether or not a permit is required. A progress bar walks the applicant through each step of the process, and provides instructions and anticipated timeframe for the process. Notifications are sent to the Corps of Engineers, CPRA and the FPA Permitting Office so that the review and appropriate actions take place. Approved permits can be downloaded by applicants. The FPA plans to expand the software's capabilities and features over time.



G.G. Mumfrey, Vinformatix Project Manager, informs the FPA Operations Committee about the features and capabilities of the Permits Management Software

New Features on floodauthority.org

The Flood Protection Authority is continuing the development of our website with updates and new features in order to increase public awareness of our critical mission, provide information about our state of the art flood defense system, and serve the needs of the public and our team members.

New updates and features include:

- ⇒ Information on the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (The System)
- ⇒ Our newly produced video on the I-STORM Peer Review (Education)
- ⇒ "Keepin' Your Head Above Water" – our 42 page Middle School Science Curriculum developed to ensure future generations are equipped to deal with the risks and challenges associated with living with water, gain an in-depth knowledge of the flood protection system and share their learning experience with family and friends (Education – Teacher Resources)
- ⇒ Online Permit Application (Business)

Look for these and future updates and new features on our website - floodauthority.org

Preparing Educators on Flood Protection Curriculum

Middle School Science Program

Know Your Flood Protection System

Keepin' Your Head Above Water



Middle School Science Curriculum

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Teaching students about the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System will help future generations understand its importance and share this information with their families and friends. All 8th grade science teachers in St. Bernard Parish Public Schools attended a Flood Protection Authority-sponsored workshop to prepare them to teach the originally-developed curriculum, *Keepin' Your Head Above Water: Know Your Flood Protection System*. The curriculum includes lessons and activities on geographical orientation (where do I live and where is the water), the Flood Protection Authority's flood protection system (where is it and what is it) and ways students can reduce risk related to tropical storms and hurricanes for their families and homes.

The teachers were very grateful for the opportunity to learn how to educate their students about these important topics that directly influence their lives. Bob Turner had the idea to create this curriculum and approached St. Bernard Parish Public Schools Superintendent, Doris Voitier to pilot the education program. After the success of the pilot program, she approved that the curriculum be adopted parish-wide.

The curriculum and lessons were developed by Anne Rheams, Education Consultant, and Gena Asevado, St. Bernard Parish Schools Science Curriculum Director. The program will be adapted for Orleans and East Jefferson Parish schools.

The online version of the Curriculum is posted on floodauthority.org/teacher-resources.



The Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) Appear in History Channel's New Engineering Series, Project Impossible

HISTORY's new documentary series, "**Project Impossible**" will kick off its ten-episode first season this summer. Inspired by one of History's most successful series of all time, "Modern Marvels," "**Project Impossible**" investigates the challenges that face humanity and the projects that will solve it. Filmed across 17 countries, from the arctic to the equator, each episode investigates a new generation of projects that are crucial to our future.

The Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps appears in Engineering America, which examines the new generation of projects that are reshaping the country's infrastructure. The production team filmed crews finishing the flood gates, working on the climber screens, and driving sheet pile. Other segments include the New Tappan Zee Bridge, Los Angeles Subway, and Mount Rushmore Preservation. Premieres at the end of August on History.

Understanding the Levee Safety Action Classification

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rolled out its newest methodology for classifying risks – the Levee Safety Action Classification (LSAC). The Corps learned from Hurricane Katrina the importance of communicating residual risks and providing the best information available to local officials, stakeholders and the public so that they can make informed risk-based decisions. The Corps developed LSAC for this purpose.

The Corps writes, “The **LSAC is neither a levee rating or grade**, it is a classification system designed to take into account the probability of the levees being loaded (**Hazard**), existing condition of the levee, the current and future maintenance of the levee (**Performance**), and the **Consequences** if a levee were to fail or be overwhelmed. A levee that reduces risk for a dense population will receive a different classification from an equally constructed levee with a smaller population because the consequences associated with failure is greater.”

A levee system may receive a LSAC of High Risk even though it is well maintained with no obvious performance issues because it protects a large population, significant development and/or critical infrastructure. On the other hand, a levee system may receive a LSAC of Low Risk because it protects a sparsely populated area or has maintenance issues. The LSAC does not impact FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), as long as the levee system is accredited.

The Corps has classified our system as High Risk primarily based on New Orleans’ proximity to the Gulf and the large population and the considerable development and infrastructure that would be impacted by a significant event. The Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), designed to protect against a 100-year storm event, is one of the best flood defense systems in the world. However, no system can completely eliminate risks.

The Flood Protection Authority and its team members are dedicated and committed the mission of flood protection, which includes the professional, skilled management, operation and maintenance of the flood defense system, investigation of new programs or methods to manage residual risks, public education programs and providing the best information possible to public officials and citizens so that they can make informed decisions and take the appropriate actions.

The levee inspections currently in place will continue and include, the Corps’ annual Routine Levee Inspections and Periodic Levee Inspections (five year) with participation by the FPA and CPRA, and the Quarterly Levee Inspections conducted by the FPA. *However, the most important step in the levee inspection process takes place daily by the skilled, trained FPA team members who are our “eyes on the ground” identifying and reporting problems or unusual situations discovered while performing their operation and maintenance duties. The dedicated men and women of the FPA are our “first line of defense” in ensuring the integrity of the flood defense system.*

I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A FEEDBACK LOOP, WHERE YOU'RE CONSTANTLY THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE AND HOW YOU COULD BE DOING IT BETTER. I THINK THAT'S THE SINGLE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE: CONSTANTLY THINK ABOUT HOW YOU COULD BE DOING THINGS BETTER AND QUESTIONING YOURSELF.

ELON MUSK

Are We Personally Ready for Hurricane Season?

Hurricane season started on June 1st. The Flood Protection Authority began preparations well prior to the start of hurricane season and is adjusting strategies and plans as the season progresses to improve our capabilities and readiness. But, are you and your family personally ready should a major storm be headed our way?

The internet is filled with important messages from various organizations like the National Weather Service, Red Cross and FEMA, that remind us to start early so that we are not scrambling at the last minute should a storm move our way. These organizations' websites provide a wealth of information on things that we can do both now and just before the anticipated approach of a storm, including:

- ◆ Develop a personal evacuation plan.
- ◆ Create a communications plan (both for family and work).
- ◆ Have adequate supplies on hand (food and water per person for at least a week, fill prescriptions and have important items such as medicines, radios, batteries and phone chargers).
- ◆ Update your insurance coverage (know where your insurance documents are and take them with you if you evacuate).
- ◆ Prepare your home (trim trees, secure loose outdoor items and cover all windows).
- ◆ Gas up vehicles.
- ◆ Have extra cash on hand.
- ◆ And, most importantly, don't forget to help your neighbor and those who need help.

Hurricanes are unpredictable—we don't know when something that looks harmless may suddenly become a major hurricane or when a hurricane headed for somewhere else may suddenly turn and head our way. So be personally prepared, and prepare your families, because we never know when "the big one" will be headed our way.

Calendar of Events

August

August 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

September

September 3 (Monday) - Labor Day (State Holiday)

September 20 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

October

October 18 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

November

November 12 (Monday) - Veterans Day (State Holiday)

November 15 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

November 22 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving (State Holiday)

Reminders

Submit your Employee of the Month Nomination Forms by the last day of each month

Suggestions, comments, news items (weddings, births, significant anniversaries and other events you wish to share with your coworkers), original articles and other submittals are welcomed.

Editor: Glenda Boudreaux
Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton

Submittals can be placed in any "In the Levee Loop" suggestion box, emailed to gboudreaux@floodauthority.org or sent to Glenda Boudreaux, SLFPA-E, Airport Terminal, Suite 225, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.