

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON AUGUST 16, 2018**

PRESENT: Herbert I. Miller, Chair  
Clay A. Cosse, Committee Member  
Mark L. Morgan, Committee Member  
Herbert T. Weysham, III, Committee Member

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The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on August 16, 2018, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** None.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda was adopted by the Committee.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the July 19, 2018, Operations Committee meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:** None.

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of follow up on I-STORM Peer Review Report.**

Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), advised that he requested Darren Austin, lead mechanical engineer for the Complex Structures team, to provide an update to the Committee concerning the I-STORM Peer Review Report.

Mr. Austin reported on the status of the action taken thus far by the FPA. Peers from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands participated in the peer review, along with representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and FPA. The team peer reviewed the IHNC Surge Barrier Sector and Barge Gates, Seabrook Complex and Bayou Bienvenue Lift Gate. The team was in the field collecting facts during the first three days of the review process. The team sorted facts, conducted interviews and drafted a report during the fifth through seventh days. A presentation of the findings was provided to the FPA on the eighth day. A final draft of the Peer Review Report was received a month later (approximately two months ago).

Mr. Austin explained that the development of the scope for the peer review began in November, 2017, and the finalized scope included nine main areas. The 616 facts or items collected by the team were sorted into nine main categories with several falling outside of those categories. The team identified 21 items as best practices, which team

members took back for implementation, 116 items as strengths and 479 items as areas for improvement. He pointed out that many of the 479 items identified as areas for improvement were duplicated a number of times. Eighty-six of the 479 items did not fit into a specific category and were not considered significant. Ten items dealt with site security and are being addressed.

Mr. Austin advised that the FPA has started work on 40 percent of the 479 items and has developed an 18 to 24 month program to begin the initiative. The initiative is not limited to the three peer reviewed sites, but will be implemented Authority-wide. A priority has been placed on training and site safety, which is in progress. The FPA had some measures, such as the Risk Reduction Measures and Asset Management Site Security, in progress at the time of the peer review. A database that includes the facts and pictures was developed to track progress on the 479 items. Measures are being taken to globally implement simple solutions for a number of items, such as properly mounting fire extinguishers, proper labeling, remediating trip hazards and boater safety instructions. Some items concerned code requirements that are in place in the UK or Netherlands, but not in the United States; therefore, the responses may take some time to develop and could involve participation by the USACE.

Mr. Boese advised that an OSHA/safety expert from Arthur J. Gallagher, the FPA's Insurance Agent of Record, is in the process of visiting a number of the FPA's complex structures. A report will be provided and the FPA will implement best practices.

**B. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract to Zimmer-Eschette Services II LLC in the amount of \$134,593.00 for the Orleans Levee District Loft Building Demolition Project.**

Ryan Foster, Engineer, advised that bids were received last month. The lowest apparent bidder was declared non-responsive and disqualified. An informal hearing was conducted on the issue. The next three lowest responsive bidders were in close range. Staff recommended that the contract be awarded to the first lowest responsive bidder, Zimmer-Eschette Services II, LLC.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the award of the contract for the demolition of the Loft Building to Zimmer-Eschette Services, II, LLC.

**C. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract to Gottfried Construction, LLC in the amount of \$3,843,500.00 for the Base Bid and Alternate No. 1 for the Orleans Levee District Franklin Administration Building and Warehouse Renovations Project.**

Mr. Miller explained that he learned yesterday from discussions with the engineer and architect that Gottfried Construction, LLC's (Gottfried) bid for the generator did not meet the bid specifications. The generator proposed by Gottfried was basically for residential use and not in accordance with the generator required by the specifications. Gottfried was given an opportunity to change its proposed generator to one that met the bid

specification requirements; however, the firm declined to do so and withdrew the bid. A substitute resolution will be placed before the Board noting that Gottfried withdrew its bid and proposing the award of the contact to the next lowest responsive bidder, C.M. Combs Construction, LLC (Combs) for the Base Bid and Alternate No. 1. The top four responsive bids are within one percent of each other.

Paul Dimitrios, RCL Architecture Project Manager/Architect, advised that the schedule of values received yesterday was extensively reviewed and that the costs appear to be in line. The electrical subcontractor provided a letter stating that he is using a Cummins generator; therefore, there is no issue with the generator in the Combs' bid. Mr. Boese added that Combs is the general contractor for the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Police Station. The Police Station project progressed smoothly and is almost complete. Change orders for the project are within one percent of the original contract amount.

Mr. Cosse stated that there are issues with the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) in terms of providing proper drainage and, if approved, \$4 million will be spent on the Franklin Avenue Complex renovations. He commented on the condition of some of the LBBLD canals and that the canals are a higher priority than building renovations.

Mr. Boese explained that the Franklin Avenue Complex project has been underway for about seven months. The renovations are needed to consolidate staff from the Lakefront Airport, East Jefferson Levee District and LBBLD for regional operations. Funding for the renovations is included in the O.L.D. Budget because the property is owned by the O.L.D. The funding for the renovations project does not have anything to do with funding for St. Bernard or LBBLD maintenance. The project includes renovations to the first floor of the O.L.D. Warehouse to provide usable/functional office space and to the O.L.D. Administration Building.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the award of the contract for the Base Bid and Alternate No. 1 to C.M. Combs Construction, LLC.

**D. Discussion of a proposed amendment to the contract with RCL Architecture, LLC for the interior renovations and upgrades to the Administration and Warehouse Buildings at Franklin Avenue to increase the total not to exceed amount of the contract due to the additional work required beyond the original scope of work.**

Mr. Miller explained that the amendment of the RCL Architecture, LLC contract provides for a significant cost increase and that an extensive discussion would take place at the Board meeting. He advised that he spent a significant amount of time yesterday in discussions with the architect and engineer for the project and that he intended to provide the information to the Committee and the Board. He requested that the Committee defer consideration of the item until after the Executive Session so that the item can be discussed at the Committee meeting as time allows. The Committee concurred with the Chair's request.

**Executive Session:**

**A. Discussion of security assessment and plans for complex structures.**

A motion was offered by Mr. Cosse, seconded by Mr. Morgan and unanimously adopted, for the Operations Committee to convene in Executive Session to discuss the item listed on the agenda.

The Operations Committee reconvened in regular session.

The Committee took up Item D concerning the amendment of the RCL Architecture, LLC contract for the interior renovations and upgrades to the Administration and Warehouse Buildings at Franklin Avenue. Due to time constraints, Mr. Miller requested that the Committee defer the item to the Board so that the extensive explanation can be provided at that time. There was no objection by the Committee to the deferral of the item to the Board.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.