

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 18, 2018**

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

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on October 18, 2018, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 20, 2018, Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments:

Ray Landeche asked, how quickly could the Permanent Canals and Closures Pumps' gates be closed should a breach occur along one of the outfall canal levees during normal weather conditions due to a natural failure or act of terrorism?

Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer, responded that the time would depend on the station since each station has a different number of gates. Gerry Gillen, Operations Director, advised that the 17th Street Canal PCCP has 11 gates. The hydraulics are very slow and the gates are designed to be closed in a series, which would take about an hour. However, staff can take action, as required, to close the gates more quickly.

Mr. Landeche commented that as an engineer he would feel more secure with a gravity closing gate than having to rely on hydraulics. He related his experience as a homeowner when Hurricane Katrina struck and stated that an hour to close the gates is unacceptable in his opinion.

Mr. Miller commented that in an emergency the FPA would take whatever steps are necessary to close the gates as quickly as possible.

New Business:

- A. Discussion of the proposed amendment to Task Order No. 9 issued to Tetra Tech, Inc. for Bidding, Construction Administration and Resident Inspection Services for the construction of the Violet Canal North Levee Realignment Phase II to extend the period of service to December 31, 2018 and to amend the task order to increase the total not to exceed amount to \$201,860.00 (an increase of \$59,010.00).**
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Ryan Foster, Engineer, explained that the proposed amendment to Task Order No. 9 is for additional design required during construction of the project and for additional resident inspection and construction administration. The contractor experienced a number of unknown conditions related to utilities. St. Bernard Parish Government provided available as-built plans for utilities for the design of the project; however, a number of additional utilities were discovered during construction. In addition to the public utilities, there are Entergy, Cox and AT&T relocations that are still ongoing. The proposed amendment would provide an additional 14 weeks of Tetra Tech's services. The area is very old and utilities were put in place a number of times. When the contractor began excavation, utilities were discovered at locations other than shown on plans and additional utilities were discovered that had to be relocated. Many of the utility issues involve water, sewer and drainage. Entergy, Cox and AT&T utilities were known; however, the FPA has had difficulty having these companies relocate their utilities. Currently, the contractor has been granted 14 additional weeks. A change order for the construction contract will be provided soon. The contractor worked with the FPA as far as demobilizing some equipment and bringing some resources to other projects in order to minimize costs.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending that the Board approve the proposed amendment to Tetra Tech's Task Order No. 9.

- B. Discussion of a proposed contract with Vinformatix for Phase 2 of the Web-based Permitting Software Management System with a not to exceed amount of \$135,337.50.**
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Mr. Miller explained that a copy of Vinformatix's proposal was provided to Committee members and that he had several issues with the proposal and questions for Vinformatix. He recommended that the item be deferred until the FPA is able to receive additional information.

Mr. Morgan offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Weysham and unanimously adopted, to defer Item B until additional information is received.

C. Discussion of a proposed Memorandum of Agreement between the FPA, CPRA and USACE for the testing of up to 140 relief wells located along the IHNC and GIWW levees by the USACE at a cost not to exceed \$200,000.

Stevan Spencer, Regional Chief Engineer, distributed a map showing the relief wells located along the IHNC and GIWW levees, which were installed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under various contracts. Some of the relief wells were installed prior to Hurricane Katrina. The wells provide pressure relief should the canal experience a high water level with a lower ground water level on the protected side of the levee, which could cause an uplift and potential damage. The relief wells offer a controlled way to address the head differential before it causes any type of damage. Staff recommended that 140 of the 150 relief wells be tested. The USACE requires the relief wells to be tested every five years. Discussions have taken place over the past several years regarding which entity is responsible for testing the relief wells; however, the USACE advised that the non-federal sponsor is responsible. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has been attempting to obtain design information; e.g., factor of safety for flow. FPA staff recommended that the USACE test the 140 wells, draft the report, address the results and develop criteria relative to the adequate gallon per minute rates. The USACE estimated the cost of the in-house work to be between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

Mr. Boese noted that discussions with the USACE on this issue have taken place over at least the last seven years and that a significant amount of effort has been expended to bring the issue to this point. The proposed testing by the USACE will bring the FPA into compliance with USACE requirements.

Mr. Spencer added that neither the FPA nor USACE had a baseline or the original pump data. Significant effort went into obtaining data from the well permits and the contractors that drilled the wells in order to develop a baseline. FPA staff determined that it would be beneficial for the USACE to do the testing and draft the report. Mr. Boese advised that he is comfortable with this recommendation because of the amount of work that has gone into the issue over the past several years. After the USACE does the testing and develops the report, FPA staff can develop an inspection program.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending that the Board approve the proposed MOA with the USACE.

D. Discussion of a proposed Change Order to the contract with Southern Delta Construction, LLC for the NASA Levee Repair Project to increase the contract amount from \$354,140.00 to \$537,035.00 for additional required work.

Mr. Miller advised that an amendment would be needed to the motion on the Board's agenda because the cost of additional fill increased from \$109,000 to \$319,000.

Felton Suthon, Engineer, clarified that the proposed amendment to the motion would increase the contract amount to \$669,745 and explained the reasons for the increase. The cost increase was negotiated down \$77,000 by excluding areas that did not require hydromulch. Rain occurred every day during the last half of September. The contractor was required to strip the levee deeper than specified in order to achieve a bonding between the fill and the existing levee material. Subpar material was used when the levee was raised under a USACE contract; therefore, the grass never took and erosion continues. The time gap between the survey and commencement of the repair project, as well as the rain on the backfill, resulted in washouts. He pointed out that staff has tickets for every cubic yard of backfill and that every cubic yard has been verified.

Mr. Boese commented that the levee (LPV 113) was one of the earlier levees raised by the USACE. All FPA Engineers fought the USACE on the turnover of the levee; however, the turnover was forced on the FPA anyway. FPA staff was not satisfied as the levee was not in good condition when it was turned over by the USACE. The USACE has issued negative comments on the levee in its annual inspections. He noted that Mr. Suthon has been working to bring the levee to the condition that it should have been when it was turned over by the USACE.

Mr. Suthon advised that gypsum is being added to the hydromulch as recommended by the soil vendor at a cost of approximately \$63,000. Mr. Boese pointed out that the soil was an odd combination of high ph and high salinity. The levee will not be armored since it is located inside of the IHNC Surge Barrier.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending that the Board amend the motion on its agenda to reflect a total contract amount of \$669,745 and approve the Change Order.

E. Discussion of the proposed amendment of Task Order No. 15-01-02 issued to C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC, for Video/Sonar Explorations of culverts and valves located in the flood protection system within the Orleans Levee District and an engineering report with recommendations for repairs/replacements, to increase the not to exceed amount of the task order to \$784,091, an increase of \$124,683, for additional work required beyond the task order's initial scope of work.

Mr. Suthon explained that nearly all of the Orleans Levee District's (O.L.D.) valves and culverts going under floodwalls have been videotaped and their condition documented. Four culverts still need to be videotaped. One culvert, which was initially thought was no longer needed, was filled with flowable fill; however, staff subsequently discovered that the culvert was needed for drainage. A second valve located near the Orleans Marina is almost always filled with water and must be inspected by sonar. Several valves require additional analysis. Three valves are blocked by concrete (concrete plugs). About \$70,000 of the additional cost was due to delays caused by coordination with the railroad and pumping water out of the culverts, which took more time than

anticipated. At this time staff does not know how to access the pipes under the floodwall for six of the valves.

Mr. Boese advised that the inspection of the culverts is part of the USACE's inspection requirements. The O.L.D. has never had a full picture of all of the valves and culverts. This work will provide a baseline for inspections. Mr. Suthon pointed out that Fenstermaker provided a detailed report on the culverts that contains valuable information for going forward. Mr. Spencer added that the USACE requires that the valves and culverts be inspected every five years to ensure that the culverts going under a levee or floodwall are open and free and do not cause any problems. He noted that Mr. Suthon met with USACE representatives last week and that they were very pleased with the progress and results of the work.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending that the Board approve the proposed amendment of the task order issued to Fenstermaker.

F. Discussion of a proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the CPRA for the extension of Training Services for the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps through December 31, 2019 with a not to exceed amount of \$30,000 and with said services to be provided by Burk Kleinpeter, Inc. and costs to be reimbursed 100 percent by the FPA to the CPRA.

Mr. Boese explained that Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. (BKI) has been on board the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) project through the CPRA since the project's inception. The FPA issued a task order to BKI under its Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) in order to receive the expertise of Danny Caluda; however, the maximum amount of the ID-IQ contract has been reached. He recommended that for transparency, in lieu of adding monetary capacity to the BKI ID-IQ contract, that the existing contract between the CPRA and BKI be utilized to allow the FPA to retain the services of Mr. Caluda for technical support past the end of hurricane season.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending that the Board approve the proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the CPRA.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.