

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2017**

PRESENT: Mark L. Morgan, Acting Chair
Clay Cosse', Committee Member
Herbert I. Miller, Committee Member

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on January 19, 2017, in the Second Floor Council Chambers, Joseph Yenni Building, 1221 Elmwood Park Boulevard, Kenner, Louisiana. Mr. Morgan presided as Acting Chair in the absence of Mr. Kemp and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was amended to include the discussion of the maintenance of pumps at the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) pump stations. The amended agenda was adopted via a roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on December 15, 2016 were approved.

Public Comments:

Remy Donnelly, Counsel for Wood Materials/Resource Companies, advised that the permit renewal is routine and that all of Wood Materials' activities, including the composting, have been occurring for more than five years. The sand pits have been utilized for more than fifty years and have been permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) since 1962. The aggregate activity has been in Jefferson Parish for more than ten years. He reiterated that these are long standing activities and that the permit renewal is routine. He stated that all of Wood Materials' current activities are legally conducted activities, and that none of the activities affect the integrity of the levee. Wood Materials is undergoing some changes at the facilities at the request of Harahan residents and the City of Harahan. The main haul road that runs along the levee will be relocated as far south and as close as possible to the edge of the river. Wood Materials is waiting for the relocation of the road to be permitted by the USACE. However, Wood Materials is confident that the permit will be received and is moving forward with the project beginning with Phase One, which includes a paved road and truck wash station that will further enhance its ability to maintain the sand on site.

The Committee took Item F as the next order of business.

New Business:

F. Discussion regarding Woods Resource Permit issued by the East Jefferson Levee District.

Mr. Miller explained that he had the opportunity to visit Wood Materials' facilities. The Board was provided with a copy of the City of Harahan's letter requesting that the composting and limestone activities be stopped. He advised that he has had discussions with the Representative of Jefferson Parish and individuals on the Jefferson Parish Council who would also like these activities to cease. However, SLFPA-E Executive Counsel advised that Wood Materials was successful in the lower court relative to the recent litigation regarding the composting activity. He added that he did not know whether or not this ruling will be appealed. He stated that at this time the Authority will allow the permit to proceed as is; however, a specific statement will be included in the permit requiring that Wood Materials comply with all State, federal and local ordinances. If the ruling is appealed and the higher court rules that Wood Materials not be allowed to conduct the composting activity, then the Authority would expect the ruling to be enforced in accordance with the City's ordinance.

Mr. Miller added that he was appreciative of Wood Materials' effort to relocate the roadway about 2,000 feet back from the levee and away from the residences in order to reduce noise. He stated that he noted a lot of mud on the road when exiting the facility and commented that Wood Materials' truck washing efforts should remediate this issue. He requested that Derek Boese, East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) Executive Director, keep the Board apprised of the progress with regards to the USACE permit, the relocation of the roadway and the construction of the truck wash facility.

A. Discussion of proposed East Jefferson Levee District Safehouse and Consolidated Facilities Project.

Mr. Boese introduced Randy Fiveash, Senior Project Manager for Sizeler Thompson and Brown, Architects, and provided an update on the project. The project was started in about 2009 and an extensive design process proceeded. He explained that when he was hired in 2015, the project was approximately 40,000 sq. ft. and the cost was estimated at \$24+ million. A value engineering study and an expedited study for a cost estimate were completed. A determination was made that the project should be started over. A Request for Qualifications was issued and a new architect was selected. The current scope of the project is in the \$10-\$12 million range. The design is scheduled to be completed in early March. The project no longer extends between Reverend Richard Wilson Drive and the river, which allows the levee district the opportunity to sell the property in the future should it no longer be needed. Reviews of the project will continue in order to bring efficiencies and reduce costs. He anticipated bringing an item to the Board in February in order to advertise for bids for construction.

Mr. Fiveash advised that Sizeler Thompson and Brown was engaged last summer to take over the project and begin a new design. A meeting was held with all staff

members and a list of needs was developed. A site area of 13.5 acres between Centanni Lane and Warren Street was dedicated as the project footprint. The conceptual design with economy of site has a total developed area of 7.5 acres. The new project is approximately 25,000 sq. ft. Schematic designs of the administrative, police and maintenance facilities and dedicated safe room, which doubles as useable space during normal operations, were viewed. A SLOSH model determined that the safe room needed to be raised to an elevation about 23-ft. above natural grade. The contract documents are scheduled to be completed by March 1st and the architects will be ready to advertise for bids. Two aspects of the project were broken out to accelerate the schedule: 1) demolition of the existing firehouse, Worth Drive and other structures on the site, and 2) the pile load test.

B. Discussion of adoption of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's (CPRA) fee schedule for contracts awarded for professional services.

Mr. Miller explained that it is common for governmental agencies to have a maximum fee schedule for particular categories in professional service contracts. The Authority does not currently have such a schedule. The adoption of a schedule would assist in the negotiation of contracts. The Authority will modify its schedule in accordance with modifications made by the CPRA.

Mr. Turner advised that the maximum rates were used in current Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) contracts for office rates; however, contracts had already been developed with mileage rates that cannot be changed at this point. Field rates will be utilized in future contracts.

The Committee will recommend that the Board adopt the CPRA fee schedule.

C. Discussion of approval of a policy and authorizations for professional service contracts under \$50,000.

Mr. Miller advised that at this time the Regional Director can approve contracts up to \$50,000 without Board approval. The potential exists where a project can be divided into several phases with a contract for each phase, and the Board would never have had an opportunity to review the contracts. The proposed policy provides that contracts for a project that exceed an accumulate value of \$50,000 would require Board approval.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the proposed policy.

D. Discussion of the issuance of Task Order No. 16-04-02 to Atkins North America, Inc. for engineering review and construction inspection services for the HSDRRS features for the period of February 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017, at a not to exceed cost of \$70,180.

Mr. Turner advised that the proposed task order is to continue inspection services for the USACE's construction of the remaining Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk

Reduction System projects. The CPRA originally paid the entire cost of the inspection services. The CPRA and Authority now each pay 50 percent of the cost. Atkins current contract with the CPRA will end on June 30, 2017. The Authority's task order would be issued under Atkins' new ID-IQ contract. Atkins will bill half of its hours to CPRA and half to the Authority, and will report to both entities.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the issuance of the task order.

E. Discussion of the issuance of a task order to BKI with a not to exceed amount of \$199,590.00 to provide Construction Administration and Resident Inspection for drainage repairs under the Norfolk Southern tracks on the flood side of the Citrus Lakefront Levee from Lakefront Airport to Southpoint.

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, advised that the proposed task order would be issued to Burk Kleinpeter, Inc. (BKI) under its new ID-IQ contract. BKI is the project designer. The project was bid and the construction contract was awarded last month. Construction is anticipated to last about one year. He recommended the issuance of a task order to BKI for a not to exceed amount of \$199,590.00 to provide Construction Administration and Resident Inspection.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the issuance of the task order.

G. Discussion of maintenance of Lake Borgne Basin Levee District pumps.

Nick Cali, LBBLD Executive Director, explained that the LBBLD began identifying problems last January with the hydraulic pumps at Pump Stations (PS) 2, 3 and 5. The pumps had been replaced by the USACE after Hurricane Katrina. A metallurgy problem was identified with the high carbon steel used for some of the submerged fittings. Accelerated corrosion was discovered on some of the fittings and heat exchangers. PS 5's pumps were transported to Conhagen for the manufacture of new stainless steel fittings, heat exchangers and piping. The pumps were returned and a full pressure test was conducted to operating pressure prior to their reinstallation. The LBBLD had to wait until the USACE completed work at PSs 2 and 3 prior to commencing pump repairs at those stations. The seven pumps from PSs 2 and 3 have been transported to Conhagen and are in the process of being disassembled and evaluated. The existing conditions will be documented and provided to the LBBLD for review prior to authorization of repairs to determine what repairs are necessary and prudent. A working estimate of \$500,000 was developed last January. The repairs at PS 5 cost \$184,000. The repairs for PS 2 and 3s are estimated at \$50,000 per pump. Fabrication will take ten to twelve weeks. The pumps are anticipated to be back in place prior to hurricane season. BKI was utilized as a consultant for the repairs.

Mr. Turner advised that at this time only \$150,000 has been budgeted for pump repairs; therefore, a budget amendment will be required next month. The Authority is also looking for guidance on the methodology for having the repairs accomplished. Advertising the repairs for bid will take time.

Mr. Miller asked the operational status of PSs 2, 3 and 5. Mr. Cali advised that PS 5 is 100 percent operational. The pumps have been removed from PSs 2 and 3, which are the smallest stations. A seepage problem developed after Hurricane Katrina and PSs 2 and 3 have not been operational for some time because the seepage increased when pumping took place, potentially undermining the non-federal levee. Mr. Turner added that it took several years to convince the USACE to make the seepage repairs, which was supposed to have been part of the USACE's original work. The USACE rebuilt the exterior of the stations, put in a floodwall and redid the discharge tubes; however, the USACE did not repair the pumps. The pumps were removed from PSs 2 and 3 after the USACE completed its work. PSs 2 and 3 have not been operational for some time; however, the stations will become critical in the near future when engine upgrades that are being funded through a grant take place at the two pump stations adjacent to PSs 2 and 3. Mr. Cali added that all of the repairs are being scheduled to happen sequentially so that there will be no degradation of flood protection.

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