

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 20, 2017**

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

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on April 20, 2017, in the Second Floor Council Chambers, Joseph Yenni Building, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Harahan, Louisiana. Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 16, 2017 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

A. Discussion of request from New Orleans International Muralists to paint murals along Tchoupitoulas Street along the left descending Mississippi River floodwall between second order levee stations 304+00 and 347+00 in Orleans Parish.

Wilma Heaton, SLFPA-E Director of Governmental Affairs, informed the Committee that New Orleans International Muralists includes about 25 different artists. She explained that the proposed project cannot be approved unless the group demonstrates that it has the financial capability to remove graffiti; however, the group cannot collect money to pay the artists until it has permission from the Authority for the project. The Authority's Grant Administrator identified a graffiti removal grant; however, the Authority will not know until July whether it has been awarded the grant. The grant can be used as a backup for graffiti removal. New Orleans International Muralists provided renderings of the proposed artwork. The artwork does not contain any political or religious content. Maintenance issues will be worked out with the SLFPA-E Director of Operations. Ms. Heaton recommended that the item be returned to the Committee once the issues are resolved. New Orleans International Muralists representatives can appear at that time before the Committee. Ms. Heaton noted that approval of the project can be provided at the Committee level. An agreement between the Authority and New Orleans

International Muralists would be drafted by the Authority's Executive Counsel. The proposed project would be at no cost to the Authority.

A motion was offered by Mr. Miller, seconded and unanimously adopted, to defer the item to next month's Operations Committee meeting.

B. Discussion of proposed Task Order with Linfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc. in the amount of \$72,055 to provide Phase 2 services (Preliminary Plans and Specifications, start the 408 Permit Process and provide services as necessary to proceed with Final Plans and Specifications in a later phase) for the installation of slope paving on the floodside of the Mississippi River Levee for about 440 feet downstream of the Alabo Street Wharf to match the adjacent levee section.

The Committee viewed the site plan for the proposed project. Felton Suthon, SLFPA-E Engineer, explained that a significant amount of debris accumulates along the section of Mississippi River Levee that is not slope paved causing maintenance problems and making the area unsightly. Maintenance personnel use the limestone ramps at that location to access the area for maintenance purposes. If the area is slope paved, the limestone ramps would no longer be necessary. The Authority is working with the Port of New Orleans to remove as much as possible of the obsolete facility located in the project area. The not-to-exceed amount of the task order was estimated taking into account the uncertainties at this time regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) 408 Permit process. The Authority will have a better handle on the permit process once it gains experience with the process and will be better able to determine the services that can be performed in-house and the services for which a consultant would be needed. Mr. Suthon commented that the USACE's office has about six poster boards containing flowcharts of the 480 Permit process. At this time it is not known whether the permit can be approved at the local level or must be submitted to USACE headquarters. The project includes slope paving to the Alabo Street Wharf (approximately 440-ft). The entire not-to-exceed amount will not be utilized if the permit process is less involved than anticipated.

Mr. Morgan noted that a rough estimate of the cost of the slope paving is \$720,000. Ms. Suthon offered to provide information (e.g., cost per square foot) from a recent slope paving project in New Orleans East for comparison purposes. Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Director of Engineering and Operations, advised that the Authority will push the USACE hard to allow the approval of the permit to remain local; however, if the approval does not remain at the local level, the Authority may need to reevaluate the project.

A motion was offered by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Kemp and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board approve the issuance of the task order to Linfield, Hunter and Junius.

C. Discussion of a proposed contract with Rotolo Consultants, Inc. on behalf of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) to provide mowing, string trimming and spraying of approximately (+/-) 594 acres of LBBLD levees denoted as LPV 146, LPV 147, LPV 148.02 and LPV 149 at a cost of \$19.82 per acre per cut (\$11,773.08 per month); at total contract price of not-to-exceed \$141,276.96.

Mr. Turner explained that the proposed service contract does not fall under the provisions of the Public Bid Laws. Several years ago the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) solicited proposals from a number of firms for grass maintenance services. The proposals were evaluated and Rotolo Consultants, Inc.'s (RCI) price was significantly lower than the other quoted prices; therefore, the O.L.D. awarded the service contract to RCI. The O.L.D. renewed the contract the following year based upon discussions between the O.L.D.'s Purchasing Agent and the Attorney General's Office. At that time the O.L.D. unofficially priced the services with the other firms, and RCI's price remained the lowest. Last year the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) piggybacked on the O.L.D.'s contract with RCI. A public entity is allowed to utilize another public entity's contract for the same type of service provided the first entity and contractor agree. The LBBLD is proposing to renew the service contract a second year.

Mr. Turner advised that the O.L.D. utilizes the services of a contractor primarily due to the location of the work area (the eastern most end of the system). Maintenance personnel were spending a significant amount of time driving equipment to and from the work site. The LBBLD utilizes the services of a contractor not only due to the location of the work site (26 miles of Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System levee from Bayou Bienvenue to Carnarvon), but also due to its reduced workforce. The contract includes a provision that the proposed work will not exceed twelve cuts. RCI only performed eight cuts under its previous contract with the LBBLD. RCI is paid for actual work performed (by acre per cut).

A motion was offered by Mr. Kemp, seconded by Mr. Morgan and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board approve the LBBLD's service contract with RCI.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.