

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

MAY 30, 2019
MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA

The St. Mary Levee District (“SMLD”) met on this date with President William Hidalgo, Sr., presiding and the following board members present: J.P. Hebert, Norris Crappell, Kenny Arceneaux, Will Terry, Barry Broussard, Alton Broussard, with James Vidos and Luther Smith absent.

Also present: Tim Matte, St. Mary Levee District Executive Director; Michael Brocato, Operations Manager of St. Mary Levee District; William Bourgeois; Jeff Pena and Nicole Cutforth, APTIM; Kevin O’Gorman, T. Baker Smith; Reid Miller, Miller Engineers; Sherriff Blaise Smith, St. Mary Parish Sherriff Department; Cmdr. Heather Mattern, US Coast Guard; and members of the public and media.

Mr. Matte reported the events that have taken place thus far with the flood fight efforts and the temporary closure of Bayou Chene. He reported that the current forecast for the Atchafalaya River calls for a 10.5’ river and the necessity of opening of the Morganza Floodway. Mr. Matte stated the decision to close Bayou Chene with an emergency Flood Gate was made after CPRA committed to reimburse SMLD for the project. Mr. Matte gave an update on the bidding of the project and explained the different steps employed to close off the Bayou Chene.

Mr. A. Broussard moved to extend the state of emergency resolution that has been in effect since March 14 and to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to take necessary action during the flood fight. After a second by Mr. Terry, the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution 5-30-2019

A resolution of the St. Mary Levee District (“District”) declaring a “State of Emergency” and authorizing any expenditures and/or contracts deemed necessary in response to the forecasted flood threat from the Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya River and related bodies of water.

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has issued numerous warnings along the length of the Mississippi River and the Atchafalaya River, including a “flood warning” for the Atchafalaya River at Morgan City with a predicted crest of near 8.0 feet by Wednesday, March 13, 2019, with additional rises being possible thereafter;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana, via Proclamation No. 33 JBE 2019, on February 27, 2019, declared a state of emergency statewide as a result of the high-water threat, beginning on February 26, 2019 and extending through March 27, 2019, with all levee boards being authorized and directed to cooperate with GOHSEP in response to this threat of flooding;

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish President, as recorded at Bk #381, #332014, on March 7, 2019, declared the existence of a State of Emergency within St. Mary Parish, in accordance with *La. R.S. 29:727*, due to the threat of flooding from the Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya River and related bodies of water;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority has issued its Emergency Rule as of March 1, 2019, prohibiting certain activities on levees and flood control structures with said regulation authorizing and directing District to follow and enforce same; and,

WHEREAS, the United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has announced its planned operation of the Morganza Spillway for the third time in history and that consequently, the Atchafalaya River at Morgan City is projected to crest at 10.0 feet or higher Tuesday, June 18, 2019;

WHEREAS, FEMA, via EM-3413, issued an emergency declaration on May 29, 2019, relative to this flood event within Louisiana;

WHEREAS, the forecasted serious and historic flooding threaten the health and safety of the citizens of St. Mary Parish and constitutes an exigent circumstance necessitating the continuing declaration of an emergency for procurement purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of St. Mary Levee District, State of Louisiana, that a State of Emergency is hereby declared to exist due to the threat of flooding from the Mississippi River, Atchafalaya River and related bodies of water in St. Mary Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President, William H. Hidalgo, Sr., is hereby authorized and directed on behalf of the District to make any expenditure necessary and to take all necessary action in connection with the threat of flooding from the Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya River, and related bodies of water.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, William H. Hidalgo, Sr., President, be authorized and directed to do any and all act and things necessary, proper, or that may be required to carry out and accomplish the transactions contemplated with regards to the above-mentioned request.

Mr. Arceneaux moved to ratify the flood fighting measures, emergency contracting, and procurement performed to date. After a second by Mr. Terry, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arceneaux moved to ratify the agreement with CPRA for the funding of the Bayou Chene emergency closure. After a second by Mr. A. Broussard, the motion carried unanimously.

Commander Heather Mattern with the US Coast Guard stated that the US Coast Guard along with Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries are enforcing a 2000-foot buffer zone around the Bayou Chene construction site. Sheriff Blaise Smith stated deputies have started increased patrols in the vicinity of the levees.

Mr. Hebert moved to authorized retaining law enforcement agencies to provide additional patrols. After a second by Mr. B. Broussard, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hidalgo asked for further comments and did not receive any. Mr. Terry moved for adjournment, which was seconded by Mr. A. Broussard and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Barry A. Broussard, Secretary
St. Mary Levee District