

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2017  
FRANKLIN, LOUISIANA

The St. Mary Levee District (“SMLD”) met on this date with, President William Hidalgo, Sr., presiding and the following board members present: William Hidalgo, J.P. Hebert, James Vidos, Norris Crappell, Alton Broussard, Kenny Arceneaux, Barry Broussard, Will Terry and with 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 & Nicole Cutforth, APTIM; Jason St. Romain, Miller Engineers; Kevin O’Gorman, T. Baker Smith; and members of the public and media.

Mr. Crappell moved to dispense with the reading and to approve the October 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes. After a second by Mr. Arceneaux, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. B. Broussard presented the payables report, which Mr. Terry moved to approve. Following Mr. A. Broussard second, the motion carried unanimously.

Jason St. Romain with Miller Engineers reported that they have received the permit for the Bayou Choupique Flood Protection project from the USACE. Mr. St. Romain stated that his office is still waiting on feedback from OCM regarding some questions on hydraulic modification alternative analysis. Mr. St. Romain also reported that his office submitted the plans to CDBG for their review.

Mr. St. Romain reported that his office received a Letter of No Objection from CPRA and is still waiting on the permit for the Yokely Levee Project. Mr. Romain stated that his office is still continuing to move forward on finalizing the plans.

Kevin O’Gorman with T. Baker Smith reported that the excavation and hauling material work for the Siracusaville section of the Morgan City Levee Construction and Improvements Project has been completed and the contractor is finishing the final shaping and grading. Mr. O’Gorman reported the estimated completion date is still mid-December on the Lake End Park to Justa Street portion of the project. Mr. O’Gorman stated the construction company is working on the concrete caps under US 90 and the sheet pile on Cooks-Collins and the contractor has installed the sheet pile from Hwy 90 past Justa Street and is about half way between US 90 and pump station #6. Mr. O’Gorman also reported that the contractor has completed the clearing on the west side of LA 70 in preparation for the embankment work and is in the process of addressing the required utility relocations for the LA 70 portion of the project. Mr. O’Gorman also reported that his office prepared a response to address a couple outstanding comments from DNR for the Justa Street Levee portion of the project. Mr. O’Gorman stated his office is currently addressing comments from CPRA and is preparing the final bidding documents in anticipation of advertisement.

Jeff Pena with APTIM reported his office continues to coordinate with the USACOE on the 408 permit process for the Bayou Chene Project and the 60% design is on hold awaiting the resolution on that process. Mr. Pena stated his office continues to coordinate with CPRA to review the model runs on the Increase Atchafalaya project. Mr. Pena stated that a letter has been sent to CPRA with additional questions regarding the Increase Atchafalaya Model.

Mr. Pena reported that his office has received all the permits for the Bayou Teche project. Research on the property ownership along the right-of-ways is proceeding. Plat maps are being prepared. Mr. Pena also reported that his office has met with CLECO and the landowner regarding the property north of Victory Island to discuss some changes due to the geotechnical report. Mr. Pena stated the geotechnical borings have been completed and the report is scheduled to be in next week.

Mr. Matte reported that at the last CPRA meeting it was reported that the GOMESA funds are coming in at an amount that is less than anticipated. Mr. Matte stated that it was originally planned for the funds to be projected at \$140 million per year but now they are reporting the funds to be \$60 - \$70 per year. This will impact the State's Master Plan projects as GOMESA is a primary funding source for these projects.

Mr. Matte along with Mr. Brocato reported that the levee inspections went well. Mr. Matte reported that some minor items were found in the City of Morgan City. Mr. Matte stated that one of those items was the seal on the flood gates. Mr. Brocato stated that there were also some minor issues on Avoca and both Wax Lake East and Calumet to Gordy went well. Mr. Matte and Mr. Brocato stated that efforts from the Parish helped with the anticipation of the inspections. The Board asked that letters of acknowledgement be sent to the City of Morgan City, the Town of Berwick and the St. Mary Parish Government recognizing their contributions in preparing the levees for inspection.

Mr. Matte reported that SMLD has secured the right of ways from Cabot and JM Burguières for the North Bend Phase B project. Mr. Matte also reported SMLD has received the signed agreements by CLECO and DOTD. Mr. Matte also reported that the advertisement is sent to go out today.

Mr. Matte reported the final balance of the EDA grant for Bayou Chene has been received. Mr. Matte also reported an extension of the NFIP has passed the House and Senate the expiration date is now Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Matte stated that SMLD has collected about \$4.5 million from FEMA in reimbursements for the 2016 Flood fight which leaves about \$586,000 outstanding to be reimbursed.

Mr. Matte also reported that the St. Mary Parish Council has received notification from the state that five of SMLD's districts Board seats are up for renewals. Mr. Matte reported the districts that are up for renewal are District 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Mr. Matte introduced the proposed 2018 budget that will be up for adoption at the December meeting.

Mr. Terry moved to authorize SMLD to move forward to advertise for the Justa Street Levee Reach portion of the Morgan City Levee Improvements project. After a second by Mr. Crappell the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte reported that all issues have been cleared on the Yokely Levee Extension and that project is currently waiting for the 404 section 10 permit. Mr. Matte stated that once that permit is issued the parish will be in a position to start construction on that project. Mr. Matte reported that project will be funded by CDGB and the construction of the project will raise that levee to a +8. Mr. Matte stated that once that project is completed the plans are to turn that levee north and utilize the road by raising the road where possible. Mr. Matte reported he has budgeted in the upcoming proposed budget monies to fund the remaining portion of the project.

Mr. Matte reported on the plans for levees West of Charenton. An amount has been included in our 2018 budget to support an effort to review the current plans for that area, particularly engaging the land owners and residents to determine what is achievable in flood protection in that area.

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

Attest:

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Barry A. Broussard, Secretary  
St. Mary Levee District