

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – WEST (SLFPA – W)
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 24, 2015

The SLFPA – W Board of Commissioners met at approximately 5:35 PM on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 in the Board Room at Our Lady of Holy Cross College, 4123 Woodland Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70131.

Mr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order and directed Mr. Camnetar to call the roll.

In attendance were: Mr. Camnetar, Mr. Dauphin, Mr. Gaddy, Mr. Merritt, and Mr. Wilkinson. Mr. Julien arrived at approximately 5:54 PM. Also in attendance were: Mr. Bosch, Mr. Monzon, Ms. Noll, Mr. Noel, Mr. Avant, legal counsel, Mr. Pickering, legal counsel, Mr. Ehrhardt, public information, and Ms. Hirt, public information. Ms. Maclay was not able to attend, but listened only to the meeting via FaceTime, and did not participate in any manner.

Mr. Wilkinson led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Mr. Camnetar, seconded by Mr. Gaddy, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance to accept and approve the minutes of the February 25, 2015 regular meeting.

The agenda was unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance.

During public comments Mr. Merritt attempted to address the Board as a taxpayer and member of the public. Instead Mr. Wilkinson asked Mr. Merritt to reserve comments on this subject for the relevant section of the agenda (Item #10). Other than this, there were no public comments.

Mr. Wilkinson presented the proclamation and resolution recognizing Mr. Jerome “Zee” Zeringue for his service as Chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), and his many other contributions to the field of flood control.

The foregoing motion was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: Mr. Camnetar, Mr. Dauphin, Mr. Gaddy, Mr. Merritt, Mr. Wilkinson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Julien and Ms. Maclay

ABSTAIN: None

RECUSED: None

Mr. Wilkinson opened a public hearing at approximately 5:49 PM to discuss approval of the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed at approximately 5:50PM.

It was moved by Mr. Camnetar, seconded by Mr. Merritt, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance to approve the proposed budget for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – West and its member districts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

YEAS: Mr. Camnetar, Mr. Dauphin, Mr. Gaddy, Mr. Merritt, Mr. Wilkinson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Julien and Ms. Maclay

ABSTAIN: None
RECUSED: None

Mr. Wilkinson recognized Mr. Merritt's agenda item as something that should be addressed at the Committee level before Board consideration. Mr. Merritt, spoke in support of adding a line item to the budget for new technology and improving levee safety.

Mr. Pickering led a discussion on the special ad valorem taxes and November election. Counsel will separate draft millage election documents for Algiers Levee District and West Jefferson Levee District. Special meetings for each resolution will be held during the time frame of September 8 – 11, 2015. Mr. Ehrhardt explained that Dr. Richardson of LSU will complete an independent review of the ad valorem tax proposal.

Mr. Harrouch, Chief Operations Officer of CPRA, gave a presentation on levee lifts and soil strength. After discussion, Mr. Wilkinson suggested that this topic be further explored at a future TOM Committee meeting.

Ms. Maclay was not in attendance, due to a broken ankle; therefore, no President's report for the month of March was provided.

Mr. Camnetar reported on the activities, meetings, and issues of the Finance, Administration, Legal and Public Information (FALPI) Committee during the month of March.

Mr. Wilkinson reported on the activities, meetings, and issues of the Technical, Operations and Maintenance (TOM) Committee during the month of March.

Mr. Merritt provided an update on environmental and research issues.

Mr. Monzon provided the Regional Director's report for the month of March.

It was moved by Mr. Camnetar, seconded by Mr. Dauphin, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance to approve bills for payment and accept financial statements as submitted for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – West and its member districts.

It was moved by Mr. Camnetar, seconded by Mr. Gaddy, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance to authorize attendance for Commissioners and key staff at the 30th Annual Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana, May 7 - 8, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, subject to funding as provided in the budget.

It was moved by Mr. Camnetar, seconded by Mr. Dauphin, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance to amend and re-enact the Internal Controls Policy for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – West and its member districts.

It was moved by Mr. Camnetar, seconded by Mr. Dauphin, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance to amend and re-enact Resolution Number 111813-01, authorizing a resolution of the Board of Commissioners for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – West and its member levee districts, West Jefferson Levee District and Algiers Levee District and to advise check signing authority for certain individuals.

It was moved by Mr. Camnetar, seconded by Mr. Julien, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance to authorize the administration to establish a special fund to account for the Western Closure Complex (WCC) operations.

It was moved by Mr. Camnetar, seconded by Mr. Merritt, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance to authorize the President to negotiate an amendment to the contract with Vali Cooper for a time extension to complete work on the strategic plan, and to further authorize the President to execute any contracts, agreements, and documents to carry out the intent of this action.

It was moved by Mr. Camnetar, seconded by Mr. Julien, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners in attendance to authorize the President to negotiate engineering contracts with N-Y Associates, AIMS Group, and Evans-Graves, and to further authorize the President to execute any contracts, agreements, and documents to carry out the intent of these actions, subject to funding as provided in the budget.

Mr. Wilkinson announced that the next regular meeting of the Authority will be held at Our Lady of Holy Cross College – Moreau Center, 4123 Woodland Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70131, on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 5:30 PM; however, this meeting location and date may change.

The agenda being completed, Mr. Wilkinson declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:03 PM.

Susan H. Maclay, President

Edward L. Camnetar, Secretary-Treasurer