

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 8, 2018
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, Norris Crappell, James Vidos, Will Terry, Luther Smith, Alton Broussard, and Barry Broussard with Kenny Arceneaux 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; Reid Miller, Miller Engineers; Kevin O’Gorman, T. Baker Smith; and members of the public and media.

Mr. A. Broussard moved to dispense with the reading and to approve the Feb 8th regular meeting minutes. After a second by Mr. Crappell, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Reid Miller with Miller Engineers reported his office is actively working on the right of ways required for the construction of the Bayou Choupique project.

Mr. Matte reported that he along with Mr. Miller is in the process of scheduling a tour for an assessment of the existing levees that are primary farmer levees in the area west of the Charenton Canal.

Mr. Miller reported his office is reviewing the comments on the Yokely Levee project. Mr. Miller stated that the project could go out for bid within the next week or two.

Kevin O’Gorman with T. Baker Smith reported that the contractors are nearly complete with the compliance survey work for the Siracusaville section of the Morgan City Levee Construction and Improvements Project. Mr. O’Gorman reported the sheetpile work continues for the Lake End Park to Justa Street portion of the project. Mr. O’Gorman also reported his office has approved a revised plan on the discharge pipe casing on the LA 70 portion of the project. Mr. O’Gorman reported that his office held a preconstruction meeting on Feb 28th and a notice to proceed was issued March 5 for the construction work on Justa Street.

Jeff Pena with APTIM reported his office has received the 408 permission from the USACOE for the Bayou Chene Project. Mr. Pena stated that his office will work to secure the 404 permit from the USACOE for the project. Mr. Pena also reported that the project has been on public notice since Jan 22nd and the public notice comment period ends on Feb 21th. Mr. Pena reported that public comments have been received and draft responses have been prepared and will be meeting with SMLD next week to discuss those responses.

Mr. Pena reported that his office has received all the permits for the Bayou Teche project and research on the property ownership along the right-of-ways is progressing. Mr. Pena also reported that his office attended a public hearing of the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works was held Feb 26th, no comments were made and no changes requested for the Bayou Teche project. Mr. Pena stated final adoption hearing tentatively scheduled for March 12.

Mr. Matte reported that FEMA is preparing a letter of items requested to complete the request made by St. Mary Parish for the Town of Berwick to properly reflect their current status of being protected by an accredited levee.

Mr. Matte reported that the Cattle Lease Committee will schedule a meeting with the land owners of the tracts that is being considered for leasing out.

Mr. Matte reported that the North Bend Phase B project is out for bid and the receive date is within the next few weeks.

Mr. Matte reported that another extension for the NFIP has passed the House and Senate, which will continue the program beyond the expiration date of September 30, 2017 until March 23, 2018.

Mr. B. Broussard moved to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to sign a CEA with the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District for the use of the conference and training rooms. After a second by Mr. Crappell the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bourgeois reported the Wax Lake East Drainage District desires to install a pump station within the levee right of way, just north of the Teche, on the east bank of Wax Lake Outlet. Mr. Bourgeois stated the WLEDD has obtained a permit from DNR and is working on getting a permit from the USACOE. Mr. Bourgeois reported that in the future WLEDD would like to obtain a CEA regarding the positioning of the pump station.

Mr. Matte reported that trespassers continue to damage the West Atchafalaya Guide Levee; the lower haul road next to the levee isn't maintained as a public road by the parish. Mr. Brocato reported the closure of the haul road would be to the east and south of the Charenton Beach Boat Launch. Mr. Brocato stated that the public will have access for all of the public boat launches. Mr. Hebert moved to adopt the resolution to install signs and gates for the closure of the above mentioned haul road. After a second by Mr. Terry the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte reported SMLD would need to sign a CEA with K/D/S Promix LLC, a pipeline company, to repair the levee at the pipeline crossing near the boat launch in Berwick; approximately 75% is within the levee ROW, the pipeline company has agreed to contribute 25% of repair. Mr. B. Broussard moved to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to sign the CEA to allow SMLD to recover the 25%. After a second by Mr. Crappell the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte reported on the anticipation of the rising of the Atchafalaya River. Mr. Matte stated that Morgan City and Town of Berwick officials will begin to close floodgates along the river front as the water rises. Mr. Matte stated that SMLD received a call to schedule a meeting with Terrebonne officials to discuss the circumstances upon which the Bayou Chene emergency structure maybe implemented and secured their pledge to participate with us if it were to become necessity.

Mr. Crappell moved to purchase a front end loader attachment for St. Mary Parish to aid in levee maintenance and grass cutting. After a second by Mr. Hebert the motion carried unanimously.

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

Attest:

Barry A. Broussard, Secretary
St. Mary Levee District