The Board of Commissioners of the Bossier Levee District met in regular session on Wednesday,

 July 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Levee Board Office, 3404 Industrial Drive, Bossier City, Louisiana.

 The President, Tim Larkin, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL PRESENT: Commissioners – LARKIN, BANTLE, MONTGOMERY, and STELLY.

 Staff: Mark Long, Devan Jordan, Deanna Rabb, Phillip Sturdivant and German Velazquez from the Department

 of Transportation and Development, and Daniel Baker, District Counsel for the Bossier Levee District.

 ABSENT: ALLEY and MOORE

 The first order of business was the opening prayer by Commissioner Montgomery and the Pledge of

Allegiance by Commissioner Larkin.

 On motion by Montgomery, seconded by Stelly, and unanimously passed, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes and approved the minutes of the regular Board Meeting previously held on June 14, 2023

**REQUESTS BY VISITORS:**

 Michael Kelsch, PE with Raley and Associates, Inc. representing their client Mr. Dan Festervan appeared

 to request a permit for concrete parking within the levee board easement where gravel currently exists near Willow

 Chute Bayou.

 On motion by Bantle, seconded by Stelly, and on recommendation from the Applications Committee

 the Board approved the permit request for Mr. Dan Festervan to change the gravel parking lot to concrete within

 the BLD easement near Willow Chute Bayou. No comments from the public. (PERMIT #2023 – 26)

 Gary Carlson with Comcast Cable Communications, LLC requested an encroachment permit along the

 New High School Ditch proposing to place new fiber in three 2” conduits on the southside of the New High School

 Ditch between Hwy 3 and Airline Drive inside an existing utility servitude.

 On motion by Montgomery, seconded by Stelly, and on recommendation from the Applications Committee

 the Board approved the encroachment permit request submitted by Comcast Cable proposing to place new fiber

 and conduits that will be ran parallel to New High School Ditch inside the existing utility servitude. No comments

 from the public. (PERMIT #2023 – 29)

**OLD BUSINESS**

Updates on the NFIP Red River Levee Risk Assessment with the USACE and the Statewide Flood Control

Program with the implementation of the BLD program for the Red River Levee Flood Abatement Project were

discussed. The Secretary, Deanna Rabb stated that the Bossier Levee District issued a check in the amount

of $433,000.00 for the Cost Sharing Agreement with the CORPS and will be mailed after signatures are obtained.

No action taken.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

 There were no plats submitted to the BLD by the MPC for approval and authorization of letters of no

objection.

 Resolution authorizing the secretary to transfer $650,000.00 from Huddleston/Smith Investments to

 checking account for all upcoming monthly expenditures.

On motion by Bantle, seconded by Montgomery, the Board approved the transfer of $6500,000.00.

 **LEVEE AND DRAINAGE REPORT**

 **Red Chute Bayou Channel Slope Repairs**

- July 24, 2019 – Vicksburg Corps conducted a damage assessment of high-water damages on Red Chute Bayou; no determination as of November 11, 2019.

- December 9, 2019 – Donald Walker, Chief of Vicksburg Corps Emergency Management called and advised that the Vicksburg Corps would be providing funding for approximately 10 bank caving sites along the levee.

- December 10, 2019 – Captain Papia with the Vicksburg District made a site visit to assess the bank repair areas.

- March 30, 2020 – received letter dated March 24, 2020, from the colonel of the Vicksburg District Army Corps denying

our request for PL 84-99 funding for bank caving repairs.

- Waiting for further direction from the Corps on repair requirements.

- July 8, 2021 – Lanny Barfield, with the USACE Vicksburg District, advised that the District recently requested approval

from the MVD for funding approval to repair of the sites.

- May 10, 2022 – Received an email from Craig Prestwood, Senior Project Manager, with the USACE Vicksburg District

advising that our request for bank stabilization repairs has been approved by the MVD and that they are getting ready to

send in a funding request to MVD for design and data collection.

- July 21, 2022- BLD provided a right-of-entry to Patrick White with the Vicksburg District for surveying and site assessment needed for plan design for bank stabilization repairs.

- September 12, 2022 – Soil survey for bank stabilization design started.

- October 12, 2022 – Topo survey for bank stabilization design near completion.

- May 4, 2023 - PDT meeting conducted through WEBX; major topic was discussion of unexploded ordinances within project limits. It is anticipated that the project delivery date will be in the fall of this year.

- May 11, 2023 – submitted right-of-way authorization documents to Corps.

**Red Chute Levee Raise Project**

- Mitigation analysis for levee raise was conducted by Nixon Engineering and Dewberry Consultants.

- October 31, 2019 – Nixon Engineering delivered mitigation report.

- December 8, 2019 – Kurt Nixon and Jacob Lesue presented the board with mitigation study results.

- March 11, 2020 – Kurt Nixon submitted a revised mitigation study report with recommendations for a levee raise and mitigation

**Levee Inspection Compliance**

- BLD has completed an inspection and report of deficiencies on the Red River Levee including items listed on the USACE 2019 Levee Inspection Report. Our plan of action is to start removing all unwanted vegetation and other encroachments in areas where permission can be obtained from property owners.

- Corps Periodic Levee Inspection conducted May 4-5, 2021, on the Red River Levee.

- Work underway south of LA 511 Bridge removing encroaching trees and brush.

- November 15, 2021thru November 18, 2021, video inspection made on all levee drainage structures.

- USACE Periodic Levee Inspection – embankment inspection conducted on June 6, 2022; mechanical inspection conducted

on June 1, 2022; structures inspection performed on June 22, 2022.

- September 1, 2022 – relined two existing CMP outfall structures on Red Chute Levee at levee station 238+40 and 375+00

at a total cost of $131,816.20. October 3, 2022, re-videoed relined culverts for submittal to the Corps.

- November 7, 2022 – BLD crews made repairs to seepage berms on Red River Levee north of Lock and Dam 5 Road.

- DOTD levee inspection conducted April 24 through 26, 2023.

**Red River Levee Certification**

- May 8, 2018 – sent letter to Corps requesting their services in providing new levee certification.

- February 7, 2020 – we received word from Craig McRaney with the Vicksburg Corps that the levee can be raised above

elevation of Lock and Dam 5 Road; Mr. McRaney also advised that the levee district should submit a request for a 408

permit to raise the levee in the areas with insufficient freeboard.

- February 10, 2020 – a conference call was held with several members of the Vicksburg Corps; the purpose of the call was

to seek guidance on how to expedite the permit for the levee raise and to request that the Corps provide assistance in obtaining the permit. Very little new information was obtained from the call; the Corps did say that they would research

the Congressional Authorization for the levee to determine if any restrictions such as an additional congressional authorization would be needed to raise the levee.

- September 9, 2020 – hired Kurt Nixon to review options for levee certification.

- January 11, 2021 – held conference call with Vicksburg Corps and discussed 408 permit requirements for raising the areas with deficient free board on the Red River Levee north of Lock and Dam 5.

- March 3, 2021 – Kurt Nixon provided progress letter on status of the 408 permit.

- April 12, 2021 – conference call held with Katy Breaux and members of the Vicksburg Army Corps of Engineers to discuss

a Risk Assessment to be used for levee certification.

- April 22, 2021 – conference call with Vicksburg Corps to discuss Risk Assessment; Katy Breaux advised that the Corps has obtained funding for the Hydraulic Analysis portion of a Risk Assessment

- June 8, 2021 – spoke with Katy Breaux, Project Manager with Vicksburg Corps and she advised that work on the Hydraulic Analysis portion of the Risk Assessment should be completed by the end of July 2021.

- On August 17, 2021, Raley and Associates completed work on cross sectioning and topo survey of a 6.0-mile segment of

the levee from lock and Dam 5 road north.

- January 4, 2022 – received a status update on the CORPS H&H Analysis for the Red River Levee; the H&H Analysis is complete however they are waiting on new risk assessment classification guidance before issuing a report.

- March 28, 2022 – a meeting with the Vicksburg Corps and local officials was held; Will McRae with the Vicksburg Corps Levee Safety Center presented Corps recommendations for a path forward on levee accreditation and discussed an in-depth levee risk assessment to be cost shared with the Corps and local entities; estimated cost range between $250,000.00 and $750,000.00.

- July 6, 2022 – re-submitted letter of request to the Vicksburg Army Corps of Engineers for a Semi-Quantitative Risk Assessment on the Red River Levee.

- December 13, 2022 – conference call with Will McCrae, Brandon Cummins, Lanny Barfield and other members of the Vicksburg Corps concerning the Semi-Quantitative Risk Assessment. Will McCrae advised that new guidance for evaluating

a risk assessment would be coming out in February of 2023; he advised waiting for the new guidance before starting the risk assessment.

- March 8, 2023 – Vicksburg Corps met with board and provide updates and recommendations for an NFIP Risk Assessment.

- April 29, 2023 – mailed letter of request for an Accelerated Levee Evaluation (Risk Assessment) for NFIP Purposes to the Vicksburg USACE.

- June 6, 2023 – received cost share agreement and scope of work for the levee risk assessment.

- July 12, 2023 – cost share funding in the amount of $433,000.00 to be mailed to USACE this date.

**Flat River Outfall Pipes - South of Sligo Road**

- February 2, 2022 – signed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Bossier Parish Police Jury to cost share on the installation of two outfall pipes south of Sligo Road on Flat River.

- October 24, 2022 – Bossier Parish Police Jury crew started work.

- November 22- 23 BLD trucks assisted BPPJ hauling soil for pipe backfill. The remaining work by BPPJ consists of

additional backfill, riprap, and installation of flap gates.

- June 9, 2023 – Parish resumed work on outfall pipes.

**Tinsley Ditch Culverts**

-December 15, 2022 – the board authorized Kurt Nixon with Nixon Engineer to proceed with survey and design for the replacement of existing culverts under Crowing Lane and installation of a new culvert between Crowing Lane and Lateral B-4 ditch.

- February 1, 2022 – revised construction plans received from Nixon Engineering.

- March 3, 2022 – Bids were opened for the Crowing Lane Drainage Improvements with a low bid of $232,757.50 from

FJ Burnell.

- March 30. 2022 – work began.

- July 18, 2022 – work is substantially complete except for fence installation.

- September 13, 2022 – issued contract with F J Burnell for a concrete headwall and concrete apron at a cost of $42,966.00.

- November 7, 2022 – required utility relocation started, new AT&T pole set.

- April 10, 2023 – utility relocation completed.

- June 21, 2023 – work began on headwall and concrete apron; as of July 10, 2023 work is approximately 80% complete.

**Red River Levee Ponding Area**

- January 5, 2022 – requested surveyor to survey area near Red River Levee Station 147+00 to determine how best to drain an area of ponding water adjacent to the levee.

- April 1, 2022 - received survey information from Travis Sturdivant with Raley and Associates of ponding area and proposed drainage ditch.

**Levee and Drainage Crews**

- Mowing levees and drainage control areas.

- Removed a large number of downed trees and limbs caused by recent storm from levees and drainage channels. Work is complete on levees and ongoing on drainage channels.

- Inspecting various construction activities near levees and drainage channels.

- Inspecting levees, channels, and drainage structures; cleaning outfall pipes and flap gates.

- Herbicide application along drainage channels and fenced along levees.

- Cleaning drift from bridges.

- Servicing and repairing equipment.

**Surplus Equipment**

- The following equipment is to be sold as surplus.

1. 2003 Case MX 110 with 5313 hours; Equipment # 205.
2. 2016 John Deere 6135E with 520 hours; Equipment # 380.
3. 2016 John Deere 6135E with 326 hours; Equipment # 381.
4. 2009 John Deere 7230 with 4975 hours; Equipment # 207.
5. 2009 John Deere 7230 with 4705 hours: Equipment # 208.
6. 2007 Ford F-450 with 103,566 miles; Equipment # 108.
7. 2000 John Deere Track Excavator with 4790 hours; Equipment # 203.

On motion by Montgomery, seconded by Stelly Alley, and unanimously approved, the Board authorized

the secretary for the Bossier Levee District to make all payments for the month of July in the amount of

$597,210.89 as set forth in the materials provided for the Board. The July 12, 2023 Bossier Levee District Board

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.

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 Timothy A. Larkin, President Deanna S. Rabb, Secretary