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

March 8, 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 – ALLEY, BANTLE, LARKIN, MONTGOMERY, MOORE and STELLY.

Staff: Mark Long, Devan Jordan, Deanna Rabb, Robert Tomasek from the Department of Transportation and Development, and William Bradford, District Counsel.

ABSENT: NONE

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

by Commissioner Larkin.

On motion by Moore, seconded by Montgomery, and unanimously passed, the Board dispensed with the reading of the minutes and approved the minutes of the regular Board Meeting previously held on February 8, 2023.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AMENDMENT TO AGENDA:**

On suggestion of the Chair to add an item to the agenda, Moore moved and Alley seconded a motion to add to the agenda a discussion regarding Willow Heights, Unit #3 Utility Servitude. The President asked if any member of the public wished to speak on whether to add the item to the agenda and there was no request to speak. The following Commissioners voted:

Alley - Yes

Bantle - Yes

Larkin - Yes

Montgomery - Yes

Moore - Yes

Stelly - Yes

By roll call vote with members present “yes” the motion carried unanimously and the item was added to the agenda.

**REQUESTS BY VISITORS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board reviewed the following plats received from the MPC for approval and authorization of No

Objection Letters from the Bossier Levee District:

1). Covenant Church Subdivision (A subdivision located in Section 29, Township 19 N, Range 13 W, Bossier

Parish Louisiana, Northwest Louisiana Land District containing 2.834 acres received from Kurt Nixon, Engineer

with Nixon Engineering Solutions.

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

Board agreed the Covenant Church Subdivision plat met all requirements and approved a letter of no objection to

be issued. No comments from the public.

2). Willow Heights Subdivision, Unit No. 3 (A planned unit development being located in Section 20, Township 19 North, Range 13 West of the Louisiana Prime Meridian, Northwestern Land District, Bossier Parish, Louisiana, containing 40.166 acres, more or less.

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

the Board agreed the plat met all requirements including the encroachment for a utility servitude therefore a

letter of no objection was approved to be issued to the Willow Heights Subdivision. No comments from public.

Discussion to seek approval for Mark Long to purchase 2 new pieces of equipment on behalf of the

Bossier Levee District: 1). John Deere Skid Steer at the price of $112,781.51 and 2). Ex Mark Laser Z 72” Zero

Turn mower at the estimated cost of: $22,988.99.

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

the Board authorized the Bossier Levee District to make both estimated purchases from Goldman John Deere for

$112,781,51 and Tubbs for $22,988.99. No comments from the public.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Several representatives from the USACE Vicksburg District were present and provided an update and

discussed several future recommendations regarding the Red River Levee Risk Assessment which will be used to

enable the Bossier Levee District to hopefully attain accreditation for the potential improvements for future flood

control for the levee system. No decisions were made by the Board, however, it was stated that this same topic

would be further discussed at next months meeting which will be held on April 12, 2023. No comments from the

public.

**LEVEE AND DRAINAGE REPORT**

**Red Chute Bayou Channel Slope Repairs**

- Recent high-water events have caused several slope failures on the bayou inside Barksdale AFB; work is needed to

remove trees and stabilize slope failures near levee.

- 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 Corps on repair requirements.

- July 8, 2021 – Lanny Barfield with the Vicksburg USACE District, advised that the District recently requested approval from the MVD for funding approval to repair of the sites.

**Red Chute Levee Raise Project**

- Mitigation analysis for levee raise is being 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 Routine annual inspection conducted on May 3, 2021, on the Red Chute Bayou Levee.

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

**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 additionally 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 – meeting scheduled with Vicksburg Corps to discuss results of the levee H&H Analysis and Risk Assessment.

**Red River Corps Study**

- August 28, 2019 – the Vicksburg Corps met with the Flood Technical Committee and briefed the Committee on the preliminary findings from the Study. The Study has produced a new 100-year flood profile which indicates that a portion of the levee north of Lock and Dam 5 has less than the minimum 3-foot free board; the new 100-year flood profile will also require new Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) be established. The Study is scheduled to be completed in March or April of 2020. Shona Gibson with FEMA Region 6 was also at the meeting, and she said the Corps and FEMA will be working together to produce the new BFE’s; she also said that our levee system will not be re-certified due to the deficient levee height north of Lock and Dam 5.

- December 6, 2019 – we received the new 1% WSE river profile grades for the Red River Levee from the Vicksburg Corp.

- December 13, 2019 – we received plan and profile drawings with new 1% WSE river profile.

- August 6, 2020 – Corps held a WebEx meeting and discussed the summary report; they also provided copies of the report.

**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.

**Red Chute Bayou Levee Culvert Rehab**

-November 18, 2021, video inspection of the outfall CMP culvert at station 238+30 revealed a separation in the corrugated metal pipe; repair needed as soon as possible.

- December 15, 2021 – the board approved advertising for bids for HDPE culvert liners to line two CMP culverts on Red Chute Levee located on BAFB.

- January 12, 2022 - HDPE Culvert Liner Bid from Isco Industries, Inc. in the amount of $62,816.20 was approved by board.

- February 2, 2022 – received delivery of HDPE Culvert Liners.

**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.

**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.

**Levee and Drainage Crews**

-Removing fallen trees from Red Chute Bayou in various locations.

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

-Trimming trees brush on levees and drainage channels.

- 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 Bantle, seconded by Alley, and unanimously approved, the Board authorized the

secretary for the Bossier Levee District to make payments for the month of March in the amount of $87,081.23

as set forth in the materials provided for the Board. The March 8, 2023 Bossier Levee District Board Meeting

was adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

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