

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

January 16, 2024
Franklin, LA

The St. Mary Levee District (“SMLD”) met on this date with President William Hidalgo, Sr., presiding and the following board members present: Will Terry, J.P. Hebert, Kenny Arceneaux, Andrew Mancuso, Mike Ortiz, Carla Davis, Mike Thomason.

Also present: Tim Matte, Executive Director; Michael Brocato, Operations Manager; Gerard Bourgeois; Reid Miller, Miller Engineers; Robert Karam, T. Baker Smith; and members of the public.

Mr. Mancuso moved to dispense with the reading and to approve the Dec 19 regular monthly minutes. After a second by Mr. Terry, the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Arceneaux presented the payables report, which Ms. Davis moved to approve. Following Mr. Terry’s second, the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte also presented the Statement of Revenues by sources and Summary of Expenditures of the St. Mary Levee District.

Mr. Robert Karam with T. Baker Smith reported his office continues working on levee alignment alternatives with preliminary mitigation and construction cost estimates for Phase 2 of the West of Charenton drainage study. Mr. Karam stated his office plans to send out an Environmental professional for 1-2 days to perform a site assessment of potential wetland areas that could be affected by the proposed alignment.

Mr. Karam reported his office is working on a construction cost estimate for the proposed floodwall alternative for the Lakeside Flood Protection Project. Mr. Karam stated his office is coordinating with the geotechnical engineer the necessary foundation requirements.

Mr. Brocato reported levee debris pre-construction meeting has been awarded to the lowest bidder and will have a meeting, Jan 27. Mr. Brocato stated that the grass cutting bid was sent out today.

Mr. Matte reported the USCOE has instituted the Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study which is a 5-year study that will evaluate alternatives for ensuring effective long-term management of the Mississippi River from Cape Girardeau to the Gulf of Mexico, the next update will be held on Jan 28. Mr. Matte stated CPRA is no longer anticipated major changes in their operations and the focus now seems to be to provide more assistance for the levee systems in northern Louisiana, ALBL will meet Jan 16 to further discuss the changes. Mr. Matte also reported SMLD continues to work on recovery project arising from the effects of Hurricane Francine.

Mr. Ortiz motioned to authorize signing the engagement letter and the Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures with Darnall, Sikes & Frederick for the upcoming audit. After a second by Mr. Thomason, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Davis motioned to approved the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the annual audit, which was followed by Mr. Arceneaux second, it carried unanimously.

Mr. Mancuso motioned to authorize signing an IGA with CPRA and SMPG to facilitate pump system upgrades. After a second by Mr. Arceneaux, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Attest:

Kenneth Arceneaux Jr., Secretary/Treasurer
St. Mary Levee District