

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2015
BERWICK, LOUISIANA

The St. Mary Levee District (“SMLD”) met on this date with President William Hidalgo, Sr., presiding and the following board members present: James Vidos, J.P. Hebert, Wayne Cantrell Jr., Will Terry, Luther Smith, Barry Broussard and with Norris Crappell and Kenny Arceneaux absent.

Also present: Tim Matte, St. Mary Levee District Executive Director; Michael Brocato, Operations Manager of St. Mary Levee District; William Bourgeois, SMLD Attorney; Jeff Pena, CB&I Co.; Reid Miller, Miller Engineers; Kevin O’Gorman and Kodi Babin, T. Baker Smith; Rick Dugas, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; Mayor Ratcliff, Town of Berwick Mayor; and, members of the public and media.

Mr. Terry moved to dispense with the reading and to approve the Dec 11 regular meeting minutes. After a second by Mr. Hebert, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Reid Miller, with Miller Engineers reported that the Town of Baldwin’s attorney is still having issues with the right-of-ways for the road surrounding the proposed Bayou Choupique levees.

Mr. Miller reported the Yokeley Levee project is still on hold as some of its funding is to be allocated to help assist with Franklin Pump Station.

CB&I’s Jeff Pena reported the gas line contractor, Feliciano Welders, has been selected for the Franklin Canal Pump Station project. Mr. Terry moved to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to sign a contract with Feliciano Welders to construct a gas line for the above mentioned project. Following a second by Mr. Hebert, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pena stated a monthly update conference call was held on Jan 7 and will be held on the first Wednesday every month on that project. Mr. Pena mentioned supplies and equipment are being ordered and the contractor plans to start within the next 2-3 months. Mr. Pena also stated the contract that was awarded is the base bid and Alternate 1 which is with 4 bays and two pumps.

Mr. Miller reported the Hanson Canal project is expected to be finished by April or May and then the contractor will begin on the Yellow Bayou project.

Mr. Miller reported that a pre-construction meeting with Southern Constructors will be held next week for the Wax Lake East Levee project.

Mr. O’Gorman with T. Baker Smith reported the Siracusaville section of the Morgan City Levee Improvements Project has gone out on public notice for the USACOE, with the comment period ending on Jan 18. Public notice has also gone out for DNR and that will end Feb 7. Mr. O’Gorman stated the section from Lake End Park to Justa Street has also been submitted for permit and his office is still waiting for that to go out on public notice for both the USACOE and DNR. Mr. O’Gorman also reported his office received a request for a cultural resources survey regarding a proposed borrow pit on the Hellenic property on the east side of LA 70. Mr. O’Gorman stated that an archaeologist will need to be hired and his office is currently obtaining quotes for that service. Mr. Smith motioned to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to sign an amendment to the existing contract to add the above mentioned survey work subject to the Morgan City Drainage District’s approval. Following a second by Mr. Vidos, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pena reported that the Bayou Chene project is still in the permitting process. Mr. Pena stated his office is ready to start design once all the comments are received from the various agencies on the preliminary report. Mr. Pena also reported a response to the USACOE

engineering group for the information regarding the tie in to the lock structure levees has been provided.

Mr. Pena stated that an amendment is needed for additional services for permitting efforts for the Bayou Chene project. Mr. Hebert moved to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to sign the amendment mentioned above for the amount of \$6,951.18. Following Mr. Broussard's second, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brocato reported that the approved gates were installed on the West Atchafalaya Basin Levee and another one will be installed on the east bank of the Franklin Canal across from the floodgate which would close the section from Hanson Canal to Franklin Canal. Mr. Brocato stated that he is still having problems with vehicles driving around the gates.

Mr. Matte reported that SMLD will contact St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office to start extra patrols in those areas. Mr. Matte also reported that the state requires a levee elevation report every three years. Mr. Matte stated that Mr. Brocato has received the guidelines that CPRA would require for those reports and the report would be worked on the first quarter of the year.

Mr. Bourgeois stated the scouts are in the process of installing mile post and markers along the Atchafalaya Basin Wilderness Bike Trail.

Mr. Matte reported the SMLD's Bylaws need to be amended regarding the 2015 meeting locations and schedule. Mr. Broussard motioned to adopt the changes to the Bylaws. Following a second by Mr. Terry, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte reported the annual engagement letter with Darnell, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick for audit purposes is up for renewal, he stated it's not to exceed a fee of \$25,000 each for the next three years. Mr. Broussard moved to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to sign said letter. Following a second by Mr. Vidos, 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. Vidos and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Barry A. Broussard, Secretary
St. Mary Levee District