

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

JULY 9, 2015
PATTERSON, 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, Barry Broussard, Norris Crappell, Kenny Arceneaux and Luther Smith.

Also present: Tim Matte, St. Mary Levee District Executive Director; Michael Brocato, Operations Manager of St. Mary Levee District; William Bourgeois, SMLD Attorney; Nicole Cutforth, Jeff Pena, CB&I Co.; Patrick Landry, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority; Kevin O’Gorman, T. Baker Smith; and, members of the public and media.

Mr. Broussard moved to dispense with the reading and to approve the June 11 regular meeting minutes. After a second by Mr. Crappell, the motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Tim Matte reported for Reid Miller of Miller Engineers. Mr. Matte reported Miller Engineers office has not received any responses from landowners for the right-of-ways for the Bayou Choupique levees.

CB&I’s Jeff Pena reported all the concrete pile have been driven for the Franklin Canal Pump Station project and the contractor is currently driving the piles for the discharge pipe. Mr. Pena stated the pumps are being fabricated and the contractors are still on schedule for finishing the project September 29.

Mr. Matte reported the Hanson Canal is 60% complete and the levee work is still ongoing West of Hanson Canal and is 80% complete. Pile driving is ongoing at the Yellow Bayou project with concrete piles for the pump station completed; steel piles and sheet pile for the flood wall are under construction. Mr. Matte stated based on the latest schedule the flood structures are to be completed by the end of September with the remainder of the project to be completed by the end of November.

Kevin O’Gorman with T. Baker Smith reported his office has completed and submitted the final design plans and specifications for the Siracusaville section of the Morgan City Levee Improvements Project and the project is close to going to bid in the next few months. Mr. O’Gorman also reported his office sent a draft of the revised plans to the landowners for the right of ways for the Lake End Park to Justa Street portion. Mr. O’Gorman stated that his office received approval to proceed with the alignment. Mr. O’Gorman stated his office is preparing to submit a Joint Permit Application to DNR and USACOE.

Mr. Broussard moved to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to sign the amendment to modify the alignment from Lake End Park to Justa Street. After a second by Mr. Hebert, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Pena reported the Bayou Chene project is still in the permitting process, he stated CB&I received information that Louisiana Department of Natural Resources will allow the district to go through mitigation banks for the affected land along the Bayou Chene project and is in the process of obtaining mitigation credits. Mr. Pena also reported their office hasn’t had any feedback on the vessel data from the USACOE. Mr. Pena stated his office is currently revising the cost estimate of the Bayou Chene project; the last estimate that was done was in 2012 and the estimated cost was \$80 million.

Mr. Pena reported a permit application was submitted last month for the Bayou Teche Floodgate. Mr. Pena stated that the right-of-ways were obtained and the field work for Wetland Delineation was submitted June 10. Mr. Pena also reported that his office plans on holding a public meeting as soon as the project is put on public notice.

Mr. Matte reported BP has settled its case in regards to their fines and other damages that they are responsible for. The amount that was given for Louisiana to receive from BP is \$5.5 billion. Mr. Matte explained how the monies will be distributed; 20% to the Federal Government, \$794 million will go into one of the “buckets” available to fund portions of the state’s master plan for coastal protection and restoration, of that money 10% will go into a parish matching program. Mr. Matte explained the \$794 million funds will be received over a 15 year period of time. The second bucket is the Restore Council which will receive \$1.4 billion and is shared by all coastal states.

Mr. Matte reported that USACOE has been in Phase I Flood Fight since March. Mr. Matte explained the trigger for this is when the Mississippi River reaches 11’ at the Carrollton Gauge and 5’ for the Atchafalaya River. Mr. Matte reported that he received a report from the USACOE stating the Atchafalaya River is expected to reach 6.5’ by July 20. Mr. Matte stated that the state of Louisiana has received a request by landowners near the Morganza structure to divert more water downriver and if granted that could raise the river level to 7’. Mr. Matte reported local officials explained to state officials that if the diversion were to happen, floodgates in Morgan City and Berwick would need to be closed which would affect some businesses.

Mr. Bourgeois recommends that agenda needs to be expanded to add the CEA with City of Morgan City and St. Mary Parish for the sheetpile requests and the mitigation purchase agreement. Mr. Crappell moved to amend the agenda to add the above items. Following Mr. Broussard’s second, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Crappell motioned to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to sign a CEA with City of Morgan City and the St. Mary Parish for the request of sheetpile. Following a second by Mr. Smith, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hebert motioned to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to negotiate mitigation and to sign a mitigation purchase agreement. Following a second by Mr. Broussard, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Matte reported on the three landslides on the Atchafalaya River Levees that were discovered during SMLD’s weekly inspections. Mr. Matte reported no action will be taken until the water levels recedes but would like to have approval to advertise once levels have receded. Mr. Hebert motioned to advertise for cost of the project. Following Mr. Broussard’s second, 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. Crappell and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Barry A. Broussard, Secretary
St. Mary Levee District