

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 2023
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, Norris Crappell, Mike Ortiz, Andrew Mancuso.

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

Mr. Mancuso moved to dispense with the reading and to approve the Sept 21 regular monthly minutes. After a second by Mr. Crappell, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arceneaux presented the payables report, which Mr. Terry moved to approve. Following Mr. Hebert second, the motion 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 recommends the next steps for the West of Charenton Drainage Canal Drainage Study should be broken up into two steps. The first phase will consist of an exploratory alternative drainage study to investigate flood protection, drainage solutions, and their impacts on the lands. Phase 2 will examine each watershed area in detail and its recommended flood control alternatives.

Mr. Karam reported the newly installed pumps at Pump Station No. 9 are being repaired and Sealevel will return to the project site to reinstall the pumps once modifications are complete.

Mr. Brocato reported he closed the Bayou Chene structure along with APTIM for the OEM manual. Mr. Brocato stated there was a power issue at the Bayou Chene Floodgate on the Cleco side.

Mr. Matte reported the gauge portion of the Watershed Initiative is due to begin before the end of the year.

Mr. Matte reported the low water levels continue to cause issues along the Mississippi River, the low stage is expected to reach 3.5’. The Atchafalaya River at Morgan City did hit .65’ with the passage of the recent cold front.

Mr. Bill Bourgeois reported that changes to the open meeting policies of the SMLD will need to be made due to some significant changes made by Act 393 of the regular session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Mr. Terry motioned to authorize the Capital Outlay request for Levees West of Charenton Canal and Morgan City Lakeside Project. After a second by Mr. Mancuso the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hebert motioned to authorize a project to remove limestone material from the storage site along the Wax Lake Outlet. After a second by Mr. Crappell the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arceneaux motioned to authorize the utilization of spare sheet pile by Drainage District No. 1, Town of Berwick, and other governmental agencies. After a second by Mr. Mancuso the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Terry motioned to authorize a study effort to identify projects within the area West of the Charenton Canal. After a second by Mr. Hebert the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Arceneaux motioned the approval of Amendment #2 to the administrative services contract with APTIM. After a second by Mr. Hebert the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bill Bourgeois read aloud the resolution of respect for Mr. Luther Clyde Smith. Mr. Crappell motioned to accept the said resolution. After a second by Mr. Mancuso the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT

WHEREAS, the Lord Almighty in His Infinite mercy and goodness has seen fit to remove from our midst, Mr. Luther “Clyde” Smith, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a licensed Professional Civil Engineer and a licensed Professional Land Surveyor for fifty-eight (58) years, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith, after thirty-five (35) years of service, retired from the Colorado’s Division of Wildlife as their Chief Civil Engineer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith faithfully served on the St. Mary Levee District’s Board for over fourteen (14) years since his appointment on June 9, 2009; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a beloved husband, father and grandfather, cherished by his entire family, and

WHEREAS, the members of the St. Mary Levee District’s Board of Commissioners wish to acknowledge publicly their sorrow and sympathy to the family of Mr. Smith, and

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Levee District hopes that his family will find comfort in the thought that their grief and sorrow are shared by their friends.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the St. Mary Levee District through the unanimous adoption of this resolution, that they solemnly deliberate with sincere condolences, sympathy, and understanding during this time of grief.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the St. Mary Levee District in regular session convened on this the 19th day of October 2023.

Mr. Crappell motioned to authorize the increase rental payment to \$2100 for the limestone storage area on the Wax Lake Outlet. 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 carried unanimously.

Attest:

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