

**Minutes of the meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee & Drainage District,
Morganza to the Gulf and Upper Barataria Basin Risk Reduction Committee
Date: Monday, July 17, 2017**

The Morganza to the Gulf and Upper Barataria Basin Risk Reduction Committee meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District was called to order by Chairman Elmo Pitre at 4:00 PM on Monday, July 17, 2017. The meeting was held at the District's Office at 3862 Highway 1, Raceland, LA. Commissioner Darcy Kiffe led the assembly in the Pledge and Louis Andolsek gave the Invocation.

The Committee Chairman called roll. Members present were Elmo Pitre, Darcy Kiffe, Louis Andolsek and Ad hoc non-voting member Cory Kief. Also present were NLLD Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois; NLLD Administrative Assistant Madonna Viguerie; NLLD Project/Program Manager Arthur Ostheimer; Commissioners Timothy Allen and Kenney Matherne; professional engineers; and members of the public.

Morganza to the Gulf, Larose to Lockport Alignment Study – presentation of the preliminary report by Delta Coast Consultants, LLC (DCC). The Director offered some insight into the goals of this study by explaining that the Post Authorization Change (PAC) federal report from a couple of years back was the first time the Morganza to the Gulf (MtoG) system brought an alignment into Lafourche Parish on the eastside. It includes a closure in the GIWW, and then runs to the north. It is far from a final alignment and the hope is that the results of this Larose to Lockport Alignment Study can influence the alignment. This is similar to what was done in Terrebonne Parish where Mr. Mitch Marmande was involved with the Corps in refining the alignment for MtoG. The PAC alignment is in the 2017 State Master Plan and the district has asked in a letter to CPRA that whatever comes about from this study to address the Gheens Community gets included in the State Master Plan.

Mr. Marmande echoed the Director by stating this project is in the Coastal Master Plan and authorized by Congress; therefore, the direction by the Corps is to keep things in the spirit of the authorization to avoid having to go back to Congress.

While viewing the overall alignment from Gibson to Lockport on the overhead screen, Marmande explained that it terminates at the Company Canal and goes back to Bayou Lafourche. It goes through a school that was built in the last few years, so that definitely needs to be changed. Portions of the alignment are similar to the old Donaldsonville to the Gulf, so there was information available from that feasibility report. Within the scope of services performed thus far, DCC has looked at soil borings and survey data, studied pump stations and drainage to make sure any proposed alignment would not impact that too much. DCC has met with all of the major landowners and several of the pipeline operators to choose a path of least resistance. DCC will prepare an application for GOMESA funding (Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act) for the Gheens community. Marmande then presented the overall alignment that DCC came up with and explained that it differs slightly from MtoG in two areas. DCC is looking at it as a local interim system to achieve a certain level of protection as fast as possible. Marmande suggested if permits are applied for to do this work, this will likely become the MtoG alignment. He explained that portions from both MtoG/UBBRR systems could be eliminated to keep the mileage of levee about the same. The fourth reach of this alignment does by-pass the Gheens community. In working with the Corps, some levee system that was going to go around Gheens was deemed as not in the spirit of the authorization. Marmande stated that is the reason the work done on that area is being identified separately and targeting GOMESA funding.

Marmande stated that UBBRR is in the State Master Plan, but is not federally authorized. It is similar to one of the Donaldsonville to the Gulf alignments, but slightly modified.

The Director added that the Lafourche Basin Levee District (LBLD) had contributed \$7M into the Donaldsonville to the Gulf as a local partner, but the Corps couldn't find a positive cost ratio, so now LBLD has CB&I working on that and NLLD has committed a contribution through a CEA with LBLD. There was discussion regarding protection for Gheens and the Director explained that the district is working with All South Consulting Engineers (ASCE) to identify local borrow to determine what could be built using that cost, but they are awaiting more geotech analysis on the alignments.

Mr. Marmande then provided facts about the study: 18.5 miles of levee from GIWW to alignment and DCC has looked at the drainage features in relation to the adjacent areas. He stated that 4 – 5 landowners constitute 90% of the alignment and DCC has met with them. DCC is working with LOOP on a crossing. Goals include trying to avoid pipelines and reduce mitigation so money can be put towards levees, tie in to the UBBRR system, and prepare GOMESA application to accomplish the area near Gheens.

Marmande then went through each of the four (4) reaches individually on the overhead screen, providing the linear feet and cubic yards of borrow needed. He showed and discussed where the MtoG alignment ends and stated permits would not be granted for a lot of the PAC alignment. Marmande went on to explain the term "betterment" as related to the alignment. Basically it means that the local sponsor (CPRA & NLLD) solely pays for the engineering design and construction of a levee that meets the same standards as the rest of this system – at that point the local sponsors can ask that it be included as a betterment to the system. You don't get federal credit. This is going on in the southern portion of Dularge and he suggested this as the path to take in terms of the Gheens community to eventually have it tied into the system. Running on two paths at the same time, but working to make it better.

Marmande presented the opinion of probable cost (very conservative) as \$53,276,078.00, which includes 1.6M cubic yards of borrow. He stated that in the final report, they'll include separate cost estimates for the alignment alternatives. He asked for comments or questions from the committee members on each area, as well as some input on what section should permits be applied for first. Committee Chairman Elmo Pitre thanked Mr. Marmande for the presentation.

On call for public comment, Mr. Ty Rivet, 8544 Hwy 1, Lockport, stated that he and his family had donated property for a pump station. Mr. Rivet stated that he likes the betterment plan, but it seems like it's just a tack on. He thinks that Gheens needs to be pushed into Reach 4 to insure that the community will be protected.

With no further public comment, a motion for adjournment was made by L. Andolsek, seconded by D. Kiffe. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Cory Kief, President

Dwayne Bourgeois, Director