

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee & Drainage District, January 15, 2019

A regular monthly meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Mr. Cory Kief, Board President at 5:15 PM on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. The meeting was held at the District's office at 3862 Highway 1 in Raceland. Commissioner Louis Andolsek led the Assembly in the pledge and Commissioner Elmo Pitre offered the Invocation.

Board President Kief called roll. Commissioners present were: Cory Kief, Tim Allen, Rodney Foret, Darcy Kiffe, Joni Tuck, Louis Andolsek, Kenney Matherne, and Elmo Pitre. Commissioners absent were: Adley Peltier and Robert Pitre. Mr. Shawn Preston. Others present were NLLD Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois; NLLD Project Manager Arthur Ostheimer; NLLD Field Coordinator Glenn Bourgeois; NLLD Administrative Assistant Madonna Viguerie; Attorney Catherine Masterson with Law Office of Patrick M Amedee; consultants; various engineering professionals; and members of the public.

Minutes: Motion was made by R. Foret, seconded by E. Pitre, to approve the minutes as written for the following meetings: December 18, 2018 Finance & Priority Committee and December 18, 2018 Regular Board. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Resignation of Commissioner Shawn Preston: The Board President announced Shawn Preston sent an email stating he intended to resign from the NLLD Board on January 14, 2019. In quoting, S. Preston commented on his resignation stating, "It is unfair to other members of this great board that other obligations in my day to day job and family structure prevents me from participating in a productive manner". President Kief stated that Shawn's decision to put his family obligations first is a true representation of his fine character, which will be missed by this Board. NLLD's best wishes to Shawn and his Family. Director Bourgeois stated that Shawn Preston's seat would become open and Senator Ed Price will be notified of the empty seat and advised the Board and public to contact Senator Ed Price if anyone is interested to serve on the Board.

Director Bourgeois reminded the Board of the Capital Project Report in the commissioners' packets, which is always kept up to date.

A. Thibodaux – West Project Area: Director Bourgeois reported NLLD is developing items in the Project Area via a new drainage study and NLLD met with Duplantis Design Group (DDG) last week. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that DDG has begun reviewing some of the information discussed with NLLD. DDG is discussing with FTN who had previously modeled this forced drainage area to run a scenario with the proposed Waverly Channel No. 2. NLLD has also discussed some Right of Ways (RoW's) that Lafourche Parish Government was working on, and NLLD has requested to put that on pause while information is gathered as to the size RoW that will be required. DDG is also continuing to research a few other items that have been identified in the study, which will be developing in the next couple months. Commissioner Tuck asked if there will be an opportunity for a briefing, a committee meeting or presentation of the Drainage Study from DDG to be better informed. Project Manager Ostheimer said that DDG could do that. The Director stated that the information will be available for review and the Drainage Study is intended to serve as a reference source for other engineering groups that would work on a project generated out of this study. Board President Kief asked if there are any

committees that the NLLD could establish to address concerns on the project. Director Bourgeois stated that the board can discuss without having a specific committee meeting.

B. Thibodaux - Lockport - Bayou Blue Project Area

Bayou Blue – Hollywood Backwater Flood Protection Project: The Director reported that the State's Annual Plan (AP), includes future funding expected from GOMESA funds for engineering and construction. The draft AP this year includes \$1.43M in FY21 available in July of next year and an additional \$5.1M for this project in FY22 available in July of 2021. NLLD is working with CPRA to receive this funding and Leonard Chauvin P.E., Inc. (LCI) has received the modeling results from FTN. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that NLLD met with LCI to discuss some of the results from the model. FTN will need to complete a couple of different scenarios before moving forward to finalize and start with permitting. Director Bourgeois stated that the funding, modeling and permitting are all coming together well for the project.

TLBB Element 2, (Lockport to Mathews Levee Improvements Project): Director Bourgeois reported the State's Annual Plan also includes future funding coming from expected GOMESA funds for engineering and construction. The Draft AP this year includes an additional \$1M available this year for this project bringing the construction money from GOMESA via CPRA to \$6.45M. This project has been a high priority for NLLD for years and there is a lot of work going on to advance both phases 1 and 2. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that NLLD is in full right of way (RoW) mode. NLLD scheduled January 23, 2019 as the first closing day; however, NLLD has executed RoW's with three landowners already. The NLLD staff is hoping to expedite this process to the best of their ability. NLLD is still waiting on responses from about 40% of the landowners from the mail out. At this time NLLD has one (1) commitment to donate and 85 to sell the RoW's out of the approximately 138 landowners so far. Considering the funding for the project NLLD has LCI full speed on the design of the project. NLLD plans on having the sheet pile portion (Phase 1) of the project ready to bid in the next 45-60 days. The project area was viewed on the overhead screen. A motion was made by K. Matherne, seconded by T. Allen to approve Phase 1 (sheet pile wall) of the TLBB Element 2, (Lockport to Mathews Levee Improvement Project) for advancement through the bid advertisement, through the receipt and evaluation of bids and asking the project Engineer to make a recommendation to the Board for award of a contract to complete this project; allowing the Executive Director to sign any and all relevant documents. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

St. Charles By-Pass Backwater Flood Protection: Director Bourgeois reported that the final payment was made last month to LA Contracting for the backwater flood protection project and the order was placed this month for the pump. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that the pump for this project is currently on order as approved by the Board last month. NLLD had previously ordered the gate. Once having a solid delivery date for the pump, NLLD will solicit proposals for the installation. Duplantis Design Group has the plans ready for that work. NLLD has reviewed the plans and Director Bourgeois stated there was a rain event in December that resulted in 5.7" of rain in six (6) hours that could have inundated homes, but flooding was avoided even with the temporary pump in place.

Cyprien FDA Channel Improvements: The Director reported that The District is planning to perform much needed maintenance dredging at the Cyprien FDA reservoir once more information is obtained on the discharge from the new pump to be constructed by Lafourche

Parish Government (LPG). Project Manager Ostheimer reported that Sealevel has started work on the demolition of the existing station. NLLD Field Coordinator Glenn Bourgeois and Mr. Leonard Chauvin are planning to make a field trip to review the existing conditions of the channel so NLLD can outline what will be required for the clearing and dredging. There are still a few outstanding administrative issues that are actively being worked out between LPG and NLLD.

C. Lockport - Larose Project Area

Lockport – Larose Valentine Return Levee Project: Director Bourgeois reported that Low Land Construction is the contractor on the levee portion of this project. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that Low Land is making progress on the project. At this time, they have moved about 85%-90% of the material for the original portion of the project. They still have to work/dry that material and install to the levee section. They also plan on starting the excavation on the 40 Arpent Canal for the tie-in at Reach C4 to the structure this week if the weather holds.

Lockport – Larose Valentine Return Structure Project: The Director reported that Sealevel Construction is the contractor on the structure portion of this project and the only remaining item has been the hydraulic operator. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that Sealevel demonstrated the hydraulic operator for NLLD on January 10, 2019 and then delivered it to the NLLD office. With the delivery of the operator, the pay request for that item can be submitted next month to close out the project.

Lockport – Larose Levee Project Reaches C4, C5, and D1 Project: Director Bourgeois reported that Onshore Materials, LLC is the contractor on this project that is phase 1 of the improvements to the levees in these reaches. Project Manager Ostheimer reported the contractor is continuing to excavate the new canal, fill the old canal and building up the section next to the levee. Angelette-Picciola has submitted a recommendation of payment for the board's consideration. A motion was made by D. Kief, seconded by A. Andolsek to approve payment of a pay request in the amount of \$111,965.81 from Onshore Materials, LLC as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Edna/Barrios Pump Consolidation Project: Director Bourgeois reported that this new pump station by the Parish is fully operational and that will allow the District to plan for the removal of the old Barrios Pump Station which interferes with the levee alignment in the area. Mr. Neil Angelette from Angelette-Picciola, LLC reported that the new pumps are fully operational, with the exception of the automation; however, it is still functional in the manual mode. The contractor thinks it is possibly due to the cold weather, but Mr. Angelette expects to have an explanation from the contractor this week with a proposal to resolve this issue. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that in reference to the stripper pump to be added to this station, Angelette-Picciola is working on the design and specifications for that work, adding that a site visit will be made in the next week to put together a plan for the removal (by LPG) of the remaining part of the station and install the levee section by NLLD.

Lockport to Larose Reaches A2 and Claudet Return Levee Project: The Director reported that Womack and Sons Construction Group, Inc. is the contractor for this project. The certificate of substantial completion was accepted in August. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that the punch list item remaining is connected to the landowner issues and the borrow pit being

outside of the construction limits and that is part of the ongoing legal negotiations. Attorney Catherine Masterson with the Law Office of Patrick M Amedee reported that as per Attorney Pat Amedee, Womack's attorney is in negotiations with the various subcontractors and he (Amedee) recommends allowing more time for them to try and reach a resolution, adding that if it lingers on too long, he would reassess. Director Bourgeois stated that it is more economical for the district to allow more time for a resolution.

Lockport to Larose Reach B Levee Project: Director Bourgeois reported that Picciola & Associates continues to develop alternatives to the preliminary design and budgets for the proposed three phases of this levee reach. NLLD feels confident in being able to return with some projects that can be pushed forward.

Comeaux Drive Drainage Project: The Director reported that the Town of Lockport is working to clear the drainage corridor right of ways of the numerous encroachments. Once they get there, NLLD can consider their request for NLLD to work on the sub-surface drainage channel.

D. Choupic Project Area

West Choupic Storm Water Protection Project: The Director reported that Leonard Chauvin P.E. Inc. continues working with NLLD to determine a path forward in order to submit the permit application to the USACE. Project Manager Ostheimer reported NLLD is reviewing the location of the levee and plan on having some additional outreach meetings with the public in 2019 to gain input on the project.

Existing Choupic Levee Status: The Director reported this item is concerning an old permit application and ROW agreements for existing Parish levees in the Choupic area. NLLD understands that the Parish is currently working to acquire the RoW's.

E. St. James Project Area: The Director reported that NLLD is developing items in the PA via a new drainage study and a draft report was provided to the district from Duplantis Design Group (DDG). Project Manager Ostheimer reported that DDG has submitted the Rienzi drainage study and NLLD met with them on January 9, 2019 to review. Rienzi is an area that gives the NLLD a chance to be proactive in an area that is having substantial growth and put together some projects that will offer drainage infrastructure to support it. NLLD has tasked DDG with some additional work in this area in order to finalize these plans. The Director reported that NLLD could create a drainage master plan with input from the major landowners and the City of Thibodaux, and possibly break the area into two forced drainage areas, without over draining the land and getting the best use of the land. There is also discussion to extend drainage studies further north and south. NLLD is considering what should be included into the study.

F. Lake Bouef Watershed Project Area:

Lake Bouef Watershed, Backwater Flood Protection Project: Director Bourgeois reported that Leonard Chauvin P.E. Inc. continues working to determine the project details to meet again with the local landowners and farmers in the project area to discuss alternatives to the initial proposed alignment and other considerations. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that it will be some time after harvest is over.

Zeller/Larousse Forced Drainage Area Systems Improvements: Director Bourgeois reported that Sealevel Construction completed the work on Phase 1A of this project which included clearing encroachments and dredging the reservoir. As discussed at the September board meeting, the project was brought back to NLLD's attention due to considerable sloughing caused by the

Parish over pumping the reservoir. NLLD has discussed this with the Parish. They are going to make some light repairs under the NLLD's supervision.

40 and 80 Arpent and Halpins Canal Maintenance Dredging Project, East Theriot Canal

Maintenance Dredging Project, and Sam Foret and adjacent Canals Maintenance Dredging:

Director Bourgeois reported that as awarded in December 2018, Sealevel Construction is the contractor for the spray dredging of these canals and adjacent canals all combined. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that the project was awarded and NLLD has the preconstruction meeting scheduled January 16, 2019. He added that the contracts are being executed and hopefully the project will get started around February 1, 2019.

G. Gheens Project Area:

Mathews Canal/Clotilda Levee Improvements Project: The Director reported that Low Land Construction Company is the contractor for this project. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that Low Land is continuing to excavate and install material on the levee and they have been able to make some progress. Hopefully the weather will hold and they can get the project completed. The change order as recommended by Engineer John Plaisance was made to haul on-site material onto an unexpected area of bad material. A motion was made by R. Foret, seconded by J. Tuck to approve a change order to extend the construction period to February 1, 2019 due to 60 days for additional construction time and a net amount of \$20,000.00 as requested by Low Land Construction Company, Inc. and recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously. Another motion was made by K. Matherne, seconded by E. Pitre to approve payment of a pay request in the amount of \$5,019.42 from Low Land Construction Co., Inc. as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Des Allemands Bulkhead Project: Director Bourgeois reported that All South Consulting Engineers (ASCE) is working to adjust the plans for the pump station repairs, while Low Land is working on the first phase of the bulkhead project earthwork installation. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that Low Land is working on installing the material on the levee. They are moving right along and NLLD expects them to finish in the next 30 days. ASCE submitted the cost proposal for the pump station and NLLD will meet with them to discuss on January 17, 2019. Board President Kief asked if the work being done will be enough. While viewing the project area on the overhead screen, the Director stated that the improvements to the pump station will be beneficial and although the levee will not be extremely high, there will be protection in the event of an emergency; the NLLD is fixing the levee at its weakest points first. The NLLD is comparing the cost of sheet pile to an earthen levee with a small structure.

Jesse Dufrene FDA Levee Improvements: The Director reported that All South Consulting Engineers (ASCE) continues their work on the design and cost estimate. This year's draft of the Annual Plan includes \$1M of appropriation of GOMESA funds via CPRA for this project. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that ASCE is continuing to work on the review set of bidding documents and NLLD plans on meeting to discuss the project with them on January 17, 2019. NLLD is expecting to have this project ready to bid in the next 45 to 60 days and the board considered moving this project forward. A motion was made by K. Matherne, seconded by, D. Kiffe to approve Jesse Dufrene Levee Improvements project for advancement through the bid advertisement, through the receipt and evaluation of bids and asking the project Engineer to

make a recommendation to the Board for award of a contract to complete this project; allowing the Executive Director to sign any and all relevant documents. No discussion or public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Elmo Pitre had to leave the meeting at 6:00 PM, but quorum remained.

Upper Barataria Risk Reduction (UBRRP) Project: Director Bourgeois reported this project is included in the State's Master Plan for 2017 and the project team has spent some time working with the CPRA on project details to help shape the action for the Corps' new start design funding. NLLD wants to be sure that the Corps' efforts blend in well with the efforts of the design team and CPRA. Mr. Mark Wingate with the Corps and NLLD are working on planning a meeting to address a better way forward. Also, NLLD is beginning to have some conversations about a CEA between the NLLD and the LBLD to further the design on this project. The Director reminded the board that the district has been budgeting for this and since it is making headway, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement needs to be put in place for project funding. He added that a portion of the entire project is included in the state's draft FY2020 Annual Plan for funding. In response to Board President Kief asking about this project having a local sponsor, the Director gave a brief rundown on the history of the project from the initial efforts as Donaldsonville to the Gulf when Lafourche Basin Levee District (LBLD) was the local sponsor, but the USACE dropped their advancement of the feasibility study. Then LBLD and NLLD worked jointly to get the project to the permit stage and now the project needs to be advanced to the probable estimate of cost and construction design stage by the design team. This project is now a NLLD and LBLD project without an official sponsor because it is not a federal project, except that in the 2018 Funding for the Corps there is the new start money and that is being pursued with CPRA as the local sponsor. He added that there are several segments in St. Charles Parish of this alignment that are to be funded by GOMESA. The overall levee system design was displayed and explained on the overhead screen.

H. Valentine - East Project Area

New Valentine/Ludevine FDA:

The Director reported that the levee running from Hamilton St. in Larose about 5,500 feet towards the Ludevine Pump Station along the Blackwater Canal needs to be stabilized. He added that this project has paused after meetings with the impacted landowners and the Corps. Options are being explored for the Corps to have the opportunity to do some mitigation for a previous project and for NLLD to redesign the location of the alignment of that levee which would be beneficial. This is being pushed to the environmental department of the Corps for further determinations.

I. Regional/Other Capital Projects

Pump Station Study: Director Bourgeois reported that this project is intended to extend NLLD's influence into the proper operation of the pumps in the Parish to prevent possible damage to levees that the District has jurisdiction over and property inside a FDA from over pumping. As previously discussed, this exercise includes a few phases to get to the educational step and eventually a monitoring program. Project Manager Ostheimer reported that T. Baker Smith (TBS) is working on the next set of FDA analysis. The Director explained that TBS is providing the district with the data to support the pump off elevation in the FDA's and he added that TBS has presented a draft proposal on the instrumentation package that allows the accessing of near

real time water surface elevations and pump run status (and historical data for each and more) on the GIS portal. It was returned for some clarification, but it looks like this will be a fairly economical approach to this monitoring.

Morganza to the Gulf: Director Bourgeois reported that NLLD has begun a new push in an attempt to find funding for the federally authorized Morganza to the Gulf Project which now comes well into the jurisdiction of the NLLD. This push includes trying to find an alternative to the Corp's all or nothing Federal "New Start" process. NLLD has been working at all levels of the Corps, Louisiana Delegation in DC, State legislators and others in this effort. NLLD has entered work on a series of Technical meetings aimed at re-evaluating the cost of the project. The NLLD Director and Board President will be meeting with the ASA-CW R.D. James and others in DC later this month.

J. Equipment:

Equipment: Field Coordinator Glenn Bourgeois gave an update on NLLD equipment stating that there were no major issues in the last month. NLLD moved the MBI Buggy to the Theriot Canal Boat Landing and preparing the machine before it goes to work dredging the canal. The Wildlife and Fisheries gave NLLD permission to put the CAT/Wilco marsh buggy on the land at the boat launch in Pointe-aux-Chenes to do the track job and fix the hydraulic leaks. In response to Board President Kief asking about the time remaining at K&L with the CAT/Wilco, Field Coordinator Bourgeois stated another two years. The board president expressed his concern about the machine operating that long and added that the district needs another machine. The Director mentioned that an estimate for the "Taz" multi-use excavator will be included in the revised budget for the board's consideration, adding that it could be used for the possible projects resulting from the drainage studies.

K. General Items – Items for discussion or information as follows:

Photo Presentation: Project Manager Ostheimer presented photos and gave explanations on the following projects: Reaches C4, C5, and D1 Project; Mathews Canal/Clotilda Levee Improvements; Des Allemands Bulkhead Project; Theriot Canal Maintenance Dredging Project; and the Lockport to Larose Valentine Return Levee.

State's Draft Annual Plan (Draft AP): Director Bourgeois reported the NLLD has some very good news on this draft and NLLD would like to elaborate on the funding directly and indirectly that benefits the NLLD and its mission. Keep in mind that at this time, the plan is still in Draft form and NLLD has to make sure that our legislators support this. First, the NLLD levee project from Lockport to Mathews received an additional \$1M bringing the construction funding from the State (CPRA) GOMESA funds to \$6.4M. That is money available to be spent this year. Secondly, NLLD also mentioned that the \$1.43M construction money for the Hollywood Canal Closure will be available next year as well as an additional \$5.1M for that project the following year. Third, NLLD announced that the Draft AP includes \$1M for the Jesse Dufrene Phase 1 Levee Project. The NLLD was ready to fund that project with a construction estimate of \$1.63M. This allows the NLLD to reallocate that funding as these funds are also available this year. In all, considering the funds coming directly to NLLD via CRPA / GOMESA, this year and the next two years, NLLD is looking to receive right at \$14M in funding support of projects totaling just over \$18M. NLLD needs to support this State Annual Plan in every way possible. But there is more. Funding for the western side of Reach L of the Morganza to the Gulf project, which has a direct benefit to

this area has been consolidated to \$6M available with an additional \$1.3M for a needed structure, both available this year. The UBRR project, which also provides tremendous benefit to our area, also has \$13M in funding. Entrusting these funds to the NLLD and local partners is all a credit to the members of this Board and how the Board operates the NLLD.

Other Meetings this Month: The Director stated in addition to the regular monthly meeting circuit and those previously discussed, he participated in a meeting with Corps on PGP Cat III on December 19, 2019.

Finance & Priority Committee: Chairman K. Matherne reported that the F&P Committee met on December 18, 2018. During that meeting, the committee reviewed and approved the Payables report that was recommended and accepted for approval by the full board during the Regular Board meeting that followed, as well as reviewed the 2018 Final Budget that was recommended for adoption by the Board.

Accounts Payable: The Board President stated that each of the commissioners was provided with a financial report detailing year-to-date figures, as well as the current month's Accounts Payable listing. The chairman of the Finance & Priority was asked for the committee's recommendation. Motion was made by K. Matherne, seconded by J. Tuck, to accept the Payables Report as given by the Director. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board President called for other engineering reports; there were none.

The Board President called for additional public comments; there were none.

The Board President announced the next Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be at 5:15 PM, or immediately following the 5:00 PM F&P committee meeting, on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at the District's office located at 3862 Highway 1, Raceland, LA.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:33 PM on motion by R. Foret, seconded by T. Allen.

/s/ Cory Kief, President

/s/ Dwayne Bourgeois, Director