

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee & Drainage District, July 20, 2021**

The Regular Monthly meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District Board of Commissioners was called to order on July 20, 2021, by Mr. Cory Kief, Board President, at 5:25 PM. The meeting was held at the District's office at 3862 Highway 1 in Raceland. The pledge was led by Cory Kief, and the invocation was given by Susan Testroet-Bergeron. President Kief called roll. Commissioners present were Cory Kief, Timothy Allen, Darcy Kiffe, Adley Peltier, Susan Testroet-Bergeron, Elmo Pitre, Percy Gasery and Robert Pitre. Commissioners Rodney Foret, Louis Andolsek, and Kenney Matherne were absent. Others present were NLLD Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois; Attorney Pat Amedee; NLLD Administrative Assistant Madonna Viguerie; Executive Assistant Katie DeRoche and various engineering professionals.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by R. Pitre, seconded by E. Pitre, to approve the minutes of the following meetings: June 15, 2021, Regular Board Meeting and June 15, 2021 Finance & Priority Committee. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

**A. Thibodaux – West Project Area:**

Acadia Woods: D. Bourgeois reported NLLD has been working with the City of Thibodaux, LPG and TPCG to try to sweep then possibly maintenance dredge the St. Louis Canal. The objective of this project is to bring improved drainage to the Acadia Woods area of Lafourche Parish and the City of Thibodaux. It is the first step in considering appropriate back water flooding protection for this area of Lafourche Parish / City that drains directly into Terrebonne Parish. Thus far, cooperation with Terrebonne Parish has been very good. NLLD has engaged T. Baker Smith, who handles the St. Louis Bayou drainage for Terrebonne Parish to perform a visual survey for obstructions and a traditional survey as may be needed to support LPG and TPCG's work to dredge the St. Louis Bayou.

Waverly No. 2 Channel Project: D. Bourgeois reported NLLD is in the process of developing a NLLD project that will create a new major drainage channel functionally parallel to and complimentary to the existing Waverly Ditch NLLD is calling the Waverly No. 2 Channel Project. NLLD is working on RoW issues with the property owners before moving forward. NLLD met with the appraiser on July 2nd to discuss the progress on the appraisals and to allow him to better understand the overall project. He is continuing to work on the valuation report for this property. NLLD and LCI are continuing to work with the landowners along Talbot to finalize that agreement. R. Pitre stated a concern came from a current LPG Council meeting about the NLLD. He asked if someone from the NLLD Board can represent the NLLD at the LPG Council meetings in case questions come up from the LPG Council that the NLLD can answer. C. Kief said that is not necessary because the LPG Council is welcomed to be present at the NLLD meetings to ask questions and they all receive copies of our minutes.

**B. Thibodaux - Lockport - Bayou Blue Project Area:**

NSU Drainage Study: D. Bourgeois reported in the future, updates on the project will be based on whatever the Committee wishes to report for the project each month. But there are some possibilities of portions of this being advanced along with some work on the Coastal Center.

Bayou Blue – Hollywood Backwater Flood Protection Project: D. Bourgeois reported The State's Annual Plan includes future funding expected from GOMESA funds for engineering and construction. Leonard Chauvin P.E., Inc. has been working with the state on the final design, while working on the bid documents. LCI has finalized the revisions to the drawings and the Geotechnical consultant provided the requested information by CPRA. All the drawings have been submitted and NLLD is waiting for CPRA to either send back additional comments or give concurrence to begin advertising.

TLBB Element 2, (Lockport to Mathews Levee Improvement Project): D. Bourgeois reported the Lemoine

Company, LLC is the contractor on Phase II which is the canal relocation and berm construction. This phase is included in an IGA with CPRA for GOMESA funds reimbursement. Lemoine has finished the excavation of the material from the new canal. They are currently working on moving the material as part of the change order approved last month by the Board. NLLD expects they will continue working on this for the next couple of months.

Cyprien FDA Channel Improvements/Cyprien Discharge Channel Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois reported Sealevel has completed the levee work and installation of rip rap along the canal bank. They still have some cleanup work to perform to finish the project. Currently Sealevel is working on installation of new pumps in the Cyprien Pump Station for LPG.

Butch Hill and Twin Oaks Pump Station and FDA Improvements: D. Bourgeois reported this project is owned by the Sugarland Country Club at LPSO Sheriff's Sale is a large project that would combine the Twin Oaks and Butch Hill Pump Stations which are both in disrepair along with improving the overall FDAs and performing levee maintenance on the surrounding levees. It was sorted through at the T-RADS April 27 meeting and determined by the board at May's Regular meeting that the proposed approximately 100 Acre tract of land would have economic benefits to the Butch Hill / Twin Oaks FDA, would be beneficial to the Replacement / Consolidation of the Butch Hill and Twin Oaks Pump stations and would provide needed material for the Raceland Prairie Levee System Rehabilitations. The appraiser is wrapping up the appraisal. There were some adjustments to the tract based on NLLD's need and the landowner's request. NLLD is hoping to wrap this up this week.

Raceland Prairie District 2 of 12 Seepage Repairs: D. Bourgeois reported Low Land Construction Company, Inc. is the contractor on this project to address seepage areas. Low Land has completed the dredging of the project. Because of the pricing, NLLD would like to have Low Land continue dredging in a couple of other areas where this type of dredging can be performed. Due to access and other reasons, dredging from the bayou is not an option in many areas. S. Bergeron motioned, seconded by A. Peltier to approve Change Order No. 1 to increase the contract amount by \$3,250.00 due to the necessity to replace a deteriorated culvert along the project access as requested by Low Land Construction Co., Inc. and recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously. R. Pitre motioned, seconded by T. Allen to approve Change Order No. 2 to increase the contract amount by \$182,590.00 and the contract time by 30 days to extend the construction period to September 12, 2021 due to the dredging of an additional 2600 liner feet as requested by Low Land Construction Co., Inc. and recommended by the project engineer. D. Bourgeois stated these change order amounts are still within the contingency of the project and within budget. No further discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

**C. Lockport - Larose Project Area:**

Lockport – Larose Levee Project Reaches C4, C5, and D1: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported Onshore Materials, LLC is the contractor on this project that is phase 1 and 2 of the improvements to the levees in these reaches. The contractor is continuing to shape the southern end of the project. They have excavated and prepared material to haul from the borrow area the NLLD provided. There was an issue with continuity of drainage in the borrow pit area and the NLLD requested that the contractor install culverts to maintain the interconnectivity of the FDA. Neil has specified the size of the culverts and expecting that is finalized ASAP. NLLD has requested Neil to set up the next monthly progress meeting with Onshore for next week.

Lockport to Larose Reach B Levee Project: D. Bourgeois reported Picciola & Associates continues to work on acquiring a ROW for a pipeline crossing for this levee reach. The permit was completed and Picciola completed the final drawings for the first phase of Reach 1. The next step was to find around \$1M to move to the bidding phase of the project. Just so happened that \$1M was allocated to the project in the

last legislative session. As of now the price of the project has increased a bit from the estimate from the end of last year. However, NLLD is reviewing and working on bringing that number down closer to the original number. The IGA will also be worked on for the project funding.

Comeaux Drive Drainage Project: D. Bourgeois reported the NLLD and the Town of Lockport have had studies and work done since early 2018 to get resolution for their drainage problems. LCI was engaged to advance the design and ROW requirements on this to help the Town pursue funding during the coming year. NLLD also asked the Parish and LP DD#1 to get involved in the search for funding. The Town had submitted a Capital Outlay request for funding which came up short this year. However, the Town did receive some federal ARP funding. NLLD met with the mayor last month about those funds and additional opportunities they may have via State ARP funds the spending of which is outlined in Act 410 from this session. NLLD will be having a follow-up meeting with them and the Parish on that. Additionally, NLLD has sent preliminary plans and cost estimates for the work north of Hwy 1, to the Town for their review.

**D. Choupic Project Area:**

East 80 Arpent (Dixie Canal): D. Bourgeois reported the Linkbelt/Wilco Deep-water Marsh Buggy is being used for some long term and long overdue maintenance dredging. The deep-water buggy is continuing to dredge the canal and has approximately 1,500 LF of the 12,000 LF left to dredge. NLLD will be issuing a change order to Sealevel to continue clearing the bank line for the next app. 7,800 LF. NLLD also has LCI working on scoping a spray dredge project for the areas that cannot be mechanically dredged.

West Choupic Storm Water Protection Project: D. Bourgeois reported recent rain events caused unprecedented flood threats in the West Choupic area especially between Bayou Onion and just west of the Sawmill Canal Road. NLLD decided to host another meeting at the Choupic Fairgrounds on June 29 to give the community another opportunity to form a decision to place a backwater flood protection levee in the area. The meeting had a very good turn-out. NLLD brought maps and better explained the reasonings for their flooding issues and why the original alignment of the proposed levee had to be placed more or less where it was indicated previously. While it is still hard for some community members to understand the alignment, NLLD made more headway. NLLD worked hard to dispel some myths as to the cause of flooding for the area and what impacted landowners would and would not be able to do after levees are installed. NLLD gathered names and addresses of those members who stated at the meeting they were not on the original distribution list for the solicited letters. It was a long and spirited meeting going from 6:30PM until just after 9:00PM. To move forward, NLLD is working with LCI to re-align the proposed levee in an area that avoids the worst impacts to landowners yet may still be OK with the Corps. The goal is to establish that alignment and have a Pre-App meeting with the Corps to see if they will approve the alignment. NLLD and LCI will then continue notifying and working with the Choupic community impacted landowners until they can agree on a fair proposed project in order for all in the community to receive the flood protection they deserve. A. Peltier stated at the meeting, a lot of people better understood the issues and majority of the Choupic community stated they want levee, especially after these rain events.

**E. St. James Project Area:** D. Bourgeois reported NLLD is developing items in the PA via this drainage study by Duplantis Design Group. NLLD has the findings from DDG and it is pending the review of the T-RADS Project Committee when scheduled. NLLD will also be working with the Parish and the Lafourche Parish School Board along with local property owners to review some drainage concerns that were made evident during the recent high-water events.

**F. Lake Bouef Watershed Project Area:**

Zeller/Larousse Forced Drainage Area Systems Improvements: D. Bourgeois and reported Phase 2 of this project is designed to provide structural stability to the system and improve the levee to a 5' elevation.

CPRA has included \$1M for this project available this year (FY2021) in its Annual Plan coming from GOMESA. It was awarded last month. NLLD is currently executing contracts with Sealevel Construction which should be done today. LCI will be setting up the pre-construction meeting to get the project kicked off.

**G. Gheens Project Area:**

Jesse Dufrene FDA Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported Onshore Materials, LLC was the contractor for this project which was being partially reimbursed with GOMESA funding through CPRA and designed to raise four miles of levee height from +4' to +7'. This project is complete, and the retainage was paid to the contractor last month so it will be removed from next month's agenda.

Natural Gas FDA Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois reported Clark Construction Enterprises, LLC is the contractor for this project that is designed to improve the levee elevation to 7'. The construction is being reimbursed with GOMESA funding through CPRA. NTP was issued back on June 14th but not much work has occurred with the weather. The contractor is still working on getting the dirt pit approved by ASCE. Hopefully they will be able to begin moving material on this project.

Upper Barataria Risk Reduction (UBRRP) Project: D. Bourgeois reported this project is included in the State's Master Plan for 2017. The NLLD and the LBLD have been working cooperatively to get this design further down the road. Field and Design work has been progressing well on this project.

**H. Valentine - East Project Area:**

New Valentine/Ludevine FDA: D. Bourgeois reported Onshore Materials, LLC is the contractor for this project to stabilize about 5,500 feet of the levee running from Hamilton St. in Larose towards the Ludevine Pump Station along the Blackwater Canal. Onshore is continuing to install material in the levee template. The overall level of protection and stability for this levee has been improved and they are continuing to make good progress. Onshore has worked some additional material and is hauling onto the levee. The persistent rain has slowed the project down. T. Allen motioned, seconded by E. Pitre to approve Change Order No. 5 for an additional 37 days to extend the construction period to October 27, 2021 due to adverse weather conditions as requested by Onshore Materials, LLC and recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously. R. Pitre motioned, seconded by T. Allen to approve payment of pay request #14 in the amount of \$35,910.00 from Onshore Materials, LLC as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

T-Bois Levee FDA: D. Bourgeois reported Circle LLC is the contractor on this project that includes maintenance work on the area of the levee from Hamilton St. to North American Shipyard. Circle has cleared the levee and has been installing material when weather permits. They are working in the first 800-1000 LF of the project. Picciola has submitted a recommendation for payment for the Boards' consideration. E. Pitre motioned, seconded by P. Gasery to approve payment of pay request #1 in the amount of \$64,545.85 from Circle, LLC as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

T-Bois Ludevine Levee Tie In: D. Bourgeois reported this project will connect the T-Bois Levee on the eastern side of Hamilton Street to the Ludevine Levee on the Western side of Hamilton Street. It will provide some interconnectivity to the two FDAs. NLLD will take advantage of the property off of Hamilton Street that will be purchased to provide the material for this project and will hopefully be able to perform the earthen work as a proposal. Picciola has submitted a preliminary plan and estimate for this project. NLLD plans on performing the earthen portion of the work as a proposal. That work is estimated to be approximately \$210K. Before moving forward with this work, NLLD will need to let Onshore finish the Ludevine Levee and Circle get a bit further on the T-Bois Levee.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, reach 2 Interim Improvements: D. Bourgeois reported Dynamic Group, LLC is the contractor on this project that is designed to enhance nearly 20,000 LF of levee improvements to an approximate 7.5' elevation and modify the Ludevine Pump Station to account for the modified levee section. The CPRA will provide \$3M for this project available through Capital Outlay / State Surplus funds. It was awarded last month. GIS has issued contracts to Dynamic who the Board awarded the project to last month. As soon as the contracts are executed, NLLD will set up the pre-construction meeting with Dynamic.

Ludevine Pump Station Replacement: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported this project was developed out of the poor condition of the existing station and a conflict with the Reach 2 levee alignment. Recognizing this conflict and need, CPRA through GOMESA funding provided \$2.8M in the annual plan for construction of this project. NLLD has been working with GIS Engineering on the development and they have provided us with a report recommending the Hamilton Street property location for the project. NLLD completed the purchase of the property along Hamilton that will serve as the location for this pump station along with providing the retention pond for the FDA and earthen material for Reach 2 and the Ludevine/T-Bois tie-in. NLLD is executing a contract with GIS for the design of the pump station NLLD plans to have them work on completing the design by the end of fall with hopes of beginning advertising at the end of this year or early next year.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, Reach 3 Interim Improvements: D. Bourgeois reported Outer Limit has completed clearing the area along the Gayosa Ridge and T. Baker Smith is finalizing the delineation report. NLLD hopes to have that in the next week or so and try to finalize the exact alignment. NLLD also met with one of the other primary landowners to discuss a potential RoW for the project.

#### **I. Maintenance and other Regional Projects:**

Maintenance Projects: D. Bourgeois reported Outer Limit is continuing maintenance on the Four Point Levee to stop some leaks and restore the elevation. They still have a good bit of work to complete on this project. NLLD plans on moving to the St. Charles Bypass levee to perform maintenance as soon as NLLD completes Four Point.

Morganza to the Gulf (MTG), Larose to Lockport Feasibility Report: D. Bourgeois reported Delta Coast (DCC) is working on the design of the actual alignment of the levee within the District and to file the permit application. DCC has modified the Reach 1 permit and submitted the information. DNR has inspected the project. DCC will continue to monitor the project.

Morganza to the Gulf: D. Bourgeois reported the Morganza to the Gulf project has received its federal "new start" funding of \$12.46 million to begin construction of the replacement of the Humble Canal flood control structure. The Construction Kick-off meeting was done on this and is progressing well. \$19.3 million will be in MR&T for Morganza to the Gulf, which is more than initially asked in the Congressionally Directed Spending and has been agreed upon on the House side. This came as a joint appropriation request from Congressman Scalise and Graves who have put in tremendous work at making this ask possible. This still needs to go through the process. All involved are working to best be positioned to receive additional federal funding for this project year to year from several directions in addition to the expected Corps / Congressional Appropriations process now that there is a new start designation for the project. There have established Morganza weekly calls established with the State to be sure all are rowing in the same direction.

Morganza to the Gulf (MTG), Reaches K & L and Structures: D. Bourgeois reported the CPRA will be providing \$18.2M in funding for the Grand Bayou Flood gate between Reaches K & L in Lafourche Parish. This gate, along with the levees being constructed along Reaches K & L will have a very positive impact on the levees and gravity drainage on the west side of Bayou Lafourche as Grand Bayou is a big source of storm water for those areas. SLLD has contracted with Sealevel Construction for this work and is

progressing on schedule with the barge being recently installed. John Plaisance with GIS stated the barge is in position and is expected to be final in late August. D. Bourgeois mentioned there is at least an 8 ft level protection on Reach K from Pointe-Aux-Chenes. Some parts are actually 10 ft or 12 ft, which better positions the region going into this year's hurricane season. C. Kief asked about the status on Reach L and when it will start construction. T. Allen said it will soon be going to bid.

**K. General Items:**

Equipment: D. Bourgeois reported the following equipment updates for the month. There were no issues with equipment. As discussed at last month's meeting, the MBI/CAT machine was up for buy-back by MBI and that transaction was executed on July 9th at which time MBI paid NLLD \$203,650.00 and took possession of the machine. The new TAZ machine was delivered with an issue with the power unit causing it to not properly operate and that is still being addressed by MBI. To date NLLD has not furthered thoughts on liquidated damages to the Board. But, at this point, MBI is suffering from a nonavailability of key parts that have an exceptional long lead time these days. Between this and some past COVID issues that struck their organization, much of this was beyond their control. But not all. NLLD is on the cusp of making recommendations to the board and will do so at the next meeting. The board was concerned about not having these machines operational at this time of the year. D. Bourgeois said, moving forward, the NLLD will have to consider its equipment requirements at the end of the year.

Recent Excessive Rainfall: D. Bourgeois reported it started raining on Monday May 17th and did not really stop until sometime on Friday the 21st. NLLD has been working to frame up some levee rehabilitation projects in the 6th Ward of the Parish, Forced Drainage Areas north of Thibodaux, Chackbay, Choupic, Choctaw and Kraemer as a result of the rain. NLLD has engaged LCI to do the following:

- 1) Get the centerline elevations of all these levees in the area and document all locations where overtopping occurred.
- 2) From 1) above, develop a prioritized list of maintenance projects to consider addressing the biggest concerns.
- 3) Advance levee rehabilitation projects for all of these levees to the study and report phase to run these projects through NOPET and pursue funding. The Zeller / Larousse project, that is currently working on the 2nd of three planned phases is a good example of what ultimately needs to be done for these levees.

This will all take a considerable amount of time and NLLD will be reporting back to the Board on all of this as things develop. NLLD should have the initial surveys in a few more weeks. But the continued wet weather has made this challenging.

NFIP: D. Bourgeois reported he has been on a series of calls with the federal legislator's staff, the State and others on two areas in play on the NFIP. First is the reauthorization of the program. The program expires on September 30th of this year unless Congress passes a CR. The thinking is that they will kick the can into next year. That said, there has been quite a bit of change in the language in that bill not for the better. Additionally, FEMA plans to begin the implementation of risk Rating 2.0. It is unknown of what that means because FEMA has released so little info. But, what they have released is particularly concerning. 80% of the policyholders in Louisiana will see increased rates and it is higher than that in Lafourche. Further, FEMA intends to do away with the Grandfathering Policy which would also induce severe rate increases. It is also hard to tell how they will treat areas protected by levee. Pouring more into this confusion, the Parish is just receiving the LAMP based preliminary maps which those working on this have been reviewing and commenting on. Those maps look appropriate in the South Lafourche area but do not make a bunch of sense in North Lafourche areas. Again, those involved are working

through that process as well. 40% of the nation's GDP comes from the Gulf and Eastern seaboard coast. It is crucial to put an end to the ever-creeping insurance rates. C. Kief stated it is important to have the LA governor handling this with other states involved.

Photo Presentation: D. Bourgeois presented photos and gave explanations on the following projects: Dredge project of Raceland 2 of 12 Seepage repairs; New Ludevine/Valentine Levee; T-Bois; Reaches C4, C5, D1; TLBB Element II Coastal to Twin Oaks;

Other Meetings this Month: D. Bourgeois stated in addition to the regular monthly meeting circuit and those previously discussed, he participated in the following meetings:

**MAC Meeting: 6/15**

**CPRA Board Meeting: 6/16**

**RISEE Virtual Briefing: 6/16**

**SCIA Luncheon: 6/17**

**Call- Post NFIP/RR 2.0 Hearing Concerns**

**CPRA/ NLLD Call: 6/21**

**Choupic Meeting at the Fairgrounds: 6/29**

**Call w/ House Financial Services and Coalition for Sustainable Flood Insurance: 7/8**

**MtoG tour w/ Austin Walton from Congressman Scalise's office: 7/9**

**BIG Luncheon: 7/12**

**MAC Meeting 7/20**

**SCIA Luncheon: 7/20**

Finance & Priority Committee: Committee member E. Pitre reported that the Finance and Priority Committee conducted a meeting on June 15, 2021. The NLLD Board has a copy of those minutes in tonight's meeting packet. During that meeting, the committee reviewed and approved the Payables Report that was accepted by the full board in the Regular meeting that followed.

Accounts Payable: A motion was made by E. Pitre, seconded by A. Peltier to accept the Payables Report as given. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

The President announced the next Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be at 5:30 PM (or immediately following the 5:15 PM F&P Committee meeting) on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at the District's office located at 3862 Highway 1, Raceland, LA. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:57 PM on motion by E. Pitre, seconded by S. Bergeron.

/s/Cory Kief, President

/s/Dwayne Bourgeois, Executive Director