

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee & Drainage District, February 23, 2021

The Regular Monthly meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District Board of Commissioners was called to order on February 23, 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 Louis Andolsek, and the invocation was given by Susan Testroet-Bergeron. President Kief called roll.

Commissioners present were Timothy Allen, Louis Andolsek, Rodney Foret, Cory Kief, Darcy Kiffe, Adley Peltier, Percy Gasery and Susan Testroet-Bergeron. Commissioners absent were Robert Pitre, Elmo Pitre and Kenney Matherne. Others present were NLLD Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois; NLLD Project/Program Manager Arthur Ostheimer; Attorney Pat Amedee, who arrived at 5:29 pm; NLLD Administrative Assistant Madonna Viguerie; Executive Assistant Katie DeRoche and various engineering professionals.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by P. Gasery, seconded by L. Andolsek, to approve the minutes of the following meetings: January 26, 2021 Special Board Meeting and the January 26, 2021 Finance & Priority Committee. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

COVID-19 State of Emergency: D. Bourgeois gave an update to the commissioners on COVID-19 impacts to operations. NLLD is following the current guidelines from Proclamation No. 18-JBE-2021

A. Thibodaux – West Project Area:

Drainage Study: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD is extending this drainage study with additional investigations to assist the City of Thibodaux and the Parish with a proactive approach for drainage since this area is seeing a tremendous growth in this area. Heather Klingman with DDG presented to the Board the outcomes of the drainage study. The total cost for projects would be about \$3.1 million. NLLD plans to work with NSU. Discussion ensued on the findings of the drainage study and potential projects in this area. The NLLD Board agrees this needs to be further discussed in a separate committee.

Waverly No. 2 Channel Project: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer 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 called the Waverly No. 2 Channel Project. NLLD met with DDG on February 3rd to discuss the project right of way status and have been reaching out to several landowners, some with more success than others. NLLD plans to meet with one of the landowners this week to discuss their concerns. There is another possible option that may be more feasible in an attempt to move the project forward. The Board agrees this should be further investigated in a separate committee.

B. Thibodaux - Lockport - Bayou Blue Project Area:

Bayou Blue – Hollywood Backwater Flood Protection Project: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported The State's Annual Plan includes future funding expected from GOMESA funds for engineering and construction. Leonard Chauvin P.E., Inc. (LCI) continues with the design work and bid documents. The permit has been issued and all project RoW's have been executed. LCI has the plans ready to send to CPRA for their review. NLLD is waiting on CPRA to forward an executed IGA. NLLD could advertise in March and April.

TLBB Element 2, (Lockport to Mathews Levee Improvement Project): D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer 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 is continuing to work on the 2nd and 3rd excavation cuts on the project. They have completed the area between Twin Oaks and 40 Arpent Canal and the 40 Arpent Canal to the Fantastic Acres Pump Station. They have approximately 4000 LF of the project to finish. D. Kiffe motioned, seconded by A. Peltier to approve payment of pay request #14 in the amount of \$110,764.77 from The Lemoine Company, LLC as

recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously. Cyprien FDA Channel Improvements/Cyprien Discharge Channel Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD has awarded a contract to Sealevel based on the low submitted proposal for the improvement to the outfall channel levee. They should begin mobilizing today or tomorrow and for the entire project to be completed in 90 days.

US 90 at Bayou Folse: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported this project is one with GOMESA funding from CPRA allowing for a permanent solution to raise the elevation of the levee adjacent to the US Hwy 90 Bridge over Bayou Folse on both sides. Byron E. Talbot Contractor, Inc. (BET) is the contractor. The certificate of substantial completion was accepted in October. There are some right of way issues with BET finishing the punch list. Leonard Chauvin P.E., Inc. is remediating these issues. NLLD has retainage but has the option to assess liquidated damages and/or retain the held value for the remaining items and hire someone else to complete those tasks since they are passed the 45-day period.

Butch Hill and Twin Oaks Pump Station and FDA Improvements: D. Bourgeois reported this project is a large project that would combine the Twin Oaks and Butch Hill Pump Station which are both in disrepair along with improving the overall FDAs and performing levee maintenance on the surrounding levees. As an update, the Sugarland Country Club was sold by the bank to a local interest. NLLD is working with the new owners to negotiate a right of way on the property for the various drainage improvements and to purchase material to use to improve the levees in the surrounding areas. NLLD is also finalizing the NOPET evaluation for the pump station and FDA improvements for this area and reviewing funding opportunities in coordination with LPG. This will probably be placed in a separate committee as well.

Raceland Prairie District 2/3 of 12 Seepage Repairs: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported this project will address seepage and was approved for bid advertisement. Leonard Chauvin P.E., Inc. is finalizing the bidding documents for this project and has forwarded a review copy for comment. NLLD plans on returning comment ASAP to begin advertising next week.

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. NLLD met with Angelette Picciola on January 28th and again on February 10th to go over the project and having them perform some additional surveys on the project in an effort to gather some additional information as to where the project quantities are. NLLD also discussed the project moving forward to be ready ahead of hurricane season. Onshore is continuing to work in the borrow area to prepare material in the pipeline area. The Board is concerned on the status of completion. They also questioned the type of shaping work currently being done. T. Allen motioned, seconded by D. Kiffe to table Change Order No. 5 for an additional 152 days to extend the construction period to April 25, 2021 due to weather conditions as requested by Onshore Materials, LLC and recommended by the project engineer and to request Neil Angelette and a possible representative from Onshore to report on this at the March Board meeting. No further discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Lockport to Larose Reach B Levee Project: Picciola & Associates continues to develop the preliminary design and budgets for the proposed three phases of this levee reach. Picciola has submitted the permit modification and responded to some comments from the Corps and currently waiting on them to process the permit while working on funding the project.

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. NLLD engaged LCI to advance the design and ROW requirements to help the Town pursue funding during the coming year. NLLD has also asked the Parish and LP DD#1 to get involved in the search for funding. The Town has submitted a Capital Outlay request for funding which NLLD will support. 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 and A. Ostheimer reported 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 will be working there for a long time because of tremendous amounts of material to remove. The first phase of this project is approximately 7,500 LF and is expected to take around 100 days of dredging based on the quantity of material to be moved.

E. St. James Project Area: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD is developing items in the PA via this drainage study by Duplantis Design Group. The plan here is to allow Thibodaux to develop this area in a proactive, forward looking way and to avoid trying to correct for unplanned difficult drainage issues in the future. Heather will be here next month to present their findings. NLLD met with Heather at length on February 10th to look at the model runs and several proposed improvement scenarios. Generally, from the modeling, NLLD can spend a bunch of money without there being a huge beneficial impact today. But this is the snapshot in time. The issues of backwater flooding and related drainage problems will be worse over time. Also, there still may be smaller things to do that would have a beneficial impact today, especially on the west side. NLLD has requested more specific independent improvements and also some consideration for future water level rise to see a better path forward to implement improvements for this area. This project would also be something better considered at the committee level.

F. Lake Bouef Watershed Project Area:

Zeller/Larousse Forced Drainage Area Systems Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD is working on the development of Phase 2 of this project with the intent to make further improvements in elevation and stability of this levee. CPRA has included \$1M for this project available this year (FY2021) in its Annual Plan coming from GOMESA and the IGA is fully executed. NLLD has forwarded the bidding plans and specifications for comment and concurrence to bid and waiting on CPRA to comment. They have requested some additional Geotech information. NLLD should be ready to advertise in March.

G. Gheens Project Area:

Des Allemands Bulkhead Project: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported All South Consulting Engineers (ASCE) is monitoring the small sloughing area. They will add material in March when weather permits.

Jesse Dufrene FDA Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported Onshore Materials, LLC is the contractor for this project which is being partially reimbursed with GOMESA funding through CPRA and designed to raise four miles of levee height from +4' to +7'. Onshore is continuing to work on the installation of material in the last 6,000 LF of the project and have partially accepted approximately 12,000 LF of the project which has been built to the design template. R. Foret motioned, seconded by P. Gasery to approve payment of pay request #17 in the amount of \$46,611.27 from Onshore Materials, LLC as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Natural Gas FDA Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported the other half of the protection for the Gheens Community is the Natural Gas FDA. The Annual Plan indicates \$2.275M in GOMESA funds available this year (FY2021) for this project. These funds are available, and the IGA is fully executed. NLLD began advertising on February 12th, but the newspaper ran the advertisement in the wrong publication. The re-advertisement went out today and the recommendation will most likely be held in April because of the delay.

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 and A. Ostheimer 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 process and install material into the levee section. They are approximately 50% complete for this project. S. Bergeron motioned, seconded by D. Kiffe to approve payment of pay request #9 in the amount of \$76,475.00 from Onshore Materials, LLC as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

T-Bois Levee FDA: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported this project includes maintenance work of the area of the levee from Hamilton St. to North American Shipyard. NLLD opened bidding at the NLLD office on February 18. A. Peltier motioned, seconded by D. Kiffe that NLLD awards the construction contract to Circle, LLC. thus committing \$597,725.00 of NLLD's net assets from the 2017 Bond Proceeds towards NLLD Project No. 6800.56Z and authorizing the NLLD President to sign, execute, and administer a contract and any and all relevant documents. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, reach 2 Interim Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported the CPRA will provide \$3M for this project available through State Surplus funds. CPRA is currently circulating the IGA for signature. NLLD has submitted plans and specifications for the project and returning comment and/or the information requested. GIS will continue working towards completion of the bidding documents which should be ready very soon. NLLD is also looking at options for the Ludevine Pump Station. NLLD made a site visit last week to review the current station conditions and also looked at potential locations. GIS is vetting the different options that were discussed.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, Reach 3 Interim Improvements: A. Ostheimer reported NLLD will continue maintenance clearing along the existing levee for Reach 3. NLLD and TBS met on February 11th onsite to review the project and discuss the path forward. Since the clearing will take some time, NLLD will perform a delineation in April for the project.

I. Maintenance and other Regional Projects:

Morganza to the Gulf (MTG), Larose to Lockport Feasibility Report: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer 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 and will continue to monitor the permit.

Maintenance Projects: D. Bourgeois reported that he and A. Ostheimer will keep the board informed on other current or upcoming maintenance projects. NLLD has the Cat 330 buggy finished assisting LPG with clearing of the Coastal/Fantastic Acres FDA channel. NLLD has mobilized a long reach machine to clear the vegetation and debris in the Reach 2 FDA channel in effort to increase the flow to the pump ahead of the levee project.

Morganza to the Gulf: D. Bourgeois reported the Morganza to the Gulf project had been included in the USACE final work plan from HQ and the ASA office and it was approved by OMB to receive federal "new start" funding. The project will receive \$12.46 million in FY 2021 to begin construction of the replacement of the Humble Canal flood control structure. The next steps for the project in the future will be to secure funding on an annual basis and to make certain the USACE sticks to the construction plans in the ACAR. Dwayne stated he and Cory helped coordinate a MtoG Implementation Plan meeting with Chip Kline and others from CPRA, Reggie Dupre and Mitch Marmande on the specific next steps to take. Henri, the new director for MAC was involved in that meeting as well. There is another meeting this Friday. Dwayne prepared a document on the details and pushes needed.

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 this work is progressing on schedule. T. Allen asked why there is a hold on completing Reaches K & L. D. Bourgeois stated Terrebonne Levee District will complete some of this with funds going to them and South Lafourche Levee District as well, but this is a funding issue T. Allen said this levee section is not in the NLLD, but it is a concern with the upcoming 2021 Hurricane Season because it does impact NLLD area.

J. Equipment: A. Ostheimer stated there are no major updates to report this month.

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

Photo Presentation: A. Ostheimer presented photos and gave explanations on the following projects: Dixie Canal; Jessie Dufrene Levee; New Ludevine Levee; TLBB Element II

CPRA Fiscal Year 2022 Draft Annual Plan Brief Discussion: D. Bourgeois reported in the board's meeting packets, there are copies of the links to the virtual public hearings for CPRA to receive public comments on the 2022 Draft Annual Plan and discussed details regarding NLLD projects in the Draft Plan.

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:

HTV Zoom Going Public: 1/26

BTNEP Meeting: 2/4

LMOGA Webinar: 2/4

MtoG Implementation Plan Discussion Meeting: 2/5

BIG Luncheon: 2/8

MAC Meeting: 2/23

Finance & Priority Committee: Commissioner L. Andolsek reported that the Finance and Priority Committee conducted a meeting on January 26, 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 recommended and accepted for approval by the full board during the Regular Board meeting that followed.

Accounts Payable: A motion was made by L. Andolsek, 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 on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at the District's office located at 3862 Highway 1, Raceland, LA. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:13 PM on motion by S. Bergeron, seconded by T. Allen.

/s/Cory Kief, President

/s/Dwayne Bourgeois, Executive Director