

**Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee & Drainage District, January 26, 2021**

The Regular Monthly meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District Board of Commissioners was called to order on January 26, 2021 by Mr. Cory Kief, Board President, at 5:22 PM. The meeting was held at the District's office at 3862 Highway 1 in Raceland. The pledge was led by Darcy Kiffe, 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, Elmo Pitre, Robert Pitre, and Susan Testroet-Bergeron. Commissioners absent were Percy Gasery and Kenney Matherne. Others present were NLLD Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois; NLLD Project/Program Manager Arthur Ostheimer; Attorney Pat Amedee, and various engineering professionals.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by A. Peltier, seconded by E. Pitre, to approve the minutes of the following meetings: December 7, 2020 Special Board Meeting and the December 15, 2020 Finance & Priority Committee and December 15, 2020 Regular Board Meetings. 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. 7-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.

Waverly No. 2 Channel Project: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD is in the process of developing a potential project that would create a new major drainage channel functionally parallel to and complimentary to the existing Waverly Ditch called the Waverly No. 2 Channel Project. DDG is continuing to work on ascertaining and reaching out to the landowners and towards acquisition of the right of ways for the project.

**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. All but one RoW has been executed. This RoW is agreed upon and has been forwarded to the landowner for execution. The plans are about 90% ready from LCI. NLLD is waiting for CPRA to forward an executed IGA and the project will probably be advertised in March.

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 has started working on the 2nd and 3rd excavation cuts on the project. They have completed the area between Twin Oaks and 40 Arpent Canal and from there to the Fantastic Acres Pump Station. They are app. 1,000 LF passed the Fantastic Acres Pump Station. R. Pitre motioned, seconded by R. Foret to approve Change Order No. 4 to extend the construction period to March 6, 2021 due to 41 days for additional construction time due to weather conditions as requested by The Lemoine Company, LLC and recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously. D. Kiffe motioned, seconded by T. Allen to approve payment of pay request #13 in the amount of \$60,668.16 from The Lemoine Company, LLC as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Cyprien FDA Channel Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD is soliciting pricing to receive on the first week of February, then NLLD will move forward with the maintenance work,

which will be handled in-house.

US 90 at Bayou Folse: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported this is another GOMESA funded project 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 and the contractor is working on the punch list items. The contractor has completed the remaining items with exception of a couple of items to restore the landowners to good or better conditions as when the project started.

Butch Hill and Twin Oaks Pump Station and FDA Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer 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. The Sugarland Country Club was sold by the bank to a local interest for approximately \$460K. 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. The NOPET evaluation for the pump station and FDA improvements for this area and reviewing funding opportunities in coordination with LPG are being finalized.

Raceland Prairie District 2/3 of 12 Seepage Repairs: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD has been working on this project for several months through surveys and geotechnical assessments. The prairie has a bit of levees and some have long overdue maintenance issues. Over the next few years NLLD will be working on improving these levees as part of NLLD's annual maintenance budget. NLLD identified areas where seepage is occurring and will be looking to address these areas. NLLD requested LCI to get an emergency permit. The first phase of work will be appx \$420,000.00 and advertisement will begin in four to six weeks. R. Pitre motioned, seconded by E. Pitre approving Raceland Prairie 2 of 12, NLLD Project No. 6200.75Z 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. T. Allen asked if this work needs to be done sooner since it is an emergency. A. Ostheimer stated it is not a failure emergency; therefore, NLLD has time. 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 and continues to shape the levee and is currently working towards the southerly end of the project. They started clearing and prepping the borrow pit for the work around the pipeline. S. Bergeron motioned, seconded by A. Peltier to approve payment of pay request #29 in the amount of \$124,812.19 from Onshore Materials, LLC as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Parr/Larose Pump Station 30" Pump Addition and Canal Debris Screen: D. Bourgeois reported Crosby Dredging was the contractor on this project that involved the removal of the old structure at Barrios, and the addition of a pump and a debris screen at the new LPG pump station. As reported last month, this project is complete, the equipment is operating as per design and the retainage was paid to the contractor, so this project will be removed from next month's agenda.

Lockport to Larose Reach B Levee Project: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported Picciola & Associates continues to develop the preliminary design and budgets for the proposed three phases of this levee reach. Outer Limit Contractors has finished work on the levee repairs and access for the project. The stone is expected to be placed in the back later this year. Picciola has submitted the permit modification and responded to some comments from the USACE. Next is to identify funding and move forward with the first phase of construction.

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 clearing has been completed and the retainage dikes are in place and the canal dredging has started. NLLD will price the next phase of clearing for the project.

**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. To remind everyone, the plan here is to allow Thibodaux to develop this area in a proactive, forward looking way; to avoid trying to correct for unplanned difficult drainage issues in the future. L. Andolsek asked if there is a report for this project area to plan for future projects. D. Bourgeois stated NLLD will have DDG present to the Board a report of this study and begin the NOPET process to generate potential projects in this area and for NSU as well.

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

Zeller/Larousse Forced Drainage Area Systems Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported Sealevel Construction completed the work in 2018 on Phase 1A of this project which included clearing encroachments and dredging the reservoir. 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 with CPRA for execution. NLLD has received the IGA and forwarded the bidding plans and specifications for comment and concurrence to bid. NLLD is hoping to begin advertisement in February.

**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 additional material when weather permits.

Des Allemands FDA Pump Improvement Project: D. Bourgeois reported Sealevel Construction Inc. was the contractor on this project that partially reimbursed with GOMESA funds and included the removal of the old pump station and the construction of a new pump station in Des Allemands. This project is complete. The equipment is operating as per design and the retainage was paid to the contractor.

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 working between the Jessie Dufrene pump station and the area with partial. They have been working on this for the last 40-50 days and has made considerable progress. Onshore will continue to process, haul, and install material and based on work that is left, they will be about two months away from completing the project. T. Allen motioned, seconded by R. Pitre to approve payment of pay request #16 in the amount of \$78,293.35 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. NLLD had been working to have this project framed up because it is a prime candidate for GOMESA funds. That strategy has been successful as the Annual Plan indicates \$2.275M in GOMESA funds available this year (FY2021) for this project. Once CPRA executes the IGA, NLLD will be ready to bid at the start of next year. NLLD has received the executed IGA from CPRA and submitted the 95% plans for comment and concurrence to advertise. NLLD

will be ready to bid as soon as CPRA gives concurrence to advertise probably in the next four weeks.

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 excavation of the new borrow canal, processing pit material, and filling in the old canal. They have begun the installation of the processed material into the levee sections. L. Andolsek motioned, seconded by E. Pitre to approve payment of pay request #8 in the amount of \$109,517.90 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. Picciola completed the bidding plans and specifications. Advertisement for bids started on January 20th and the bid opening is scheduled for February 18th.

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. NLLD has received the draft of the IGA for this project from CPRA, commented and returned it to them and now waiting on the executed IGA from CPRA. NLLD has submitted plans and specifications to CPRA for comments and are working through a few of their preliminary comments with GIS and Mitch Marmande. GIS will continue working towards completion of the bidding documents which should be ready in the next 30 days. NLLD is continuing to look at options for the Ludevine Pump Station and plan to make a site visit next week to review the current station conditions and look at potential locations that may be better suited if building a new relocated station is found to be the best option.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, Reach 3 Interim Improvements: A. Ostheimer reported NLLD will be mobilizing this week to start vegetation clearing on this Reach to better determine the path forward. NLLD planned to use the new machine but based on some of the ongoing issues with it and the timeline to complete this work, NLLD has contracted to begin this work. NLLD hopes to put the machine out there ASAP to expedite the work for completion by the end of February.

**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. NLLD will add to the permit request the closure in the GIWW and the return to the South Lafourche Levee District to show as independent utility for the purpose of the permit application.

Maintenance Projects: D. Bourgeois reported that he and A. Ostheimer will keep the board informed on other current or upcoming maintenance projects. NLLD still has the new Taz unit to the Raceland Prairie but little progress has been made due to issues with the machine. The bigger MBI Cat removed vegetation in the Coastal/Fantastic Acres Drainage Channel in cooperation with LPG.

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. It has been a long time coming, and he thanked the LA federal delegation, (especially Congressman Graves and Scalise who were able to get "new start" eligibility language in the House Appropriations Bill), LA State legislation, USACE leaders, the State and CPRA, all three levee districts- TLCD, SLLD, and NLLD, LPG and TPCG and all others for making the funding of the MtoG a reality. 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, even though it has been approved as a New Start and to make certain the USACE sticks to the construction plans in the ACAR. There are continued pushes to make on the project. Nonetheless, last Friday was certainly a major win for our region.

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. There was a bit of a shortfall in funds for the temporary structure at about \$300,000.00, but MAC Director Henri Boulet has helped in getting CPRA to cover this shortfall.

**J. Equipment:** A. Ostheimer gave an update on equipment issues during the last month: The new Wilco refurbished buggy is working very well; the older MBI CAT 330 is working fine; the TAZ Buggy and its link belt are working fine and there were some issues with MBI not paying its vendors, but that is being taken care of. The hydraulics on the TAZ machine are not working the way it should, but this too is being resolved.

**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; LtoL C4, C5, D1; TLBB Element II

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:

**Meeting w/ Renee Turner of USACE: 1/7**

**BIG Virtual Luncheon: 1/11**

**CLLC/GOMESA Call to Action Meeting w/ Chip Kline: 1/14**

**SCIA Virtual Luncheon w/ Senator Cassidy: 1/19**

**MAC Meeting: 1/19**

**SCIA Virtual Luncheon w/ Senator Cassidy: 1/19**

**CPRA Virtual Board Meeting: 1/20**

Finance & Priority Committee: Commissioner L. Andolsek reported that the Finance and Priority Committee conducted a meeting on December 15, 2020. 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 E. Pitre 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, February 23, 2021 at the District's office located at 3862 Highway 1, Raceland, LA. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:40 PM on motion by R. Pitre, seconded by S. Bergeron.

/s/Cory Kief, President

/s/Dwayne Bourgeois, Executive Director