

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Board meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee & Drainage District, May 16, 2023

The Regular Monthly meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District Board of Commissioners was called to order on May 16, 2023, by Vice President Tim Allen at 5:20 pm. The meeting was held at the District's office at 3862 Highway 1 in Raceland. The invocation was given by Tim Allen and the pledge was led by Louis Andolsek. Vice President Allen called roll. Commissioners present were Tim Allen, Rodney Foret, Darcy Kiffe, Adley Peltier, Louis Andolsek, Tory Hebert, and Robert Pitre. Commissioners Percy Gasery, Cory Kief, Elmo Pitre and Monique Crochet were absent. Others present were NLLD Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois; NLLD Program/Project Manager Arthur Ostheimer; NLLD Field Coordinator Travis Colombel; NLLD Administrative Assistant Madonna Viguerie; NLLD Executive Assistant Katie DeRoche; NLLD Project/Accounting Assistant Brandy Theriot, and various engineering professionals.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by R. Pitre, seconded by A. Peltier to approve the minutes of the following meetings: Tuesday, April 18, 2023, Finance & Priority Committee and Tuesday, April 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Thibodaux – West Project Area:

D. Bourgeois stated there is nothing to report in this project area. However, NLLD is working with the City of Thibodaux to potentially identify some projects moving forward.

B. Thibodaux - Lockport - Bayou Blue Project Area:

NSU Drainage study: D. Bourgeois reported there is some upcoming work on the Coastal Center through Capital Outlay; however, funding for the drainage improvement work may be in excess of the allocated funds. NLLD will be waiting to see how things proceed before we take further action.

Bayou Blue – Hollywood Backwater Flood Protection Project: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported Sealevel Construction, Inc. is the contractor on this project that is designed to protect the areas around the Hollywood Canal from storm surge by way of the GIWW, which includes drainage and levee improvements, along with closure and pumping structures. CPRA is providing a little over \$6.5M GOMESA reimbursement for the construction. Sealevel is continuing with the construction of the pump station on the southern end of the project. They have completed installation of the discharge piping, concrete decking and are constructing the building frame. The pumps are in place. NLLD expects them to continue working on the pump station over the next several weeks of the project, but it is progressing well. LCI has submitted a recommendation for Pay Request No. 10 for the Board's consideration. L. Andolsek motioned, seconded by A. Peltier to approve payment of Pay Request #10 in the amount of \$198,042.90 from Sealevel Construction, Inc. as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Raceland Prairie District 1 of 12 and 2 of 12 Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD requested and received Capital Outlay funding for levee improvements in these FDAs, including a P1 appropriation of \$1.225M, a cash line from Capital Outlay Savings Fund of \$3M, and a P5 appropriation of \$2.75M. Available funding to start this project is \$4.225M. NLLD is working to shift the \$2.75M P5 funding to P1 this year, bringing the total to \$6.975M. This funding will be administered by the Office of Facility Planning and Control and the CEA has been executed. Sea level will be installing the access bridge across Butch Hill pump station that will be used for access for the levee improvement project and LPG will use for construction of the new Butch Hill pump station. They have the bridge and are preparing it for installation. LCI/NLLD will continue to work to acquire right of ways for the project and LCI is working toward final design which NLLD expects to be completed and ready for review in the

next months. The maintenance contractor is also continuing to haul material to relocate the Element 2 levee between the Twin Oaks pump station and new Butch Hill Pump Station.

Upper Bayou Folse Watershed Backwater Flood Protection: D. Bourgeois reported NLLD explored the synergy between its efforts and that of Lafourche-Terrebonne Soil and Water Conservation District to submit projects for funding assistance. After meeting with stakeholder groups, NLLD identified projects to pursue funding for farmland within the district. Now that NLLD is working on the Prairie levees and the Hollywood Canal project, NLLD has also submitted a funding request through State Capital Outlay for a project that benefits this large part of the district.

C. Lockport - Larose Project Area:

Lockport to Larose Reach B Levee Project: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported Low Land Construction Company, Inc. is the contractor on this project designed to increase the stability and the protection elevation to +7" for about 6,400 LF of the levee. CPRA will be providing \$1M State Surplus reimbursement for the construction. Low Land began processing material in the dirt pit last month and has now begun to haul and place material into the levee section. They are working on backfilling a ditch that ran parallel to the levee and are progressing well. They really took advantage of their prep time and were able to have a good bit of material ready to use on the project.

Lockport to Larose Reach D2 & D3 Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD is working with Picciola & Associates on a project to improve the elevation of the Lockport to Larose Reach D2 & D3 Levee to an 8' elevation. We had completed an initial project in 2017 that brought the elevation up to 6.5'. With expected settlement in consolidation, the elevation lost approximately a foot of protection. We were able to work with CPRA to move the excess funding app \$800K from TLBB Element 2 to help fund this project. NLLD has received concurrence from CPRA to move ahead with the project. Picciola and Associates will now prepare a final bid package to begin advertising. Advertising will start on May 18 and bids will be accepted on June 15.

Lockport to Larose Reach D5 Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois reported GIS has been working to develop flood protection options for Allied Shipyard to Bayou Lafourche, but none of the options in their submitted report are ideal due to high costs or the need for a buyout of residences. To secure funding, NLLD submitted a FEMA BRIC grant with Delta Coast Consultants and are exploring other options for protection and funding.

D. Choupic Project Area:

West Choupic & St. James Project Area Backwater Flood Protection: D. Bourgeois reported NLLD is working with LCI to realign the proposed levee to reduce negative impacts on landowners while meeting the Corps' wetland requirements. Reconsidering the options is taking a bit more effort. The Corps was receptive to an open system design at a recent pre-application meeting, so now LCI has requested a pre-application meeting with DNR.

Bowie Forced Drainage System Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD is working with LCI on a design to improve and repair the current protection from Bayou Onion to Grand Bayou. This will require letters of no objection for 5 pipeline crossings and all work is planned in the footprint of the existing levee. LCI is progressing with design documents and rights of way and targeting the 3rd/4th quarter to begin advertising the project.

E. St. James Project Area:

Woodland Heights Levee: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported this project aims to prevent backwater flooding in the Woodland Heights Subdivision and Hwy 20 public housing. After collaborating with landowners, NLLD feels it's developed a solution to meet the area's needs and reduces the risk of future flooding. LCI is gathering additional survey information now that the TAZ unit has cleared the existing levee in the area. Once this information is gathered, NLLD will be able to finalize the scope of

the project and move forward with the final design.

F. Lake Bouef Watershed Project Area:

Zeller/Larousse Forced Drainage Area Systems Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported LCI applied on NLLD's behalf to LA Statewide Flood Control for Phase 3 of this project to improve the levee structures and drainage system that protect the Kraemer/Bayou Bouef community. The application has been approved by the committees, and NLLD is anticipating a \$5M funding award for the approximately 2500 linear feet along Kraemer Bayou Road. NLLD is awaiting official notice of funding following the current legislative session to proceed with this project, but it appears NLLD will have the funding. T. Allen asked about the cost of this levee and construction. D. Bourgeois said this is a combination of a levee and sheet pile wall.

LBW Backwater Protection Project/308 Farmers Meeting: D. Bourgeois reported at the informational forum for the local landowners and farmers on January 10th, NLLD agreed to establish an alignment that would not get NLLD into trouble with wetland impacts and identify the impacted property owners and begin preliminary discussions based on that.

G. Gheens Project Area:

Upper Barataria Risk Reduction (UBRRP) Project: D. Bourgeois reported the NLLD and the LBLD have been working cooperatively to get this design further down the road. The project received a favorable Chief's Report. The project, via the Corps, did receive \$8M in funding for PED and MVP is working on the PED under the oversight of MVN. All are tracking and waiting for that work to be complete.

H. Valentine - East Project Area:

Industrial Ave Floodwall-North American Shipyard to Bayou Lafourche: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported NLLD is working with Picciola and Associates on a project to enhance protection along Industrial Park Road to Bayou Lafourche, raising the elevation to around 9'. NLLD divided the project into four phases based on the type of construction required and are confident to receive some funding for the initial stages. NLLD is pushing for more significant funding at the state level and exploring various grant opportunities. The parish has agreed to contribute some funding to the project for a combined effort of road stabilization and flood protection. NLLD is continuing to scope out the contract for this work with Picciola and Associates. NLLD wants to progress the design work to preliminary design based on the phased approach that has been recommended.

T-Bois Ludevine Levee Tie In: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported this project will connect the T-Bois Levee to the Ludevine Levee and build a new bridge across the Blackwater Canal funded by LPG for Eunice Allemand residents. In March, the NLLD board approved a CEA for NLLD to construct both projects, with LPG reimbursing us for their share of the work. This arrangement benefits both parties and provides controlled interconnectivity between the two FDAs. Picciola and Associates submitted the permit application to DNR and USACE for review. The draft of the CEA is finalized and forwarded to LPG for review. NLLD is hopeful to get back comments or an approval over the next month.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, reach 2 Interim Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported Dynamic Group, LLC is the contractor for this project 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 ultimately provide \$3M for this project available through surplus funds. We held our monthly progress meeting with Dynamic and GIS on May 9th here at the NLLD's office. They have completed approximately 3,800 linear feet of levee which has been partially accepted based on completion of the 28-day settlement period. They have approximately 8,800 LF of levee that has been submitted and started the 28-day settlement period. They are close to finishing the southern half of the project. Dynamic is approximately 3 months passed contract time, they have about 9,800 LF of levee to complete, and their current estimate would have them finishing around the end of

July. T. Hebert motioned, seconded by L. Andolsek to approve Change Order No. 13 to increase the contract time by an additional 10 days to extend the construction period to February 16, 2023, related to April 2023 adverse weather conditions as requested by Dynamic Group, LLC and recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously. A. Peltier motioned, seconded by D. Kiffe to approve payment of Pay Request #16 in the amount of \$135,852.93 from Dynamic Group, LLC as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, Reach 3 Interim Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported funding for this project is included in the State's Annual Plan this year. NLLD had originally met with the USACE on November 7th of last year regarding the Eastern alignment including Reach 3 and NLLD had the follow up meeting with them last month. There have been positive movements from USACE taking into consideration the alignment suggested, and this project will be moving along. NLLD submitted the permit application and are continuing to move forward with the design and RoWs for the portion of the Reach 3 alignment in which the PAC alignment and NLLD alignment were consistent. CPRA will be beginning the signature circulation of the IGA next week.

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 committed an initial \$2.8M, then an additional \$1.62M in the annual plan for construction of this project. NLLD has been working with GIS Engineering. NLLD received concurrence from CPRA to being advertising the project and GIS has finalized the bidding documents. NLLD started the advertisement for this project on May 9th and plan on receiving bids on June 8th. The pre-bid conference is scheduled for May 25th at 10 am at this office. NLLD should have a recommendation for award at the June Board meeting.

I. Maintenance and other Regional Projects: A. Ostheimer reported NLLD is continuing to work with GIS and LPG to look at some drainage improvements around Allied Shipyard/Ledet Drive to remove the connectivity to the GIWW in the system. After meeting with GIS and LPG, NLLD determined that a few additional pieces of information were needed to move forward with the drainage improvements but NLLD plans to start some work in the area next month. The Linkbelt 350 is currently working in the Legendre Canal for some clearing and maintenance work. LCI is assisting by coordinating pipeline crossings and acquiring access over private properties. NLLD will also be clearing the interior drainage channel that parallels Reach 2 over the next month to help the drainage. Also, NLLD will be performing an annual prep for hurricane season with Outer Limits going through all of NLLD's gates and making sure everything is operational.

Morganza to the Gulf: D. Bourgeois reported all involved are pursuing additional ongoing funding from the Federal Government and are generally encouraged in what's being heard. Everything is falling into place; but everyone has to keep pushing for ongoing funding and to match efforts and needs with the Corps. Even with funding coming, there needs to be a continuing staying ahead of which projects are a priority and which other MtoG projects can be funded through other opportunities. All is continuing to work with the Corps on land rights issues to speed up the process of construction while keeping the cost down. There also was a brief meeting with FTN concerning the possibility of them doing some modeling for NLLD and TLCD on how water might move around inside a completely closed MtoG system during a storm. The objective here is to model what type of possible internal water elevations could come against secondary (internal) levee systems. FTN is uniquely qualified for this type of work.

Drainage Canals Debris Removal: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer reported this project includes vegetative debris removal from canals in the Chackbay and Lockport areas. The fallen trees were a result of Hurricane Ida, and NRCS has agreed to assist in the funding through reimbursements. All South

Consulting Engineers has been the program manager for the Ida claims, and they handled all project specifications for public bid. The project was awarded to Grillot Construction LLC last month and the contracts were executed last week. The preconstruction meeting is set for May 22nd and a notice to proceed is expected to be issued as soon as possible thereafter.

LPG Pump Station Update: A. Ostheimer reported NLLD inquired with LPG regarding the status of any pump station maintenance or improvement projects that were planned and under way. NLLD has included the updates as given by LPG. Based on the information provided, LPG has prioritized the pump stations based on what they feel is the most vulnerable and are aggressively moving forward with engineering plans for replacement of quite a few stations. That list is enclosed the list in the commissioner's packets. NLLD expects to get better information regarding the timing of the implementation once that becomes available from LPG.

J. Equipment: Travis Colombel gave an update on equipment for this month. The power pack of the Link Belt 130 would not start. The starter was removed and brought to Quest Construction. The starter had to be replaced, and also, a bad relay. Once those items were replaced, the Link Belt 130 was placed back in service and currently grinding brush near and around the Boudreaux Canal/Sugar Ridge area.

K. General Items:

Photo Presentation: A. Ostheimer presented photos and gave explanations of the following projects: Butch Hill; Hollywood Canal; Legendre Canal; Reach 2 Dirt Pit; Reach 2; Reach B; Sugar Ridge East.

NLLD Joined Lawsuit against FEMA on RR2.0: D. Bourgeois gave an update on the lawsuit against FEMA. Many groups and government organizations are joining the suit, as well as separate individuals. Other states are joining too.

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: 4/18/23

CPRA Board Meeting/legislative visits: 4/19/23

SCIA- Dwayne moderator for FEMA RR 2.0 topic: 4/20/23

Coastal Day: 4/24/23

CPRA Industry Day- Dwayne and Arthur presentation: 4/25/23

ALBL Workshop: 4/26/23-4/28/23

House Insurance Committee Hearing on HCR 58 (FEMA): 5/2/23

BTEF Meeting: 5/2/23

MAC Board Meeting: 5/9/23

BTNEP Management meeting: 5/11/23

Finance & Priority Committee: Committee Chairman L. Andolsek reported that the Finance and Priority Committee conducted a meeting on April 18, 2023. 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 L. Andolsek, seconded by A. Peltier to accept the Payables Report as given. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The Vice President called for additional public comments; there were none. The Vice President announced the next Regular Monthly Board Meeting will be at 5:20 PM (or immediately following F&P Committee meeting) on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at the District's office located at 3862 Highway 1, Raceland, LA. The Finance & Priority meeting will be at an earlier time next month.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:20 PM on motion by R. Pitre, seconded by R. Foret.

/s/Cory Kief, President

/s/Dwayne Bourgeois, Executive Director