

St. Tammany Levee,
Drainage and Conservation District (STLD CD)
Board Meeting Minutes

Date: June 17, 2020

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Location: Koop Drive Council Chambers, 21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA

Welcome, Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer –

Chairman Krieger welcomed members, called the meeting to order, initiated the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silent prayer.

Roll Call –

Chairman Krieger commenced the roll call.

Present: Commissioner DiFranco, Commissioner Faust, Commissioner LaSalle, Commissioner McGovern, Commissioner Phillippi, Commissioner Price

Absent: Commissioner McHugh

Quorum was met with 7 members present - 1 member absent.

Update on Old Business

A. St. Tammany Coastal Study

A slide presentation was given by Glenn Ledet, Neel- Schaffer, updating the St. Tammany Coastal Study and Watershed Initiative.

Task I Data Collection and organization of flood control data completed in 2019.

Task II Gap Analysis evaluating gaps in flood protection and flood risk mitigation was completed in February 2020.

Task III The study is progressing into the final phase which will analyze project feasibility and the engineering of individual projects as well as initiate SCOPE development.

Glenn Ledet presented a slide showing the proposed locations of risk reduction projects derived from the Gap Analysis including Central Slidell, Eden Isles, West Slidell, Lacombe and Mandeville. Additionally, he presented a slide showing the proposed restoration projects such as the continuation of large marsh creation projects, living shorelines, Eden Isles breakwaters, fortifying Pearl River Island and others. As part of the final phase of Task II, Neel-Schaffer has initiated outreach engagement with coastal stakeholders by meeting with the parish, state, USACE and others and will continue to do so.

B. Slidell Levee System

Gap analysis showed 2 gaps in structural protection on the east side of the Slidell Ring Levee: a gap between Lakeshore Estates and Kingspoint and a gap between Kingspoint and Highway 190. Prior to the Gap Analysis, CPRA allocated GOMESA funds to

implement interim protection for these areas. The goal is to work in conjunction with CPRA to achieve this protection.

C. Louisiana Watershed Initiative Round 1 Funding –

First round of funding from HUD to the LA Office of Community Development is 100 million. Neel- Schaffer worked with St Tammany Parish and the Levee District to submit a pre-application for flood protection work in the parish, which was found to be eligible to compete for funding in Round 1. The next step is to work with the Parish and Levee District to put together an application for flood protection work. The application will be evaluated later in the year to determine if a grant will be awarded.

USACE Feasibility Study –

A. Draft Alternative Milestone –

No one from USACE attended the meeting. The USACE Study was initiated on January 14, 2020. The kickoff meeting with all the stakeholders was held the following day. Neel- Schaffer was able to transfer data and information from the Gap Analysis to the USACE. From this meeting the USACE developed a list of draft alternatives. The next step is for the USACE to determine final alternatives and share this information with the public in a meeting tentatively scheduled for July 14 or July 15. Prior to the STLDCD meeting, Chairman Krieger spoke with USACE Project Manager, Amy Dixon, and was informed of a call-in meeting scheduled for Monday morning at 10:00 am. Chairman Krieger requested the names of any Commissioners interested in joining the call. All the Structural Coastal Flood Risk Reduction projects submitted by the Levee Board are being considered. After the public meeting in July, the next step is to adopt the alternative projects and begin working towards the Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone that is scheduled for January, 2021.

Lee Longstreet asked if project information and work completed by Neel- Schaffer was posted on the internet. Glenn Ledet said that he would look into it. Commissioner DiFranco agreed to work with Glenn to get the appropriate documents posted on the stldcd website.

New Business –

A. St. Tammany Coastal Study Task III Effort, SCOPE of Work Development

This summer Neel- Schaffer will be working with the parish and Levee District evaluating the alternative projects and refining project features by looking at the total capital cost of engineering and construction as well as collecting preliminary geotechnical data in areas that are missing data. The first task order in Task III will be the property survey and abstracting on the existing levee systems in Slidell. Glenn Ledet presented a slide regarding the survey effort needed to collect property information regarding existing levees systems at Oak Harbor, Lakeshore Estates and Kingspoint. Neel-Schaffer will be enlisting the help of J.V. Burkes & Associates for this task. Commissioner Lasalle wanted to know if the parish had put together a list of projects, an “ask list”, based on the recent Executive Order issued by President Trump on June 4th that tasked the Secretary of DOT and the Assistant Secretary of Civil Works of the USACE to develop a list of projects to be

funded. Randy Pausina, recently hired by St. Tammany Parish in a new position, responded that he was not aware of such a list. Commissioner LaSalle emphasized the need for to be ready with a list of projects due to the trickle-down effect stemming from the national level to the state and local level and requested that the parish allow the Levee District's input regarding some of those projects. Chairman Krieger agreed with the idea. Commissioner DiFranco wanted clarification from Glenn Ledet regarding the survey effort, the collection of geotechnical data and fee proposals. Glenn said that the process would start with the development of a fee for the survey followed by geotechnical data collection. Barry Brupbacher with Neel-Schaffer stated that there would be geotechnical data from CPRA for the new levees in East St. Tammany.

Introduction of St. Tammany's Coastal & Environmental Protection and Restoration Manager

*Chairman Krieger introduced **Randy Pausina** serving in the newly created St. Tammany Parish position of Coastal and Environmental Protection and Restoration Manager. Randy was the former Head of Wildlife and Fisheries under Bobby Jindal. He has lived on the Northshore since 2004. Randy's position was created to coordinate the efforts of the Levee District, St. Tammany Parish and Municipalities regarding flood and drainage initiatives to ensure all entities are moving forward with the same plan.*

Next Meeting Date, July 15

Chairman Krieger said the tentative date for the next STLDCD meeting is July 15, but that will depend on the date of the USACE meeting in July.

Introduction of STLDCD Nominees submitted to Governor John Bel Edwards –

Chairman Krieger has been working with LA Boards and Commissions for several weeks to get STLDCD Board nominees approved. Unfortunately, this did not happen in time for the June meeting. Nominees for Commissioner positions on the Board are:

Cory Bruhl, Mandeville, Project Manager for APTIM, certified associate in project management.

Deb Morel, Eden Isles, History of leadership roles in the parish with the Tourist Commission, as Chairman of the Harbor Center and other positions.

Gary Mills, Chamale Cove, involved in numerous community service endeavors, representing the heartbeat of the community.

Phil Valent, Slidell, retired geotechnical engineer, former Commissioner with the Southeast LA Flood Protection Authority- West.

Cory, Deb and Gary were present at the meeting. Phil could not attend due to a family issue. Once the new Commissioners are announced, there will be an orientation for new members, which will be open to existing members as well. At the next Board meeting there will be recognition and celebration of some Commissioners for their service. Chairman Krieger recognized Commissioner Phillippi and former Commissioner Fitzpatrick for their work while serving on the Board.

Treasurer's Report –

February Report- The January balance was \$26,506.61. One transfer was made and two checks were written in February reflecting a balance on February 29 of \$44,479.51. Chairman Krieger requested a motion to approve the February report. Commissioner McGovern moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner DiFranco. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

March Report- There was no activity in March so the ending balance on March 31 was the same as February, \$44,479.51. Motion was made by Commissioner McGovern to approve the March report, seconded by Commissioner Phillippi. Without any objections, the motion passed unanimously.

April Report- There was no activity in April so the ending balanced on April 30 remained the same as March, \$44,479.51. Motion was made by Commissioner LaSalle and seconded by Commissioner DiFranco to accept the April report. No one objected and the motion carried unanimously.

May Report- Four checks were recorded in May. The ending balance on May 31 was \$31,615.51. Motion was made by Commissioner McGovern and seconded by Commissioner Faust to approve the May Report. There were no objections and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes –

Commissioner Phillippi requested two corrections in the minutes including a misspelling of his name and changing “a necessary” to “as necessary” in New Business G. A motion was made by Commissioner LaSalle and seconded by Commissioner McGovern to accept the amended minutes for the February 19, 2020 STLDCD Board Meeting. Without objection the amended minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments –

Tom Thompson, Eden Isles, requested clarification regarding the location of the next scheduled Levee Board Meeting. Chairman Krieger mentioned the difficulty in following appropriate social distancing guidelines due to the limited size of the 5th floor conference room at the Towers Building. She will ask Mayor Cromer about using the Slidell Auditorium for a bigger space. Additionally, she posted the agenda with the meeting location change on the website this morning as per the recording laws of public records. **Lee Longstreet**, Slidell, expressed the need for a tide gauge along the Slidell Lakefront due to lack of data for this area. **Former Commissioner Fitzpatrick** confirmed the locations of two tide gauges, one on the west side of the Rigolets and one at the mouth of the Pearl River on the Mississippi side and reiterated the need for one in this area. Glenn Ledet stated that the LA Watershed Initiative had funding for new gauges, though possibly riverine in nature. **Tom Thompson** suggested the Board craft a resolution to evaluate the need for a tide gauge. Commissioner Faust mentioned that the new data might be helpful to support the need. Additionally, Commissioner Faust said that the Slidell fishing pier would be a prime location for a tide gauge. A motion was made by Commissioner Phillippi and seconded by Commissioner LaSalle to proceed with the tide

gauge request by sending a letter to the appropriate people. With no objections, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment—

A motion was made by Commissioner McGovern and seconded by Commissioner Faust to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.