



Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana

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“WITHOUT FLOOD CONTROL, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS”

MINUTES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2017

President Cory Kief called to order the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana’s (ALBL) Executive Committee Meeting at 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 17, 2017, at Drusilla Seafood Restaurant in Baton Rouge. There were nineteen (19) member agencies present which constituted a quorum.

Motion by Mr. Bourgeois, seconded by Mr. Stringer to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2016, Executive Committee Meeting. Motion passed without opposition.

The Financial Report was given by Mr. Edmond Preau who updated the budget from the last Executive Committee Meeting. The following balances formed the working capital of the ALBL: checking account \$113,553.61; savings \$20,850.10; 3 Certificates of Deposit at \$10,000 each, for a total of \$30,000, in which the interest goes into the savings account; 1 Certificate of Deposit (transferred from Savings) in the amount of \$19,911.34; 1 Certificate of Deposit for litigation purposes at \$5,895.53, and Flood Insurance Coalition \$46,025.27. Mr. Preau advised that although there was a motion at the December meeting to move \$10,000 from savings to the litigation account, he was unable to do that since the litigation account is a CD and not yet ready to mature. He asked for guidance on how the membership would like this handled. After some discussion, motion by Mr. Bourgeois, seconded by Ms. Gorman to have Mr. Preau open a savings account dedicated to litigation. Motion passed without opposition. Motion by Mr. Keahey, seconded by Mr. Trosclair, to accept the financial statement. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Preau also advised that the Cost Comparison for the past three Annual Meetings was included in everyone’s packet. There were no questions or comments.

In Mr. Zeringue’s absence, Mr. Kief spoke about the LA Flood Risk Coalition. He advised that Mr. Zeringue was hired as the director and that he was the Vice-Chairman. He asked if anyone was interested in serving on the board that they contact him or Dwayne Bourgeois. Ms. Gorman asked that someone from Pontchartrain Levee District be put on the board.

Mr. Kief stressed the importance of additional funding in order to keep the Coalition going. He urged all levee districts to continue to support this initiative. He informed that there were meetings held in Washington, DC last week and that talking points are being developed.

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Ms. Gorman asked for a list of those that have contributed to the Coalition and who is on the board. Ms. White will send out the requested information along with an additional request for monies and more information from Mr. Bourgeois.

Mr. Bourgeois advised that the Coalition will be reaching out to Associate Members and other outside entities for funding. The Coalition will also be reaching out to other organizations in order to educate them on the complex issues.

Mr. Scott Kirkpatrick gave the Legislative Committee Report and stated that there is currently a special session going on which will end Wednesday of next week. After some discussion on HCR 1, there was a motion by Mr. Bourgeois, seconded by Mr. Dupre to have the Association oppose the funding cuts to CPRA and LADOTD proposed in HCR 1. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Kirkpatrick also advised that the Regular Session begins on April 10. The pre-filing deadline is March 29th. He will be sending out information to the Legislative Committee for review and comment.

He reminded the Membership that the Master Plan and Annual Plan are out for comments which are due March 26th.

There was discussion on legislation regarding the constitutionally authorized 5 mil levee district tax and its effects to those Districts formed after 2006. Motion by Mr. Trosclair, seconded by Mr. Dupre to develop a resolution similar to the Coastal Levee Consortium's supporting removal of the constitutional language requiring local voter approval of the millage before a millage imposition by levee districts formed after 2006 and also supporting the ability of SLFPA East and West to move funds between levee districts with their Authority. Motion passed without opposition.

Motion by Mr. Dupre, seconded by Mr. Curole to support fair market value on appropriations. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Kirkpatrick stated that he will be working closely with Representative Zeringue and CPRA on the wording of the declaration of emergency legislation.

Mr. Windell Curole gave the GeoTechnical Committee report in Mr. Merritt's absence and asked that the following be accepted as best practices and become an official part of the minutes:

ALBL members are advised the GeoTechnical Committee's inquiry informs it a best practice construction geology method consists of three steps:

Step 1, compiling all available research about the levee right of way, such as reports, core descriptions and maps;

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Step 2, field investigations or additional technical surveys or mapping to combine with Step 1 data to provide complete and detailed coverage of the project area;

Step 3, geological or geophysical analysis summarized in a comprehensive report, for example, identifying any geologic hazards or concerns to help levee districts manage risks affecting a levee.

Preferably, specific advice, recommendations or a second technical opinion are best obtained from a geologist licensed to practice before the public by the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists.

Mr. Kief gave the dates of the MVFCA Annual Washington trip and stated that there is a copy of the schedule of events in everyone's packet.

Ms. White advised that all invites for the Annual Workshop have been sent out and there is a draft program in everyone's packet. She requested topics for the Panel Discussion with USACE. After some discussion it was decided that the topics will be: 408 permits, guidance from new administration, and opportunities to expedite the permitting process.

Mr. Jason Placke advised that they are looking for speakers for the legal session at the Workshop which will provide 3 CLE hours for the attorneys.

Ms. Nedra Davis stated that a copy of the Position Paper, a summary of the position paper, and also a folded mail out is included in everyone's packet. She asked that everyone please look at it and provide suggestions. She advised that all changes need to be done in track changes in order to be properly incorporated. Ms. White will email all three (3) documents to the membership for comments.

Mr. Bill Gwyn with the ASCE advised that on the Louisiana Infrastructure Report Card, which includes flood control infrastructure, a grade of C- was received. He is currently waiting for the new report to come out and asked if he could return to the membership to report on it.

Mr. Kief advised that the 2017 Committee list is in everyone's packet. If anyone would like to be removed or added to a committee, please let Ms. White know.

Mr. Kief directed Ms. White to look into getting a price on what it would cost to revamp the website to be more interactive and include an email structure with no limit of emails.

Mr. Kief asked the Membership to consider hiring a Director to be a true Association. He also suggested adding duties to Mr. Zeringue's contract of work as the Director of the Coalition.

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Mr. Kief questioned if any members had anything that they wanted to discuss or any issues going on in their district.

There was no Old Business. There was no New Business.

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be held at the May Workshop in Baton Rouge.

The motion to adjourn passed by acclamation.

Members Present:

Curt Boniol, LADOTD
Dwayne Bourgeois, North Lafourche Levee District
Ivy Chauvin, Lafourche Basin Levee District
Windell Curole, South Lafourche Levee District
Nedra Davis, Chenier Plain Authority
Mike Dever, Chenier Plain Authority
Susan Douglas, LADOTD
Reggie Dupre, Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District
Bill Flynn, Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
Ray Fremin, Jr., Iberia Levee
Monica Gorman, Pontchartrain Levee District
John Grezaffi, Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
Bill Gwyn, ASCE
Ignacio Harrouch, CPRA
Tracy Hilburn, Tensas Basin Levee District
Kort Hutchinson, St. Tammany Levee, Drainage, & Conservation District
Drew Keahey, Tensas Basin Levee District
Cory Kief, North Lafourche Levee District
Scott Kirkpatrick, Roedel Parsons Koch Blache Balhoff & McCollister
Mitch Marmande, Delta Coast
Tim Matte, St. Mary Levee District
Karlton Methvin, Natchitoches Levee
Ali Mustapha, Caddo Levee District
Shane Nichols, EBR Parish Public Works
Jason Placke, LADOTD
Ed Preau, ALBL
Chris Roy, Jr., RRABB
Blaine Sheets, Pontchartrain Levee District
John Stringer, Fifth Louisiana Levee District PROXY
Cecil Tessier, Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
Randy Trosclair, Lafourche Basin Levee District
Bob Turner, SLFPA – East
Will Tyson, Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
Amber White, ALBL