



Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana

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“WITHOUT FLOOD CONTROL, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS”

MINUTES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2016

President Steve Wilson called to order the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana’s (ALBL) Executive Committee Meeting at 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 19, 2016, at Drusilla Seafood Restaurant in Baton Rouge. There were nineteen (19) member agencies present which constituted a quorum.

Motion by Mr. Bourgeois, seconded by Ms. Davis to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2015, Executive Committee Meeting. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Johnny Bradberry, the newly appointed Chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Mr. Bradberry said a few words and stated that he was looking forward to working with the ALBL.

Representative Jerome Zeringue introduced Representative Tanner Magee and advised that he will be on the CPRA Committee. Rep. Zeringue is on the Natural Resources committee and stated both his and Rep. Magee’s commitment to work with ALBL on issues that affect them.

Mr. Robert Turner advised that he is concerned about possible changes to the inventory tax credit by the Legislature which will adversely impact levee district income. Mr. Tyson commented that it will affect all levee districts that provide protection to chemical plants and related industries.

Mr. Scott Kirkpatrick gave the Legislative Committee Report and stated that a list of bills of interest to ALBL is in everyone’s packet. The Governor has 36 items on his call for the special session which limits the Legislature to filing only bills that fit within those parameters. The regular session is coming up quick and the bill pre-filing window is small. The Legislative Committee will be meeting, via telephone conference, within the next week to discuss items of interest.

Ms. Nedra Davis advised that Chenier Plain Authority has gone through the pre-filing process for a bill that will allow a levee board to vote on offering employees the options of joining the state employees retirement system if they would like and asked for support.

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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 \$64,237.60; savings \$25,841.48; 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 \$19,907.35; 1 Certificate of Deposit for litigation purposes at \$5,892.63, and Flood Insurance Coalition \$78,014.17. Motion by Mr. Rietschier, seconded by Ms. Salins, to accept the financial statement. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Preau also advised that the Cost Comparison for the past three Annual Meetings is in everyone's packet.

Mr. Windell Curole gave the Comprehensive Hurricane Protection Committee Report and gave a little background of how it got started and where it stands for the new members. Ms. Monica Salins stated that she had a meeting with CPRA and USACE on Section 408 permitting process to clear up some things and get more information. She advised that she would be happy to put together a meeting for everyone to talk about the challenges and concerns. Mr. Ignacio Harrouch spoke about the levee maintenance lifting issue that they are having with USACE. He stated that the Section 408 process needs to be more clearly defined. He advised that the CPRA is currently working on a flow diagram that will explain the process and when completed they will get with the USACE to move forward.

Mr. Rietschier talked about regulations published in the Federal Register on December 26, 2015, that pertain to creditable in-kind services that non-Federal partners could provide. He will send to Ms. White and she will forward to the membership.

Mr. Wilson gave the dates of the MVFCA Annual Washington trip and stated that there is a copy of the events in everyone's packet. He also advised that Mr. Rob Rash has been replaced with Mr. Stephen Gambrell, who was formerly with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Wilson directed Ms. White to send the invoices for ALBL Membership Dues based on the suggested amounts on the spreadsheet presented at the last Executive Committee Meeting.

Mr. Wilson advised that the MVFCA dues will be put on hold until conversations can be had with Mr. Gambrell. He also stated that there is an opinion from the Attorney General's office regarding the \$5000 maximum that can be spent on these types of organizations that may resolve the issue. Ms. White will send out the information to all levee districts to review with their legal counsel.

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Motion by Mr. Curole, seconded by Mr. Turner for the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana to fully support the National Flood Insurance Reform Coalition. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Wilson presented a resolution signed by MVFCA to support the passage of federal legislation providing local levee and drainage districts, in conjunction with the USACE and the Mississippi River Commission, the authority to streamline the burdensome regulatory and environmental processes to ensure federal dollars are spent more efficiently on projects to protect people and property and our economy. Motion by Mr. Bourgeois, seconded by Mr. Trosclair to support the MVFCA resolution. Motion passed without opposition. Ms. White will email the full resolution to the ALBL Membership.

Ms. White advised that there is a copy of the final program for the Workshop in everyone's packet. Invites will go out within the next week. After some discussion, Motion by Mr. Landry, seconded by Mr. Fremin to increase the booth payment for Associate Members at the Workshop to \$500. Motion passed without opposition.

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

Mr. Wilson stated that a copy of the Position Paper was included in everyone's packet. He thanked Mr. Bourgeois and Mr. Curole for the work that they put into the paper getting it revised and up to date. He requested that everyone share it with both their legislative and congressional delegations.

Mr. Wilson reminded Commissioners that with the new administration, there could be some changes to appointments since everyone including current commissioners interested in serving must submit a new application. Applications can be submitted online at the Governor's Office website.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

The motion to adjourn passed by acclamation.

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Members Present:

Curt Boniol, DOTD
Johnny Bradberry, GOCA
Dwayne Bourgeois, North Lafourche Levee District
Ronald Callais, South Lafourche Levee District
Ivy Chauvin, Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District
Windell Curole, South Lafourche Levee District
Nedra Davis, Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority
Mike Dever, Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority
Reggie Dupre, Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District
Bill Flynn, Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
Ray Fremin, Jr., Iberia Levee District
John Grezaffi, Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
Ignacio Harrouch, CPRA
Kort Hutchinson, St. Tammany
Steven Johnson, East Baton Rouge Parish Public Works
Drew Keahey, Tensas Basin Levee District
Scott Kirkpatrick, Roedel Parsons
Chip Kline, GOCA
Chris Knotts, DOTD
Earl Landry, Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority
Mark Long, Bossier Levee District
Representative Tanner Magee, LA House of Representatives
Mitch Marmande, Delta Coast Consultants
Tim Matte, St. Mary Levee District
John Monzon, SLFPA – West
Ali Mustapha, Caddo Levee District
Shane Nicholas, East Baton Rouge Parish Public Works
Jason Placke, DOTD
Ed Preau, ALBL
James Rabb, Bossier Levee District
Dietmar Rietschier, Amite River Basin Commission
Monica Salins, Pontchartrain Levee District
John Stringer, Tensas Basin Levee District
Joshua Stutes, DOTD
Cecil Tessier, Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
Randy Trosclair, Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District
Robert Turner, SLFPA – East
Will Tyson, Atchafalaya Basin Levee District
Amber White, ALBL
Jacob Wilson, DOTD
Steve Wilson, Pontchartrain Levee District
Representative Jerome Zeringue, LA House of Representatives