



# Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana

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“WITHOUT FLOOD CONTROL, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS”

## **MINUTES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AUGUST 9, 2024**

President Cory Kief called to order the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana’s (ALBL) Executive Committee Meeting at 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 9, 2024, at Drusilla Seafood Restaurant in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. There were fourteen (14) member agencies present which constituted a quorum.

Motion by Mr. Minsky, seconded by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting. Motion passed without opposition.

The Financial Report was given by Ms. Monica Gorman who updated the budget from the last Executive Committee Meeting. The following balances formed the working capital of the ALBL: checking account \$170,993.65; savings \$70,819.25; Litigation Savings Account \$15,908.33. Motion by Mr. Keahey, seconded by Ms. Hidalgo to accept the financial statement. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Kirkpatrick gave the Legislative Committee Report and stated that he expects that capital outlay requests will be due around November 2024 and that April 2025 will be a fiscal session with limited bills. Now is a good time to start working on anything needed for both. He will continue to follow the efforts to reorganize the Department of Energy and Natural Resources as well as the Department of Transportation and Development since both have potential impacts to levee districts.

From a financial standpoint, Mr. Kirkpatrick will also keep an eye on the tax reform issue. The membership should reach out to their legislators to make sure that they are aware of what is needed for coastal and flood control.

Mr. Kief stated that he met and suggested to the Governor that he should create a Louisiana Flood Authority that would encompass all issues relative to the coastal and non-coastal zones as well as take up issues relative to flood insurance.

After some discussion, it was decided that there will be a panel discussion at the ALBL Annual Meeting to try and identify all issues relative to coastal and non-coastal zones with the following participants:

Billy Williamson DOTD  
Brad Barth, CPRA  
Angela Hidalgo, Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District  
Dwayne Bourgeois, North Lafourche Levee & Conservation District  
Brandon Waggoner, Tensas Basin Levee District

If anyone else would like to participate, they should reach out to Ms. White.

Mr. Bourgeois advised that there have been talks about needing a master plan for non-coastal areas as well; they are starting to recognize the differences. There are issues common in both groups

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Mr. Williamson stated that there is an existing commission that can be used however it is currently unfunded. DOTD Public Works is down to nine (9) employees which is more of a legislative issue which is above anything that can be changed within the Department. Re-constituting the office is being considered at this time.

Mr. Placke reminded that the constitution limits the number of state agencies to twenty-one (21) which is the reason for offices getting put into other agencies. It would require a constitutional amendment to make that change.

Mr. Bourgeois stated that he has made a recommendation to dissolve the coastal levee consortium as they have not been able to reach a quorum in two (2) years.

Mr. Kief advised that Representative Joseph Orgeron in District 54 asked for support from the Association for the renewable energy constitutional amendment which would ensure that any federal money directed to Louisiana from offshore wind, or any other alternative types of energy produced in the Gulf should also be directed to the CPRA Trust Fund where it can be spent on things like levee projects. Motion by Mr. Kief, seconded by Mr. Cali to approve a resolution supporting this initiative. Motion passed without opposition. Mr. Bourgeois will draft the resolution and he encouraged all of the other boards to also create one for their individual districts. He will work with Mr. Kirkpatrick and then get it sent around to the Association.

Ms. White said that she would be sending out an email to every member agency in order to get an updated equipment and materials list since the last one was updated in 2017. Mr. Barth will also share the emergency supplies and materials list that CPRA keeps track of.

Ms. White stated that the draft program for the upcoming ALBL Annual Meeting is in everyone's packet. Topics and speakers were discussed and a final program will be sent at a later date. The information on hotel rooms and registration will be emailed to the regular and Associate Membership by the end of next week. Ms. White will also send an email to the coordinators of the legal meeting.

Mr. Keif stated that the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association has two (2) upcoming meetings: Washington DC September 22-25, 2024 (information included in the packet) and New Orleans December 5-7, 2024.

During the member spotlight, Mr. Reynold Minsky gave an overview of the Fifth Louisiana Levee District and Ms. Angela Hidalgo gave an overview of Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District.

During the Associate Member spotlight, Mr. Henry Picard gave an overview of Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. and Ms. Douglas gave an overview of Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix, and Hixson, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Bourgeois, seconded by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the five (5) year renewal of Ms. Amber White's contract commencing on September 1, 2024.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

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Motion by Mr. Waggoner, seconded by Mr. Henry to adjourn. Motion passed without opposition.

Attendees:

Brad Barth, CPRA  
Curt Boniol, DOTD  
Dwayne Bourgeois, North Lafourche Levee District  
Kimberly Buck, Plaquemines Parish Government  
Kelli Chander, SLFPA – East  
Susan Douglas, MMLH  
Patrick Furlong, Caddo Levee District  
Kyle Galloway, SLFPA – West  
Monica Gorman, Pontchartrain Levee District  
Keith Guidry, South Lafourche Levee District  
Donald Ray Henry, Lafourche Basin Levee District  
Angela Hidalgo, Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District  
Drew Keahey, Tensas Basin Levee District  
Cory Kief, North Lafourche Levee District  
Scott Kirkpatrick, Pelican State Partners  
Nicholas Matherne, South Lafourche Levee District  
Trey Middleton, proxy for Grand Isle Independent Levee District  
Reynold Minsky, Fifth Louisiana Levee District  
Jesse Noel, SLFPA – West  
Henry Picard, Burk-Kleinpeter  
Jason Placke, CPRA  
Ronnie Robinson, SLFPA – West  
Scott Rousselle, Plaquemines Parish Government  
Jason Trichell, Fifth Louisiana Levee District  
Paul Trimble, MMLH  
Brandon Waggoner, proxy for RRABB  
Amber White, ALBL  
Billy Williamson, DOTD