



Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana

POST OFFICE BOX 2961 • BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
WWW.ALBL.ORG LOUISIANALEVEE@LIVE.COM

CORY KIEF
PRESIDENT

DREW KEAHEY
VICE PRESIDENT

MONICA GORMAN
SECRETARY-TREASURER

“WITHOUT FLOOD CONTROL, NOTHING ELSE MATTERS”

MINUTES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 5, 2024

President Cory Kief called to order the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana’s (ALBL) Executive Committee Meeting at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, December 5, 2024, at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans, Louisiana. There were twenty (20) member agencies present which constituted a quorum.

Motion by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Minsky to approve the minutes of the August 9, 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 ALBL: checking account \$251,878.44; savings \$70,821.55; Litigation Savings Account \$15,908.84. Motion by Mr. Bourgeois, seconded by Mr. Matherne to accept the financial statement. Motion passed without opposition.

Mr. Kirkpatrick gave the Legislative Committee Report and thanked the legislative committee for their help with the special session in November. It was solely focused on taxes and the inventory tax was a concern for the members. The outcome was that it will be a parish option which may be an issue for the multi-parish districts. Mr. Bourgeois stated that getting authorization to put it to a vote is not difficult; the hard part is getting the information out and having the public vote for it.

Mr. Kirkpatrick advised that the 2025 legislation session will likely take place in April for two months with five general subject matter bills and he will send a list of deadlines. If there is anything of interest, it is important to find authors early. Please reach out to Mr. Kirkpatrick if help is needed. There may also be a special session on insurance next year.

Mr. Clay Parker, an attorney with the Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities stated that the Department of Energy and Natural Resources (DENR) is going through a reorganization that also includes other state functions. The goal is to provide support to everyone outside of coastal zones and to build a system that is reliable and strong enough to fix the issues that the non-coastal areas are experiencing over time.

He advised that as part of the initiative, the Governor has formed a committee to make recommendations on the reorganizations. One recommendation being considered is the creation of the Upland Restoration Management Authority (URMA). It would take some, or all, of the non-coastal functions currently in DOTD and consolidate the point of contact to mirror how CPRA provides for coastal functions for a more collaborative environment.

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Meetings have been held with DOTD to discuss their reorganization and the creation of URMA. The concept is to pull the Statewide Flood Control portions out of the DOTD Public Works Section. The Natural Resources Trust Authority, which already exists within DENR, is being considered for the funding source.

Mr. Parker advised that the last known master plan for non-coastal districts is from 1984 and they are working on updating it.

After some discussion regarding the statewide flood protection position on the Natural Resources Commission, motion by Mr. Bourgeois, seconded by Mr. Waggoner to have ALBL draft a resolution to be sent to the DRIVE initiative and the Governor requesting that the Chair of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana be considered for the position of "a representative for statewide flood protection interests" on the Natural Resources Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Parker stated that the core function of the Natural Resources Commission is to coordinate the agencies and their response to the federal government. The final long report form should be out by the end of the year. They are beginning to draft legislation for the April 2025 session.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that a special session meeting will be held on Friday, January 17, 2025, in Baton Rouge so that everyone can voice their comments and concerns. Ms. White will send an email to the membership with details.

Mr. Camardelle gave the Nominations Committee Report and stated that the 2025 nominations for ALBL and MVFCA are:

ALBL President: Cory Kief
ALBL Vice-President: Drew Keahey
ALBL Secretary-Treasurer: Monica Gorman

MVFCA Executive Committee Members: Dwayne Bourgeois & Reynold Minsky
MVFCA State Vice President: Ronnie Robinson

Mr. Kief asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Motion by Mr. Carruba, seconded by Mr. Henry, to close all nominations. Motion passed without opposition.

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Ms. White advised that the 2025 Committee list was emailed and asked if anyone is interested in serving on a committee or being removed from a committee, please reach out. After some discussion, changes were made and Ms. White will send a 2025 committee list to the membership.

Motion by Mr. Carruba, seconded by Mr. Minsky, to hire Hawthorne, Waymouth & Carroll to do the 2024 ALBL audit and taxes for \$6500. Motion passed without opposition.

Motion by Mr. Carruba, seconded by Mr Bourgeois to:

1. induct Mr. Reggie Dupre, Jr. as an honorary member of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana
 2. make the Ronald Callais Memorial Resolution that was presented to his family at the Annual Meeting luncheon on December 4, 2024, a permanent part of the minutes
 3. make the Roland Guidry Memorial Resolution that was presented to his family at the Annual Meeting luncheon on December 4, 2024, a permanent part of the minutes.
- All three items in the motion passed without opposition.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 14, 2025, at Drusilla Seafood in Baton Rouge.

Motion by Mr. Carruba, seconded by Mr. Waggoner to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed without opposition.