

St. Tammany Levee, Drainage, and Conservation District Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 6:00 pm

Koop Drive Council Chambers- Mandeville, Louisiana

- I. Rykert Toledano, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- II. Roll call by Beth Warren, STP CAO Office. Present: Faust, Sandoz, Fitzpatrick, Toledano, Hutchison, Phillippi, DiFranco, McGovern, LaSalle. **None absent.**
- III. Motion to approve January 20, 2016 minutes made by Hutchison, seconded by Fitzpatrick. Unanimously approved. **Motion passed.**
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. Toledano informed the board that he spoke with John Troutman at CPRA on Feb. 17, 2016 and he informed Toledano that the \$50,000 check had been ordered.
 - B. Discussion regarding status of Attorney General's opinion on STLDCD board members' terms of office. Toledano informed the board that he spoke with Karlin Riles who said the AG opinion is in final review and should be completed by Feb. 29.
 - C. DiFranco updated the board on the RFQ for consulting engineer. The deadline to submit was Jan. 22, 2016 and the board received 29 submittals. The evaluation committee will come up with a plan to review and score the submittals. The evaluation committee will report back to the board at the March meeting or no later than the April meeting. Sandoz requested that the submittals be made available to the board at their office in Slidell at Towers building (Suite 6C).
 - D. Discussion regarding status of board request to CPRA to perform a feasibility study regarding the East St. Tammany Storm Protection project. Sandoz reported that

Ignatio Harrouch had taken the matter up internally and Sandoz expected feedback by the end of February.

- E. Discussion regarding *per diem* and travel expense reimbursement. Hutchison reported that he received communication from Terry Hand regarding the board members' *per diem*. Hand informed Hutchison that the maximum *per diem* would be \$48.00, or 75% of \$64.00. McGovern moved to set the board *per diem* at \$48.00, Hutchison seconded. Discussion among some board members who indicated that they would not request or accept a *per diem* (DiFranco, LaSalle). Yeas: Phillippi, Faust, Toledano, McGovern, Fitzpatrick, Sandoz, Hutchison. Nays: DiFranco, LaSalle.

Motion passed.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Hutchison updated the board on his attendance at the CWPPRA meeting on Jan. 28, 2016 and the NAFSMA meeting on Feb. 3, 2016. Toledano asked the board if they should consider inviting representatives from the Corps, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, CPRA, etc. to appear before the board to answer questions. LaSalle suggested that Toledano, as Chairman, invite Col. Hansen from the Corps to come to the April or May meeting. Sandoz suggested sending the same invitation to CPRA. Hutchison listed meetings for the month of February: ALBL in Baton Rouge-19th; CPRA at Castine Center-24th; LPBF at Big Branch-26th; and SLFPA-E-18th. Board members attending are Hutchison, Sandoz, Toledano, and Fitzpatrick, respectively. Sandoz reminded board members to report back to the board about their attendance.

- B. Hutchison requested authorization to engage Duplantier, Hrapmann, Hogan, CPAs. Motion by Sandoz, seconded by Faust. Unanimously approved. **Motion passed.** Hutchison confirmed this line item is in the budget.
- C. Discussion regarding board bank account. Hutchison reported that he met with First NBC. Board Treasurer (Hutchison) and Vice Chairman (Sandoz) are signatories on the account, which is in suspended status pending receipt of funds.
- D. Discussion of next meeting. Sandoz reported that he will have an update on the Strategic Plan and a list of projects that are ongoing and an update on community outreach.
- E. Discussion by Fitzpatrick regarding a large conference taking place in New Orleans the week of February 22, 2016.
- F. Discussion by Toledano regarding State budget cuts. Toledano encouraged board members to reach out to their legislators regarding use of GOMESA and BP funds. Hutchison recommended drafting a letter signed by all board members. LaSalle reported that Michael Hecht from GNOinc. is spearheading an effort on behalf of nine parishes and this board could endorse their position. Hutchison offered to report on any discussion of the budget cuts at the ALBL meeting he is attending on the 19th.
- G. Public comment: John Troutman, CPRA, discussed the two CPRA meetings on Feb. 24, 2016.
- H. Motion to adjourn made by McGovern, seconded by Hutchison. Unanimously approved, none absent. **Motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.