

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

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016 6:00 pm**

**Towers Building Fifth Floor- Slidell, 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. Absent: McGovern, LaSalle.
- III. Motion to approve November 18, 2015 minutes made by Hutchison, seconded by Phillippi. Unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.**
- IV. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. Discussion regarding the IGA between CPRA and STLDCD. Chairman Toledano informed the Board that all parties signed the agreement but STLDCD has not received the funds yet.
  - B. Discussion regarding status of Attorney General's opinion on STLDCD board members' terms of office. To date, the Attorney General's office has not rendered an opinion.
  - C. Discussion regarding Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Consulting Engineering Services. DiFranco informed the Board that the RFQ deadline is January 22, 2016 at 4:00 p. DiFranco, LaSalle, and Phillippi will serve as evaluation committee to review responses.
  - D. Discussion regarding CEA between STLDCD and the Parish. Toledano reported that the agreement has been signed by all parties and the Board has had internal discussions on how to spend the money.

E. Discussion of request made to CPRA for feasibility study regarding the East St. Tammany Storm Protection project. Toledano asked Mayor Drennan to join in support of that request. Sandoz will follow up with CPRA on the status of the request. Public comment: Lee Miltenberger from Bayou Liberty asked if feasibility study could include other neighborhoods. Sandoz replied that the request on behalf of Oak Harbor and Clipper Estates was the result of homeowners' efforts and he offered assistance for other homeowners' associations. Mr. Miltenberger also commented that he did not know about the STLDCD meetings. Beth Warren, STP CAO office responded that meeting dates are posted online and at Koop Drive and Towers Building, and that meeting dates would be posted in The Farmer shortly.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Discussion of Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana (ALBL). Toledano reported that ALBL has proposed a dues schedule between \$250 and \$500. Toledano reported that STLDCD did not pay dues to ALBL last year and that ALBL wants feedback on the dues schedule. Sandoz commented that participation in these types of groups is essential for the STLDCD. Hutchison recommended researching what other groups' dues structures are. Hutchison moved to approve payment of \$250 dues to ALBL, seconded by Sandoz. Unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.** Hutchison will draft letter.

B. Discussion of ALBL position paper.

C. Discussion of 2016 meeting dates:

**January 20, 2016**-Towers Building Fifth Floor-520 Old Spanish Trail, Slidell, Louisiana 70458

**February 17, 2016**-Koop Drive Council Chambers-21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, Louisiana 70471

**March 16, 2016**- Towers Building Fifth Floor-Slidell

**April 20, 2016**- Koop Drive Council Chambers-Mandeville

**May 18, 2016**- Towers Building Fifth Floor-Slidell

**June 15, 2016**- Koop Drive Council Chambers-Mandeville

**July 20, 2016**- Towers Building Fifth Floor-Slidell

**August 17, 2016**- Koop Drive Council Chambers-Mandeville

**September 21, 2016**- Towers Building Fifth Floor-Slidell

**October 19, 2016**- Koop Drive Council Chambers-Mandeville

**November 16, 2016**- Towers Building Fifth Floor-Slidell

**December 21, 2016**- Koop Drive Council Chambers-Mandeville

Motion to approve dates and publish dates made by Faust, seconded by Hutchison.

Unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.**

- D. Discussion of CPRA FY2017 Draft Annual Plan. A link to the plan is on the STLDCD website. February 24, 2016 meeting on Flood Risk and Resilience. Committee formed to review the Draft Annual Plan: Fitzpatrick, Sandoz, Faust. Committee will make comments and circulate among Board members. Public comment: Jerry Whitman, River Oaks HOA. Toledano reported that State Sen. Sharon Hewitt sent an e-mail about the CWPPRA meeting on January 28, 2016 at 8:00 am regarding the Priority Project List at Big Branch in Lacombe (61389 Highway 434, Lacombe, LA).
- E. Discussion regarding American Meteorological Society Conference by Fitzpatrick. Toledano requested that Board members who attend conferences bring a copy of the materials to the STLDCD office at Towers. Hutchison discussed the February 3, 2016 National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management conference at Hotel Monteleone. \$125 registration fee. Hutchison requested permission to attend. Motion to approve Sandoz to attend made by Faust, seconded by Hutchison,

unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.** If Sandoz cannot attend, Hutchison will attend instead.

- F. Discussion regarding selection of a financial institution and establishment of an STLDCD bank account. Need resolution to open an account, need minutes showing resolution and a copy of Act 303 that established the STLDCD. Need to establish signatory authority in the by-laws, Hutchison recommends Treasurer and Vice-Chairman. Motion to pass resolution to approve First NBC (Lacombe) as STLDCD's financial institution made by Sandoz, seconded by Faust. Unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.** Sandoz and Hutchison are working on producing a six month budget to go through the end of June 2016.
- G. Discussion regarding STLDCD representation with the following groups/associations: CPRA, ALBL, CLLC, Pontchartrain Maurepas Surge Consortium, Mississippi River Flood Control Authority. Established points of contact for each group: Sandoz-CPRA; Hutchison-ALBL; Toledano-CLLC; Hutchison-Pontchartrain Maurepas Surge Consortium; and Fitzpatrick-Mississippi River Flood Control Authority. Public comment: Lee Medge asked if the STLDCD would take a position on the new governor's attempt to tap coastal restoration money. Motion to pass a resolution to oppose the drawdown of funds that would have otherwise been allocated to coastal restoration projects made by Faust, seconded by Hutchison. Unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.** Public comment: Paul Carroll, Picciola & Associates, recommended adding "flood control projects" to the resolution.

- H. Discussion regarding *per diem* and travel expenses. Discussed a resolution indicating 1) that Board members would waive their right to seek reimbursement for mileage expenses incurred traveling to regularly scheduled Board meetings; 2) that all travel expense requests would use Koop Drive as the start/end point for travel; and 3) that Board members would use the same mileage reimbursement rate as that used for STP employees. Hutchison contacted the ALBL regarding *per diem*, he was told the rate is \$89.00. Motion to adopt a resolution stating the above made by Hutchison, seconded by Faust. Motion to table discussion of *per diem* and travel expenses made by DiFranco, seconded by Hutchison. Unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.**
- I. Discussion regarding requirement that Board members complete financial disclosure statement by May 15, 2016.
- J. Sandoz requested that Faust give an update on Goal 1. Faust will research projects and give a presentation next month.
- K. Motion to open agenda to choose a CPA firm made by Hutchison, seconded by Phillippi. Unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.** Hutchison reported that he researched firms through the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's office. Motion to engage the Duplantier, Hrapmann CPA firm as the Board's accountant made by Faust, seconded by Sandoz. Unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.**
- VI. Discussion regarding February 17 meeting date.
- VII. Motion to adjourn made by DiFranco, seconded by Hutchison. Unanimously approved, two absent. **Motion passed.**