

August 16, 2018

Dear Residents,

Last night's meeting of 8-15-18 was filled to capacity. New faces were present, a very good sign. For those of us who can't make the meetings, this report is being made. For those of us who don't consider the effort worthy, I hope you will reconsider. Our property values are declining monthly. For most people, their residence is their biggest investment. It is wise to do all that we can to protect that investment.

There were six members (enough to make a quorum) of the levee board present at last night's meeting which lasted 56 minutes.

It was made known that the levee board has approximately \$50,000.00 in their budget, not enough to be frivolous. The president, Henry DiFranco, related that there were plans to have fund raisers.

The important issues of the meeting were as follows:

1. Barry Brubaker for Neel Schaeffer, the prime consultant chosen by the parish, claimed that models from various sources were being used to collect data, the paramount part of Task 1. The models introduced were those created by other entities, Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Protective and Restoration Authority, other engineering firms used as sub consultants, Burks here in Slidell. Barry Brubaker was challenged to consider that the models used provided nothing about outflow, only inflow. Also, the models did not include the newest levees like Slidell levee, which will be raised and lengthened. The importance of this to be included is that it allows us mitigation. It was outflow that took down the twin span and created most of our damage. Only two of the storms' data or datum, Katrina and synthetic storm # 23 are being closely reviewed, but not the outflow. It was requested that the outflow be entered into the data to be complete. It was announced that more money would be needed to complete Tasks 1,2,3, and 4., and that the geographic boundaries were to include all of St. Tammany from parish line to parish line coastal zones.
2. A rep, Rich Franzo, from Concerned Citizens of St. Tammany, read a letter and submitted it into the minutes. The contents announced that this group, CCST, will be watching very closely to make certain that all business would be transparent and the levee board and all parties concerned would be held to a high standard.
3. Some questions followed:
  - a. Where will the money come from to complete Tasks 1,2,3,and 4?
  - b. Is the funding for the the complete project, start to finish, secure? All four congressmen support the cause. When the steps are complete, our congressmen will go to Congress to get the money.
  - c. How much have you,(Neel Schaefer), spent thus far? answer: \$650,000.00
  - d. Will outflow be included in your study? answer: We will look into that.
  - e. What does the contract between Neel Schaeffer and the parish contain? answer: Neel Schaeffer is preauthorized to complete Task 1 only.
4. Carlyn Ryals from the District Attorney's office was introduced to handle legal matters for the levee board.

Now you may see why attending the meetings which are usually held every third Wednesday of the month is so very important. You may have a significant question to ask. We will get answers.

THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN DATE FOR SEPTEMBER'S MEETING. IT WILL BE TUESDAY - SEPTEMBER 25, 6:00 P.M. AT KOOP DR

Bonnie.