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

**Wednesday, January 21, 2015-6:00 pm**

**Towers Building-Fifth Floor**

**Slidell, Louisiana**

1. Rykert Toledano, Interim Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Roll call by Beth Warren, STP CAO Office- Present: DiFranco, Faust, Fitzpatrick, LaSalle, Toledano, Sandoz, Hutchison, Phillippi, McGovern. Absent: none.
3. Discussion of December 10, 2014 meeting minutes: Toledano moved to defer approval until next meeting. Seconded by Hutchison. No opposition.
4. Presentation by Jeanne Betbeze, STP Director of Grants, on the National Disaster Resilience Competition. Sandoz moved to issue a resolution in support of STP’s NDRC grant application. Seconded by McGovern. No opposition.
5. Discussion of utilizing Terry Hand, STP Council Attorney, as interim legal counsel for STLDCD. Motion by LaSalle. Seconded by Hutchison. No opposition.
6. Discussion of by-laws: Members agreed to review individually and send comments via e-mail within 10 days to each other and to the by-laws work group (Toledano, Hutchison, McGovern), who will then meet with Hand for his comments.
7. Discussion of staff support/current lack of an STLDCD budget: LaSalle moved to accept STP Engineers (Paul Carroll, Eddie Williams) as interim STLDCD consulting engineers. Seconded by McGovern. No opposition. Hand discussed the need for STLDCD to enter into a CEA with STP for staff support, legal counsel, and consulting engineer. DiFranco moved to issue a resolution authorizing STLDCD to enter a CEA with STP for these services. Seconded by LaSalle. No opposition. Hand offered assistance in drafting the CEA.
8. Discussion of office space: will need to explore using existing Levee Board building in Slidell with STP.
9. Discussion of field visits/tours of facilities: All members in favor, no opposition.
10. Interim Vice Chairman election: Hutchison nominated LaSalle. Faust nominated Sandoz. LaSalle withdrew. Motion to appoint Sandoz as interim Vice Chairman adopted unanimously.
11. Sandoz discussed formation of a Strategic Planning Committee to identify STLDCD’s vision and goals. McGovern suggested Sandoz plus 3 volunteers. Hutchison, Phillippi, DiFranco volunteered. McGovern moved to establish a Strategic Planning Committee. Seconded by LaSalle. No opposition. Discussion by Hand and the members about whether this is committee would need to follow Louisiana Open Meetings Law. Toledano to confer with Hand before Strategic Planning Committee proceeds.
12. Discussion of research and data assembly: Toledano requested that STLDCD board members who are engineers begin providing fellow members with any studies they have. Audience member Thomas Thompson offered to send the STLDCD board the East St. Tammany Storm Surge Protection Plan.
13. Discussion of next meeting on February 18, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Koop Drive Council Chambers: all members agreed to keep the meeting as planned.
14. Public comment: Windell Curole of the South Lafourche Levee District offered assistance and encouragement to the new board. Board member Faust suggested doing community outreach to make the public aware of the risks they face. Katherine Wilhelm of unincorporated STP near Covington urged the STLDCD to look at everything from an asset management perspective. Mrs. Kort Hutchison suggested a sign-in sheet for future meetings for members of the public to provide contact info. STLDCD board member McGovern reminded the Board that they are subject to confirmation by the Louisiana Senate in March 2015, and suggested that Hand sit with board members as their counsel at future meetings.
15. Motion to adjourn by Sandoz. Seconded by McGovern. No opposition. Toledano adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.