

ST. TAMMANY LEVEE,  
DRAINAGE AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT (STLDCD) BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 18, 2018

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Location: Koop Drive Council Chambers, 21490 Koop Drive, Mandeville, LA 70471

I. Welcome – Call to Order

II. Roll Call

*Full board present.*

III. Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2018

*Motion to approve by Mr. McGovern and seconded by Mr. Phillippi.*

IV. Old Business

A. Update on Comprehensive STP Coastal Study (DiFranco)

*Mr. DiFranco provided an update on progress that has been made since the June meeting. A kickoff meeting was held on July 11th with St. Tammany Parish, CPRA. STLDCD Board Members in attendance at this meeting were Mr. DiFranco, Ms. Krieger, Ms. Costanza. This meeting was held with Neel-Schaffer and subs to establish deliverables in Task 1 and discuss schedule and potential needs from the consultant to meet deliverables and timeline. Mr. Brubacher spoke on behalf of the consultant.*

V. Treasurer's Report

*Mrs. Krieger provided an updated on the budget. Mrs. Krieger met with the St. Tammany Parish and submitted a request for reimbursement in the amount of \$4,898,33. She also met with Michelle Cunningham, CPA and prepared the Financial Statement for the STLDCD in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Stature 185447 and 464F for the year ending June 30, 2018.*

*She submitted the bank statement ending 6/30/2018 showing a balance of \$45,147.92. The balance sheet reflecting a balance of 45,101.67. The difference is a check #1015 to the St. Tammany Farmer in the amount of 46.25 which was returned as the forwarding order had expired. I have emailed to the correct address.*

VI. August Meeting Date Approval

*Approved*

VII. Public Comment

*Mr. Thompson has requested that the board support his request to USACE to provide the models for the impact studies associated with the levee systems protecting the south shore.*

*Naomi Hess provides an explanation in her investment in Oak Harbor and provides explanation on the cumulative losses of her investments. Mrs. Hess' full comment is attached to these minutes as Attachment A.*

VIII. Adjourn

*Motion to adjourn by Mr. McGovern and seconded by Mr. Phillippi.*

July 18,2018

Good Evening Members of the St. Tammany Levee Board.

My name is Naomie Hess and I reside at 120 Moonraker Dr. on Moonraker Island.

My family relocated from New Orleans East to the Northshore in 1985. This was in anticipation of our retirement and was to be our retirement home. We now own our home outright and we own two lots in the Moorings of Oak Harbor.

Since moving here, we have heard the State and Local Officials say "We need, we need" so you (the homeowners) have to pay more in taxes. Well I have a few figures for you tonight. In 1985, we paid \$125,000 for our home. Today we would be fortunate indeed to get \$230,000 for that home. This represents a yearly return on our investment of about 2.4%. This figure does not take into account the cost of insurance and property taxes which have been paid over those 33 years. Should we figure in those numbers, I would be at a loss for my initial investment.

Now lets look at our investment in the Moorings. The two lots we purchased were \$140,000 and \$148,000. for a total investment of \$290,000. We have held this property because we want to leave it to our two children. In the twelve years that we have owned these lots, we have paid an additional \$24,000 in property taxes and \$14,400 in homeowners fees. That brings our total out of pocket expenses and investments to \$328,400. This past November and as recently as last month, we have been offered \$60,000 for one lot. Using this as a guide, our return on this investment is approximately -63.5%,

This is attributable to the stigma of Katrina, the fact that we have no levee protection against future flooding - in fact because of the levees being built all around us, we are guaranteed worse flooding - added to these two facts is the fact that those not grandfathered in for insurance are having to purchase Homeowners' from surplus lines at whatever cost the carrier deems acceptable. Not to overlook the extremely high cost of flood insurance and property taxes, new owners cannot afford the cost of their mortgages plus escrow for insurance and taxes. These are the reasons why people living outside the protective levee system are finding it impossible to sell their homes at a reasonable rate. Instead, they are having to sell at a reduced cost which quite often does not leave sufficient money to purchase another home in a less flood prone area. This also attributed to many - far too many - homes in our neighborhood being purchased by outside concerns and are now being used as short time rentals. If nothing is done about getting us flood protection and reasonable costing insurance, there

will be just more of this. In fact, it leads me to wonder if this is the way the Corps of Engineers has assured that this area does revert to marsh. Once the cost to live here is too high, the property is worthless and people are trapped until they die.

Lady and gentlemen of this board, I for one do not want to spend the rest of what little time i may have left on this Earth fighting. And that is how I feel, I have to fight every day with our own government whose first priority should be to protect its people and their property .

I know that government red tape moves very slowly, but I also know there are ways to cut through that Red Tape; I just do not know how. But there is someone who does know how to expedite this much needed protection.

We need you to intercede with the State and Parish to see - no, to DEMAND flood protection for us NOW.

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