

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
ST. MARY LEVEE DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MEETING

September 9, 2024
Morgan City, LA

The St. Mary Levee District (“SMLD”) met on this date with President William Hidalgo, Sr., presiding and the following board members present: Will Terry, J.P. Hebert, Kenny Arceneaux, Andrew Mancuso, Mike Ortiz and Norris Crappell absent.

Also present: Tim Matte, Executive Director; Michael Brocato, Operations Manager; Bill Bourgeois; and members of the public.

Mr. Brocato reported Frisco has started closing the Yokely Levee floodgate, Bayou Teche will be closing this evening, Franklin Canal structure will be closed Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m., and the Bayou Chene structure will be closed also Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m.

Mr. Mancuso motioned to approve the resolution to authorize Mr. Hidalgo to declare a State of Emergency and authorizing any expenditures and/or contracts deemed necessary in response to the forecasted Tropical Storm Francine (and anticipated Hurricane). Following a second by Mr. Arceneaux, the motion carried unanimously.

A resolution of the St. Mary Levee District (“District”) declaring a “State of Emergency” and authorizing any expenditures and/or contracts deemed necessary in response to the forecasted storm and flood threat from Tropical Storm (and anticipated Hurricane) Francine.

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Hurricane Center’s current forecast for Tropical Storm Francine places St. Mary Parish and nearly the entire coast of Louisiana within its potential path and has predicted that the weather disturbance will make landfall as a hurricane with devastating winds of 85 mph, bringing heavy rains and a significant storm surge to impact St. Mary Parish;

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Louisiana, Jeff Landry, and the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) will be urging everyone to prepare for Francine and is anticipated to be declaring a state of emergency because of the imminent threat of emergency conditions that threaten lives and property;

WHEREAS, the St. Mary Parish President, has already declared, as of today, the existence of a State of Emergency within St. Mary Parish, in accordance with La. R.S. 29:727, due to the threat of serious weather from Francine and the probability for hurricane force winds, storm surge and flooding rainfall, and our Parish President has ordered that all Emergency Preparedness Plans be activated; and,

WHEREAS, the forecasted serious and severe weather event, including the serious potential for hurricane storm surge, threatens the health and safety of the citizens of St. Mary Parish and constitutes an exigent circumstance necessitating the declaration of an emergency for procurement purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of St. Mary Levee District, State of Louisiana, that a State of Emergency is hereby declared to exist due to the threat of severe weather in St. Mary Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President, William H. Hidalgo, Sr., is hereby authorized and directed on behalf of the District to make any expenditure necessary and to take all necessary action in connection with the threat of severe weather and the potential for flooding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, William H. Hidalgo, Sr., President, be authorized and directed to do any and all act and things necessary, proper, or that may be required to carry out and accomplish the transactions contemplated with regards to the above-mentioned request.

Mr. Mancuso motioned to approve the closure of the Bayou Chene flood protection structure in response to the forecasted Tropical Storm Francine (and anticipated Hurricane). Following a second by Mr. Terry, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hidalgo asked for further comments and did not receive any. Mr. Terry moved for adjournment, which was seconded by Mr. Arceneaux and was carried unanimously.

Attest:

Kenneth Arceneaux Jr., Secretary/Treasurer
St. Mary Levee District