

September 19, 2019

Subject: Levee Board Meeting of 9-18-19

Having attended all but one levee board meeting, I'm at a loss as to understanding the position our area and our levee board plays in the order of importance to achieve flood protection for the thousands of residents, businesses, schools, churches, etc. Every month we hear that the final report with the collected necessary information is in hand, or almost in hand, or next week it will be in hand. Part 2 of the agreement to present a "package" to Washington, D.C. to get the funds to start constructing our protection is called Gap Analysis, the unprotected and most vulnerable areas of St. Tammany Parish. Ours is considered #1, the best possible invitation to storms to destroy. Then there's the storm-surge modeling meetings with the CPRA, hired engineers, etc.

I hear constantly about other areas that are so much further along in their request for flood protection, I wonder, "How?" The storms that caused their damage happened AFTER Katrina. "How?" I ask again. It seems everybody and his brother are doing studies, and the money is just being wasted. Everybody and his brother are using each others findings to support everybody and his brother's findings.

How is it our own levee board must read in the newspaper about the Watershed Program, a grant from HUD to the tune of 1.6 billion dollars referred to as mitigation money? Our parish president didn't think enough of our levee board to extend an invitation to any board member to the meeting concerning this grant and how it will be spent.

I do believe our parish president should be at the next meeting. Sending a representative who cannot answer questions just doesn't get the job done. I will get in touch with Steve Scalise to get a rep from his office, Megan Miller, Claire Trokey, or Scalise himself to attend the next meeting.

You may look up the Watershed Program at <watershed.la.gov>.

Next is the WRDA study, Water Resources Development Act. This is an analysis by the Army Corps of Engineers, part of the Coastal Master Plan. We should be hearing about those findings at the next meeting.

I'm not an engineer. I'm not a politician. I'm a resident who is interested in saving my home and those of all residents who live here. I ask you to join me at the next meeting, October 16, 2019, right here in Slidell in the Towers Bldg., 6:00 P.M.

Bonnie Peyroux