

July 24, 2021

Moonraker Island Supporters:

Wednesday evening's levee board meeting was the one for which we've all been waiting to hear the very news that is below. I had prepared something to read, but I was so filled with emotion that I asked Naomie Hess to read it. She also struggled through it because that night's announcement that we finally have flood protection secured, brought quite a few moistened eyes. This has been an incredible journey. It's still comforting to know that my dad was right.

To members of our levee board and all those who played a part in arriving at Wednesday's announcement:

I was trying to remember back to the days when thinking of ways to get flood protection was just that, thoughts. Some great things and many more have derived from thoughts: ability to fly, trains that crossed America's vast lands from shore to shore, medicine that cured diseases, transplanted organs, our space program, and this announcement, flood protection. All these things and many more have come about because those involved BELIEVED. I fully recognize our board, the engineers involved, our political leaders, all the residents who helped behind the scenes, those who supported this idea, even those who offered resistance or abandoned it because they were the ones who gave the members of this board the "I'll show you," attitude to continue.

Today is the beginning of a safer place to live, increased property values, and much appreciation for those who live in our community, who recognize the work these people have done. I must say thank you to Tom Thompson, an integral part of the wheel that brought about this much welcomed news and who provided the information below. I could go on and on; a heart felt thank you will do.

On Jul 23, 2021, at 12:51 PM, Thomas Thompson wrote:

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has just approved a surge protection plan for the Eden Isles Community (Eden Isles, Oak Harbor, Moonraker & Clipper Estates). The plan will provide comprehensive 50-year surge protection for everyone within the Eden Isles Community. The plan includes a breakwater in Lake Pontchartrain, along with a gate and pump station at the marina entrance.

This plan was developed by the St. Tammany Levee Board, St. Tammany Government, the CPRA and championed by Senator Hewitt and our Parish legislative delegation. The consulting firm of Neel-Schaffer is now finalizing plan details. A specific timeline has not been established, but completion within 3 to 5 years is anticipated. Updates and progress reports will be provided at the monthly St. Tammany Parish Levee Board meetings.

This was a huge effort that could not have happened without a lot of support and hard work by a great many people and organizations from homeowner associations to our Washington delegation. Please send your appreciation to everyone that has made this possible:

- John Faust (our neighbor & Levee Board member) has dedicated the last 15 years to achieve this goal
- The Moonraker (Bonnie Peyroux) & Eden Isles HOAs for their grassroots support and efforts
- The St. Tammany Levee Board under the leadership of Suzanne Krieger
- Parish President, Mike Cooper
- State Senator Sharon Hewitt, Representative Mary DuBuisson and our entire Parish legislative delegation
- Washington Representative Steve Scalise
- Everyone that has attended meetings and sent emails

NOTE: This protection plan is not to be confused with the Corps of Engineers proposed plan currently out for comments. The Corps' plan is to elevate a small home number of homes in Eden Isles and leave the rest to flood. Hopefully, the Corps will modify their plan to adopt this State approved comprehensive plan.