

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Bayou Chene Operational Advisory Committee.

WHEREAS, the completion of the Bayou Chene Floodgate Project, constructed at a cost of eighty million dollars, represents a game changer in the protection of the homes and businesses from floods in the parishes of St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Martin, Assumption, and Iberville; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2011, the St. Mary Levee District constructed a temporary flood protection structure consisting of a barge floodgate, sheetpile floodwalls, rip rap, and hesco baskets to prevent flooding from the unprecedented high water elevation predictions threatening the six parishes; and

WHEREAS, the temporary structure withheld an additional three feet of water from inundating the area; and

WHEREAS, over concerns of backwater flooding in 2016 and again in 2019, in anticipation of opening the Morganza, emergency temporary structures were constructed in part from previous temporary structures and deployed to prevent catastrophic destruction from floods; and

WHEREAS, the Bayou Chene Floodgate Project called for the construction of the Bayou Chene Flood Protection Structure, a permanent structure that reduces the reaction time required to respond to flooding threats from the days needed to construct the previous temporary structures to the mere hours needed to close the new permanent gate; and

WHEREAS, the state's share from the Gulf of Mexico Security Act (GOMESA) funded the eighty million dollars for the construction of the permanent gate as opposed to the millions needed on an emergency basis each time to construct and deploy the temporary gates; and

WHEREAS, the Bayou Chene Flood Protection Structure was completed in 2022 and placed into operation within criteria approved by the United State Corp of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, though the structure is located and operated in the St. Mary Levee District, it protects large portions of the five other parishes that will contribute funding to operate and maintain the gate and therefore should be afforded the opportunity to contribute input to the operation of the floodgate through an orderly forum.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the Bayou Chene Operational Advisory Committee to propose recommendations to the St. Mary Levee Board on the operation of the Bayou Chene Flood Protection Structure to ensure the structure provides optimum flood protection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall consist of the following members:

- (1) One member appointed by the St. Mary Levee District.
- (2) One member appointed by the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District.
- (3) One member appointed by the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District.
- (4) One member appointed by the St. Martin Parish Council.
- (5) One member appointed by the Assumption Parish Police Jury.
- (6) One member appointed by the Iberville Parish Council.
- (7) One member appointed by the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each appointing authority shall submit the names of their appointee no later than July 15, 2023, to the St. Mary Levee District, who shall provide staffing services to the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the appointee of the St. Mary Levee District shall serve as the chairman and shall convene for its first meeting no later than August 1, 2023, and at the first meeting, the members may elect a vice chairman and other officers as the committee may deem appropriate and shall discuss and determine the proportional share of each appointing authority, except the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District, shall pay into an operational and maintenance fund required for the efficient operation of the Bayou Chene Flood Protection Structure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the committee shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members. However, any member appointed by an appointing authority that has not paid their proportional share for operation and maintenance shall not be counted as part of the total membership of a committee for purposes of determining the number of members necessary to constitute a quorum nor vote on any matter before the committee until such amount is paid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the committee shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall terminate upon the creation of a successor entity or August 1, 2024, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the St. Mary Levee District, the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District, the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District, the St. Martin Parish Council, the Assumption Parish Police Jury, the Iberville Parish Council, and the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES