

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
January 8, 2019
6:00 p.m.**

BE IT KNOWN that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District was called in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on January 8, 2019, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Janet Jones, Secretary
Billy Giddens, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Casey Messenger, Member

Absent were:

Doris Rogé, Member
Terry Sklar, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jeremy Gilbert, EDKO
Ford Stinson, EDKO

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 6:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

A discussion was held regarding the December, 2018 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Swafford, and seconded by Jones, to approve the December, 2018 minutes. This Motion passed unanimously.

The December, 2018 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Messenger to approve the December, 2018 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew was primarily keeping all of the structures and pipe cleaned out as a result of the high water experienced throughout the month of December. He advised that his crew had to close several gates but they had started opening the gates that day. However, depending upon the amount of water flowing from up north, it may be necessary to close the gates again.

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, advised that Red River was dropping. The forecast was for it to drop to 32.5' by Saturday. It is predicted that it will drop a 1.5' between the meeting date and Saturday.

A discussion was held regarding the two pipes that the Corps determined were unacceptable based upon the videos presented. Mr. Sticker advised that the most feasible way to fix the pipe would be to put a liner on the inside of the pipes. This fix would be much cheaper than replacing the pipe. Sticker advised he would provide a cost estimate for the purchase and installation of this liner at the next Board meeting.

A discussion was then held regarding the road at Marco. This is the road that the Parish Administration declined to apply for capital outlay funds to repair. Mr. Sticker advised that when the high water recedes we will probably lose the crown of the road. Corkern advised that he had written to Mr. Rick Nowlin, Parish Administrator, on December 14, 2018 advising of the condition of the road and the belief that this road was owned and maintained by the Parish, and that the Parish was in danger of losing the road which would also expose a large number of acres to flooding.

Mr. Sticker also advised that he had talked with representatives of Meyer, Meyer, and LaCroix. They are continuing their work on the hazard and mitigation plan and believe that their work will be completed in a timely manner and submitted to FEMA.

Mr. Corkern then advised the Board that he had received an email from a CPA representing John Deere advising that the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District would owe property tax on the dozer because the dozer was actually owned by John Deere and not by NLDD. Mr. Methvin advised that he believed the email Corkern was referring to related to the old dozer that was recently turned in following the expiration of the lease

agreement on it. Further discussion followed regarding the payment of property tax on the old dozer and/or the new dozer. Methvin advised that he had requested an opinion from the Board's CPA regarding this issue and had received an email from Rebecca Metoyer advising that it was true that if we were leasing the equipment then the lessor would be the owner of the equipment and the lessor would owe property taxes. She indicated that there is usually a clause in the lease agreement that says that the lessee will be responsible for the payment of all taxes paid by the lessor. That being the case, if the lessor pays property tax then the NLDD would owe reimbursement under the terms of the contract.

A Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Swafford authorizing Corkern to pay the property tax on either the old dozer or the new dozer based on the opinion of our CPA. Following public discussion, the Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern then presented to the Board a revised Intergovernmental Agreement regarding replacement of the pipes running underneath the Bermuda Road. The Parish had previously requested that the NLDD share labor and equipment to replace the pipe. During the December meeting, the Board expressed concerns over the scope of the work, as well as an optic cable that was located in the area. Corkern advised that under the terms of the new IGA the Levee Board's responsibility was only to provide labor and equipment when available. Corkern also reviewed with the Board an email from Earl Townsend, Parish Government employee, advising that he had talked with the cable company and determined that the optic cable stopped at the Dunn residence, and therefore did not lie within the area where the work was to be performed. The new IGA also provides an indemnity agreement whereby the Parish agrees to indemnify and hold harmless NLDD from any claim, damage or liability arising out of the agreement with regard to any publicly owned or privately owned utility. Following further discussion and public comment, a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Messenger to authorize Karlton Methvin to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement. This Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern inquired as which Board members wanted to attend the Red River Valley Association Annual Convention in Shreveport on February 20-21. Mr. Swafford advised that he would attend the convention but would not need a room. Mr. Methvin advised that he would have to make a last minute decision based upon his farming operations as to whether he attended.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Jones and seconded by Messenger to adjourn. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 12th day of February, 2019, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

RONALD E. CORKERN, JR.,
Attorney/Assistant Secretary