

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
January 14, 2020  
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 14, 2020, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator  
Rayburn Smith, Member  
Mark Swafford, Member

Absent were:

Janet Jones, Secretary  
Billy Giddens, Member  
Doris Rogé, Member  
Terry Sklar, Member  
Casey Messenger, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent  
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer  
Jamarcus Torrence, DOTD Engineer  
Paul Trimble, Engineer, Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson  
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. Methvin noted that a quorum was not present and therefore no official business could be conducted.

Methvin called upon Paul Trimble, Engineer, to report regarding the work to be performed on Culverts 4 and 6. Trimble noted that at the December meeting bids were opened and the Board of Commissioners voted to award the contract for work on Culverts 4 and 6 to the low bidder, JPD Construction, LLC. Trimble

further reported that all of the documents submitted by JPD Construction were in order and the contract had been executed by representatives of JPD Construction. Methvin then executed the contract on behalf of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District in accordance with the authorization granted him at the December Bard meeting. Trimble asked that Ronald Corkern file the original contract with the Clerk of Court.

In other business, Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent, reported that the new truck had been received and asked for authority from the Board to sell at auction the oldest truck that was being replaced by the new truck. Following discussion, Dunn was informed that without a quorum present the Board could not officially authorize the sale of the old truck, but suggested that if the next auction was prior to the next Board meeting in February, that he go ahead and sell the truck in the auction and the action would be ratified at the next Board meeting. If no auction is conducted prior to the next Board meeting then Methvin was instructed to place on the agenda an item of business authorizing the sale of the old truck.

Dunn further reported that his group had finished cleaning L36A and L36 at Dell Valley. He further informed the Board that the culvert located in this ditch have not been replaced. The owners of the adjacent property have been notified that the culverts are too small and must be replaced or removed. The owners were advised that if they purchased the appropriate sized culverts then NLDD would install the culverts at no cost to the property owner. Corkern was asked to write a letter to the owners, Steve Pearce and Nathan Albritton, advising them that the pipes are unsized and will have to be removed unless replaced with properly sized culverts.

Dunn also advised the Board that they had performed maintenance on all of the gates and each was operating satisfactorily.

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, advised that he had completed the application and timely filed seeking grant money pursuant to the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. The application is to provide a levee in the Campti-Clarence area where the levee had previously fallen into the river.

Sticker also reviewed briefly the quarterly inspections of levees by the State. All levees are in good shape and the only issues relate to existing power poles that have been in place for

many years. Corkern was asked to provide a copy of the quarterly inspection report to the Corps of Engineers.

In other business, Corkern discussed with the Board the email he had received from Curtis Mcraney with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mcraney advised Corkern that the attorneys for the Corps of Engineers was working on a contract between Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District and the Corps, whereby the latter would provide work to certify the Federal levees within the Board's jurisdiction. The estimated cost of NLDD's share of this cost is \$70,000.00. Corkern advised that a formal contract should be on next month's agenda for approval

A discussion then followed regarding the slide at Cloutierville that threatened to close the road in that location. Corkern was asked to schedule a meeting between Senator Bernard, President Methvin, and Parish President John Richmond.

Additional discussions followed with Edko employees, Jeremy Gilbert and Ford Stinson regarding spraying. A formal proposal will be submitted by Edko at the February meeting. Edko inquired as to whether the Board wished to spray the ditch at Dell Valley that had recently been cleared by our employees. There was also a discussion as to whether to begin a program of converting the levees to Bermuda grass. This would reduce the spraying necessary to control thistles and Johnson grass. It would also reduce the amount of mowing. Methvin requested Edko to include this in their cost proposal to be submitted at the February Board meeting,

There being no further business to discuss and a quorum not being present, the meeting adjourned.

Approved on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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