

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
January 12, 2016
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 12, 2016, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Janet Jones, Secretary
Doris Rogé, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Terry Sklar, Member

Absent were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Alan Shephard, Edko, Inc.
Billy Dunn, Foreman

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 Assistant Secretary/Attorney, Ronald E. Corkern, Jr.

The minutes of the December, 2015 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Terry Sklar, and seconded by Mark Swafford, to approve the December, 2015 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The December, 2015 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Corkern advised that the check payable to De Lage Financial Services was the payment on the new dozer leased by the

District. Corkern also advised that the invoice that was paid included sales tax and full payment was made before this was discovered. De Lage was advised that sales tax was not owed and furnished a copy of the District's tax exempt status. Corkern informed the Board that he expects the next month's invoice will reflect a credit in the amount of the sales tax previously paid. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Terry Sklar to approve the December, 2015 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by the Maintenance Superintendent Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that they had finished burning and cleaning the debris from the ditch that runs through the Rachal property without incident. He also advised that they had dug out the beaver dams on Mr. Willard Jones' property. Mr. Dunn also updated the Board on the gate located on the Jerry Crook property. The gate was open for a period of time to let the water out and then closed again on January 1, but opened again the day before our meeting.

Dunn advised that on December 17 State Inspectors completed their inspection of the State dams and all went well except for the notation of a few armadillo holes.

Mr. Dunn also advised that he took the old pickup truck to the auction in Winnfield and left it there to be sold. Corkern advised he would check to see if we had received payment from the Winnfield auction for the pickup truck.

Mr. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, reported that the good news was that Red River had crested. The bad news was that it would not fall very quickly. The river was currently at 34' and would remain at that level for a while. It is forecasted to drop to 33.5' on January 17, 2016.

Mr. Sticker reviewed the Corps of Engineers levee inspection reports for 2015. He advised that he and Mr. Dunn would prepare a detailed response to these reports similar to what they prepared last year. That response will be given to Mr. Corkern, who will, in turn, forward to the Corps of Engineers. A discussion followed regarding the fact that the Federal levees received an "unacceptable" rating due to the fact that there was no video inspection of the pipes. This has been an on-going issue for the last two or three years. Mr. Sticker reported that DOTD is very close to purchasing the necessary video equipment

and training personnel to operate same. They will then provide this service to levee districts at a nominal cost.

Mr. Sklar requested Mr. Sticker provide him with the number of pipes and sizes in our system so that he could make an inquiry as to the cost of contracting this work to a private company in the event DOTD was not prepared to move forward with purchase of the equipment and inspection in a timely manner. Mr. Sticker agreed to provide that information to Mr. Sklar, and also to report back to the Board at the next meeting the time frame in which DOTD expects to purchase the video equipment and make it available to the levee districts.

Finally, Mr. Sticker advised that when the water went down they would place gauges at the Chivary Dam so that it would be easy in the future to ascertain the level of the water.

In other business, Corkern reminded the Board of the annual Red River Valley Association Convention to be held in Shreveport February 17-18, 2016. Doris Rogé advised that she would attend that convention.

Finally, Corkern advised the Board that the Christmas hams given to our three employees were mistakenly paid for from the District's checking account when they should have been paid from Mr. Corkern's personal account. The purchase of hams by the District would be an un constitutional donation to a public employee and consequently Corkern advised that he had already written a personal check to the District for reimbursement.

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

Approved on the 9th day of February, 2016, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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