

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
December 8, 2009  
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 December 8, 2009, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator  
Janet Jones, Secretary  
Doris Rogé, Member  
Billy Giddens, Member  
Mark Swafford, Member  
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member

Absent were:

Rayburn Smith, Member  
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Gary Eldridge, DOTD  
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent  
Alan Sheppard, SprayMax  
Andy Pierce, Guest

The minutes from the November 10, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Adolph Sklar, Jr. advised that he had only received his packet of information, including the minutes that morning, and had not had an opportunity to review same. He requested that the November minutes not be approved at this time, but instead be placed on the January agenda for approval at that time. The Board unanimously agreed.

The November, 2009 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. On motion by Doris Rogé, seconded by Janet Jones, the November, 2009 Financial Statement was unanimously approved.

The Maintenance Report was then given by Robert Vercher. Mr. Vercher advised that it was so wet they could not do any cutting and therefore had been working on the removal of beaver dams in various locations. He advised that he had inspected a ditch on property owned by the National Wildlife Association that had a beaver dam, but the ditch is not under the jurisdiction of the Levee Board, and therefore his crew did not do anything to clean out the ditch or remove the dam.

Vercher also advised that he had received a call from Douglas Brossett regarding a ditch on his property. Mr. Brossett advised that the ditch was holding water. Mr. Vercher walked the ditch with Mr. Brossett and there is a dam holding the water. This is an urban dam that apparently was built by employees of Mr. Morrison(?), who advised that he would remove the dam.

Mr. Vercher also reported that there is a hole in the Odra Levee. This is also a mudslide in this area. Gary Eldridge will be in New Orleans the rest of this week, but will inspect this area next week and report to Karlton Methvin and Ronald Corkern.

Finally, Mr. Vercher advised that he and the members of his crew would take four days of annual leave between December 17 and January 4. Those days, coupled with the holidays mean that the crew will be off work from December 17, 2009 until January 4, 2010.

The DOTD report was given by Gary Eldridge. Mr. Eldridge advised that he had looked at a mudslide at Powhatan and had recommended to Mr. Vercher that they skin the area back and push the dirt back up, and then try to flatten the slope as much as possible.

Also that day, he and Mr. Methvin inspected the levee in southern Natchitoches Parish where the Red River Waterway Commission is taking the pipe out. He is going to try to get DOTD to permit the work next week, but would require that they put rock back on top of the levee.

Eldridge also met with Mrs. Young at the Police Jury and reviewed the old flood maps. These maps will become very important if our levees are decertified. He advised that he will review the new flood maps and advise how much land is really being protected by the levees. He also advised that Mrs. Young had indicated to him that the Police Jury had received a \$200,000.00 block grant for certification of a levee near the Roy

O. Martin plant. The contact with Roy O. Martin was Blake Cooper, whose telephone number is 229-7627.

Mr. Eldridge also advised that DOTD had contracted with Louisiana Tech to shoot the height elevations on all levees and this activity would be occurring in Natchitoches Parish in the near future.

Finally, Mr. Eldridge informed the Board that he had observed an abandoned water well located by Mr. Vercher on Herman Taylor's old place. This property is now owned by Ken Guidry. The well needs to be abandoned and filled in. The Board asked that Corkern write a letter to Mr. Guidry requesting him to do that.

The office activity report was given by Ronald Corkern. He reviewed the letter received from Buck DeFee requesting various information and Corkern's response to Mr. DeFee. Corkern also advised that he had received notice of a general business meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana to be held in Baton Rouge on January 15. Corkern suggested that a member be present for this meeting and Karlton Methvin agreed to attend.

Corkern reviewed with the Board the Cane River Dam Inspection Report prepared by DOTD. There were two recommendations with respect to the levee that needed to be addressed. One was a trail over the levee caused by cattle. One of the Board members believed that this location was on property owned by Sheriff Victor Jones. Corkern was asked to contact Sheriff Jones and request that he fence off this area to keep the cattle, assuming they are his, from crossing over the levee. In addition, the Board requested Mr. Vercher to remove the trees, shrubs, and bushes that were identified in the inspection report.

The administrator's report was given by Karlton Methvin. Mr. Methvin reported on his attendance at the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana annual meeting held in New Orleans on December 2 and 3. He advised that the Association is going to change its manner of doing business so that each Levee Board District will have a representative on the Executive Board. Methvin also advised that he had inspected the pipe in the levee near the lock and dam that is on property owned by the Red River Waterway Commission. Methvin has been in touch with Ken Guidry, as well as various members of the Corps of Engineers during the last week during the excavation of this pipe and what needs to be done in order to pass inspection in the future.

In new business, Corkern reviewed with the Board the letter he received from FEMA indicating that our levees may be decertified if we do not provide a progress report under the

terms of the PAL Agreement entered into a year ago. Corkern also provided the Board with a copy of his response.

The Board also discussed the hiring of additional personnel to replace the position vacated when Andy Pierce was terminated. On motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Mark Swafford, the Board voted unanimously to fill the vacant position and directed Corkern to take the necessary steps to post the position with Civil Service and to receive applications. At this time Andy Pierce addressed the Board and advised that he would love to return to work for the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District, and that he had fully recovered from his ankle injury. He further advised that the bone had healed properly and he had no disability related to it, but that his problems were related to a staff infection. The staff infection is now completed resolved, and he is anxious to return to work for the Levee Board.

On Motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Janet Jones, Karlton Methvin was authorized to execute an acknowledgment of the completion of the levee surfacing contract, and that said work was performed satisfactorily.

In other new business, the Board reviewed the annual performance report relative to Billy Dunn.

Finally, the Board reviewed the final invoice from SprayMax for work performed in 2009. On Motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Doris Rogé, the Board authorized Corkern to pay this invoice.

Under old business, Doris Rogé reported on her attendance at the annual meeting of the Association of Louisiana Levee Boards. Mrs. Rogé indicated she was surprised that some of the Levee Districts had not received their FEMA letter regarding certification and therefore were not even aware of the issue. Once again, there seemed to be no concerted effort on the part of the Association to address the issue of levee certification.

On Motion by Janet Jones, seconded by Doris Rogé, the Board voted to adjourn.

Approved on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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