

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
December 10, 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 December 10, 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
Rayburn Smith, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Casey Messenger, Member

Absent were:

Doris Rogé, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Terry Sklar, Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jamarquis Torrente, DOTD Engineer
Paul Trimble, Engineer with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix &
Hickson, LLC
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.

Paul Trimble, Engineer with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hickson, LLC, reviewed the Board the bids submitted for work on Culverts 4 and 6, and that the low bid from JPD Construction, LLC was in order. A Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Smith to award the contract to JPD Construction, LLC. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

The November, 2019 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Messenger and seconded by Swafford to approve the November, 2019 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The November, 2019 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Swafford to approve the November, 2019 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent, was absent from the meeting. Karlton Methvin reported that the crew was cleaning the pipes out and also cleaning L-36A on the Dell Valley property. The crew requested that they be allowed to take off from December 19 to January 6, as they have done in the past. A Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Messenger to allow the crew to take off December 19, 2019 to January 6, 2020, with the understanding that in the event the crew was needed for any reason they would be on call. The Motion passed unanimously.

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, advised that the State had completed the quarterly inspection on the Natchitoches segment of the Federal levees. Everything was in good shape.

Sticker also advised that the Parish Administration had submitted a grant proposal for surfacing the Natchitoches levee from Highway 491 to the Red River Refuge. It was his understanding that grant had been approved.

Sticker also advised that the State would do the quarterly inspection on the Campti-Clarence side of the river as soon as the weather improved.

Sticker stated that he had talked with Louis Wellan regarding the undersized pipe located in the L-6 ditch on the Williams place that is being leased by Wellans. Apparently, Wellan was not interested in replacing the pipe and inquired as to whether he could simply remove the pipe, which Sticker indicated he could.

Sticker also advised the Board that the new gates at Posey Lake and Platt Bayou are too heavy. They are hanging down and causing the water to roll and washout some of the rock. He believed the problem could be fixed and he will work on a fix to this issue and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Sticker also advised that since the Parish was not inclined to help with the road next to the levee at Cloutierville, then we might consider marking off the apparent right of way for the Parish and then build a setback levee within the Parish servitude but with a 10'-12' crown instead of a 22' crown needed for a road. In other words, the setback levee could not be used for a road, but would be sufficient for flood control.

Methvin suggested that before we take that action we should speak with the new Parish President, John Richmond, and the juror for that area. The Parish Council now has a new makeup and a new Parish Administrator, so we should first ascertain whether they want to assist in the cost associated with building a setback levee sufficient to allow for traffic. The Board agreed and Methvin offered to contact the Parish President to discuss this issue.

At the recent meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana in New Orleans, there was some discussion with DOTD personnel regarding the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. Sticker was asked to explore money available under this Initiative and he advised that he had briefly looked into it and that we have until December 20 to apply for these funds. It was recommended that we apply for funds to build a levee in Campti-Clarence where the levee has fallen into the river. Sticker said he would attempt to put together sufficient information to make an application by the due date.

Further discussion followed regarding the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. Apparently, 1.2 billion dollars has been allocated, with the majority of that to be spent in coastal areas below I-10. However, a significant sum will be spent above I-10 and hopefully we would qualify for money to replace the levee at Campti-Clarence.

Corkern advised that the Red River Valley Association Annual Convention would be held at Sams Town Convention Center in Shreveport on February 19-20, 2020. Corkern inquired as to whether there were any members that wished to attend this convention. Swafford advised that he had attended in previous years and might attend this year, but was not prepared to commit. Corkern advised that he would again inquire at the January meeting and make reservations for anyone who wished to attend.

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 14th day of January, 2020, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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