

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
February 11, 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 February 11, 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  
Casey Messenger, Member

Absent were:

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

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent  
Jamarcus Torrence, 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. Methvin noted that a quorum was not present and therefore no official business could be conducted.

Corkern advised the Board that he had received a request from Ralph Ingram for the Board to write a letter to City and Parish Government advising that the East Natchitoches drainage ditch was at maximum capacity, and this should be considered by the Parish and City when considering future requests for development that would increase the drainage of water into the L-10-11 drainage ditch.

A discussion was held by Board members regarding this request. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, was not present, but Jamarcus Torrence was present and answered questions regarding the drainage ditch. Mr. Torrence suggested the Board might suggest to the City and Parish Government that new developments should reflect a drainage plan that did not increase the runoff of water from the pre-development status. No action was taken on the request by Mr. Ingram and a decision was made by the Board to further investigate this request and to discuss at the next Board meeting with Mr. Sticker.

Corkern advised the Board that we could not act on the authorization/ratification to sell the 2011 truck at auction. This truck was taken to Winnfield and sold at auction. This matter will be returned to the March agenda for ratification.

Corkern advised the Board that although one of the agenda items was the approval of the contract with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for Federal Levee Certification, he had recently received an email from Mr. McRaney advising that recently the Corps had revised the Red River flow line from Shreveport to Lock & Dam No. 5. The flow line raised the 100 year flow line by 2'-3' in the Shreveport area. The Corps will calculate a new flow line for the remaining Red River down to Alexandria. The Corps has informed FEMA Region VI that it will not proceed with levee evaluations until the new flow line is available. Mr. McRaney did confirm that the Vicksburg District still intends to provide Natchitoches a Levee Evaluation Report after the flow line has been calculated.

Also on the agenda was the ratification of the payment of annual dues for the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana in the amount of \$1,200. Because a quorum was not present, Corkern advised that this would have to be put off until the March Board meeting.

Corkern also advised the Board that with the resignation of Mrs. Janet Jones, it would be necessary for the Board to elect a new Secretary-Treasurer. Since a quorum was not present, no action could be taken, and the Board determined that Corkern should continue to serve as Assistant Secretary and the election of a Secretary-Treasurer should be put off until new Board members are in place.

Methvin lead a discussion regarding the repair/replacement of the gates at Hampton Road. One of the gates at Hampton road

is not open. A discussion was had regarding how we could keep this gate open if necessary due to flooding.

In other discussion regarding the gates it was determined that the original gate was purchased from Waterman and they no longer manufacture this gate or replacement parts. The Board discussed having a local welder manufacture the stem and nuts for the existing gates. The Board asked Dunn to look into this further.

In other business, Methvin advised that both of our tractor leases are about to expire. We can either buy an extended warranty with a \$250 deductible for \$3,650 per tractor, or we can look into trading these tractors in and leasing two new tractors. Methvin advised that he would look into a new lease for two tractors, and also obtain a bid for leasing a new excavator.

Representatives of Edko proposed the same spraying as last year for the same price. There was further discussion regarding additional spraying, and it was agreed that Edko would provide a formal bid at the next Board meeting.

Jamarcus Torrence, DOTD Engineer, advised that the forecast was for the Red River to rise an additional 7' by Sunday. The river was expected to peak on Sunday and begin to fall. Torrence further advised that whenever the land was dry enough they would look at what was necessary to provide a setback levee at Powhatan.

Methvin presented to the Board a plaque received from the Corps of Engineers for superior management of resources in the operations/maintenance of levee projects for the calendar year 2018.

Corkern advised the Board of the annual ALBL Workshop to be held in Baton Rouge May 7-8, 2020. Mark Swafford advised that he would attend that meeting.

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

Approved on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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

