

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
February 9, 2021
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 to order in the Natchitoches Municipal Building, 560 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on February 9, 2021, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Mary Jones, Secretary
Mark Swafford, Member
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member
Casey Messenger
Jolley Nash, Member

Absent were:

Terry Sklar, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Also present were:

Jordan Lemoine, EDKO
Ford Stinson, EDKO
Jeremy Gilbert, EDKO
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson, Inc.
Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer
Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer

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.

A Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Nolan Jones, Jr. to amend the agenda to discuss the proposal by Edko, Inc. for spraying services for the calendar year 2021. Following public discussion, the Motion to amend the agenda passed unanimously.

The January, 2021 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Messenger to approve the January, 2021 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The November and December, 2020 and January, 2021 financial statements were reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Nolan Jones, Jr. and seconded by Messenger to approve the November and December, 2020 and January, 2021 financial statements. This Motion passed unanimously.

The Maintenance Superintendent's report was given by Karlton Methvin. Methvin advised that Billy Dunn was still recovering from surgery and hopefully would be back to work in some capacity within the next two months. Methvin advised that he had talked with Andy Pearce, who is filling in for Billy Dunn during his absence and learned that our crew had been working on the State levees. They are grading the top of the levees and filling in holes. They have put rock down where needed. Methvin inquired from the DOTD employees present as to when DOTD would inspect the State levees. Susan Douglas and Jarmarquis Torrence indicated they expected the State levees would be inspected during the first two weeks of April.

In other business, Jarmarquis Torrence reported that he had received confirmation that day that Marco Road . . .? Torrence also advised that they had not been able to look at the proposed culvert that would run by the Natchitoches Wood Preserve business on Highway 1 South. Methvin advised that he had been advised by the interested landowner that they had decided to go another direction and consequently, there was no longer a need to look at this proposed culvert site. A discussion followed regarding the Marco levee setback. Methvin advised that he had talked with the representative of the landowner about acquiring property, and the landowner was receptive. Corkern advised that Nick Verrett had furnished the landowner with drawings for the proposed setback and had estimated approximately 5 acres would need to be purchased for right of way. The State had estimated the value of the acreage to be \$5,000.00 per acre, and the landowner appeared satisfied with this amount. Mary Jones confirmed that this project appeared to be moving forward in a satisfactory manner.

Paul Trimble with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson, Inc. was present to answer any questions regarding replacement of the lower Cane River flood gates. Trimble advised that he is still waiting to hear from FEMA, but it still appears the project to

replacement the flood gates is going to be approved, and it is believed that FEMA will pay 100% of the cost.

Methvin advised the Board that he and Corkern had driven the levees starting at Lock and Dam No. 3 with Susan Douglas and Jarmarquis Torrence. There is approximately 3.4 miles of levee roadway between Lock and Dam No. 3 and where the rock was placed by the United States Conservation. This 3.4 miles of roadway is in terrible condition. Methvin advised the group that he had talked with Pat Simpson with the Conservation group, and Simpson had advised he would not have a problem with placing a gate at Lock and Dam No. 3.

Corkern advised that they were still working on getting the capital outlay money approved for replacement of the lower Cane River flood gates moved to other projects within the same watershed. One of the projects was to put rock on the levee for the 3.4 miles beginning at Lock and Dam No. 3.

Corkern further advised the group that with the help of Susan Douglas they were still trying to recover from FEMA the cost associated with cleanup following Hurricane Laura. Corkern advised that it had been a maze of paperwork trying to convince FEMA that we have dotted all of the i's and crossed all the t's in order to receive this funding. The issue is that our disposal method of pushing all of the debris into the tree line and allowing it to rot and return to nature is not one of the categories of debris removal on the FEMA list. Corkern advised that he would continue pursuing reimbursement for this additional expense incurred by the Levee Board for debris removal.

In other business, Methvin advised that we had purchased two bushhogs in the spring of 2019, and we were at a point where we needed to decide whether to continue using these bushhogs or trade them in. Corkern had obtained from John Deere a quote under the State contract for a bushhog with a heavy duty gear box at a cost of \$19,226.22. The same bushhog with a standard gear box could be purchased under the State contract for \$18,703.62. The local John Deere dealership advised they would give \$8,000.00 for each of our bushhogs as a trade-in. Following further discussion and public comment, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Nash to purchase two new bushhogs with the heavy duty gear box. This Motion passed unanimously.

A proposal for spraying during the calendar year 2021 was then made by representatives of Edko, Inc. Ford Stinson advised that the current proposal was 1.5% more than last year and

represented the first increase in cost in the past five years. Following further discussion and public comment, a Motion was made by Nolan Jones, Jr. and seconded by Mary Jones to accept the proposal of Edko, Inc. and enter into a contract based upon said proposal for all spraying during the calendar year 2021. This Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern then advised the Board that he had received notice that our backhoe lease would expire in two months. Methvin advised that he will check with Dunn and obtain his thoughts as to whether we should enter into a new lease for a backhoe or purchase the existing backhoe. Methvin further advised that he would contact Doggett and obtain estimates. Corkern was asked to put this matter on next month's agenda.

A Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Nash to move the meeting time for the monthly meeting of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District to 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the farmers on the Board of Directors. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board a Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Swafford to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously.

Approved on the 9th day of March, 2021, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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