

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

April 13, 2021

7:00 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 April 13, 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
Terry Sklar, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Casey Messenger Member
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member
Jolley Nash, Member

Absent were:

None

Also present were:

Jordan Lemoine, EDKO
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 7:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

The March, 2021 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to approve the March, 2021 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The March, 2021 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by

Swafford and seconded by Nolan Jones, Jr. to approve the March, 2021 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The Maintenance Superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. The Board welcomed Mr. Dunn back from his medical leave. He advised that he had been to his treating surgeon the week before and received a full release to return to work.

Mr. Dunn advised that the crew was working on removing limb encroachments and had been repairing areas of the levees where hogs had rooted the sides of the levee. The crew started at the South end of the levee and was working North. The crew is also fixing holes in the Marco Levee. Dunn further advised that they were in the process of painting all structures and spraying all structures and flap gates.

Jarmarquis Torrence advised that he had ridden the levees with Susan Douglas and they had mapped those areas identified in the most recent Corps' inspection report as needing work.

Susan Douglas gave an update on the work she had been doing on behalf of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District. She stated that the Legislative Session had begun and she was following House Bill 2 to make certain that our request for funding was included in that Bill. She also advised that she would try to make contact with the railroad and speak with them about tying in to their embankment on Hines Road near Powhatan so that the water doesn't come around the end during periods of high water. She was also working on finding funds for the two setback levees previously discussed.

A discussion followed regarding the backhoe lease from John Deere. That lease matures on May 30, 2021. The Board agreed that we should turn in the existing backhoe and obtain bids on the lease of a new backhoe. Karlton Methvin and Billy Dunn agreed to obtain bids from John Deere and Case, and to also check and see if the lease could be made pursuant to State contract. The Board agreed that the lease of a new backhoe should only be for 500 hours of usage each year, instead of 1,000 hours.

In other business, Methvin reviewed with the Board the request from Natchitoches Parish Government for reimbursement of expenses incurred on Miller Farm Road. Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Messenger to not contribute towards these expenses. The Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern advised the Board that on next month's agenda there would be an Resolution to increase the millage. This Resolution would require a 2/3rds vote, and consequently we would need at least six board members to be present to address this Resolution.

Corkern then advised the Board of the meeting he had with Rayburn Smith and Mr. John Talley. Mr. Talley owns one-half of the pond that the Corps said encroached on the levee and as a result gave the Campti-Clarence Levee an unsatisfactory rating. Based on Corkern's research, that particular pond has been in place for at least 40 years. Corkern called Rodney Nordby to discuss this matter with him, and also sent a letter to Mr. Nordby with attached satellite photographs and topos verifying the pond had existed for at least 40 years. Corkern requested that the Corps, at the very least, change its inspection to reflect that the Campti-Clarence segment is "minimally acceptable" so that we would have time to address the pond if it was necessary to take some affirmative action, and yet the NLDD would still be eligible for Federal funds in the event of flooding. Methvin advised that he had talked with Rodney Nordby earlier that day and Nordby had advised that we would be getting a letter stating that the pond was minimally acceptable. After further discussion the Board decided to take no further action regarding this pond until receipt of the letter from the Corps of Engineers.

Methvin advised the Board that Terry Brossette had resigned on March 31, 2021. Mr. Dunn advised that we would need to replace Terry Brossette and the Board requested Corkern to move forward with hiring an individual to replace Mr. Brossette.

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

Approved on the 11th day of May, 2021, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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