

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

April 12, 2011

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 in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on April 12, 2011, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Janet Jones, Secretary
Doris Rogé, Member
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Absent were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator

Also present were:

Gary Eldridge, DOTD
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent
Alan Sheppard, Edko, LLC

The minutes from the March 10, 2011 meeting were reviewed. On motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by C. D. Brazzel, the March minutes were unanimously approved.

The March, 2011 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Doris Rogé to approve the March, 2011 Financial Statement. The Motion passed unanimously.

Adolph Sklar then made a motion to supplement the agenda by adding to that the proposal for spraying received from Edko. The motion to supplement the agenda was seconded by C. D. Brazzel. The motion was passed unanimously.

Robert Vercher advised the Board that his group had dug the beaver dams out of the canals on the back of Karlton Methvin's place. They have also stated spraying the levee flood gates and fence posts. In addition they are putting new cables (stainless steel) on some of the flood gates. As soon as they are finished spraying they will start bushhogging.

Mr. Vercher further advised that Billy Thompson wanted to cut hay on the levee from Mr. Collins' place to the head of the levee. He was advised by the Board that he could cut the hay so long as he placed the rolls far enough off of the right of way so that they would not interfere with mowing by Levee Board personnel.

The Board then discussed the inspections by the Corps of Engineers with respect to those drainage canals from Marco to Montrose area that received an unsatisfactory rating. Gary Eldridge advised that the canals really need to be inspected by either boat or helicopter. The Board discussed the difficulty in determining what work could and should be done on the canal since much of the area will require wetlands permit. Mr. Eldridge suggested that Ronald Corkern coordinate an onsite meeting between the Corps of Engineers and whatever department would issue a wetlands permit and representatives of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District. If representatives of all three groups met on site, then perhaps we could reach an agreement on what needed to be done, as well as what could be done. Corkern agreed to contact David Dupré and attempt to arrange such a meeting.

Mr. Eldridge further advised that he had talked with the contractor for the lower Cane River flood gates and has been advised that they have ordered the pipe and are working on shop drawings for the flood gates. He noted that Change Order No. 1 for a change in the pipe had been approved by Facility & Planning in Baton Rouge and Rylee Construction had been notified of this approval.

Ronald Corkern advised the Board that all of the Levee Board employees, as well as Gary Eldridge and himself had attended the flood training workshop sponsored by the Corps of Engineers in Bossier on March 29, 2011. Corkern further advised that our proposal to certify levees in the northern part of the Parish and not certify levees in the southern end of the Parish would be presented to FEMA by our engineer, Mike Schiflet on April #,

2011. Corkern and/or Karlton Methvin will try to attend that meeting if at all possible.

In other business, a public hearing was held on the milage rate for the upcoming year. Following public discussion, a motion was made by Adolph Sklar, and seconded by Rayburn Smith, to adopt the same milage rate as the previous year and to notify the Assessor for Natchitoches Parish. The motion passed unanimously and Corkern was instructed to provide a copy of the Resolution adopting the milage rate and the agenda to Mr. Rick Hargis, Natchitoches Parish Assessor.

In other business, Corkern reminded the Board of the annual meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana on May 5 and 6 in Baton Rouge. Reservations have previously been made for Doris Rogé, Janet Jones, Mark Swafford, C. D. Brazzel, Karlton Methvin and Ronald Corkern. Doris Rogé advised that they would be unable to attend this year and requested that their reservations be cancelled.

Corkern further advised that he had received a call from Charles Hampton asking for assistance in locating where to build his fence along the levee. Corkern advised gave Mr. Hampton David Dupré's number and told him that he would have to coordinate that with the Corps of Engineers. Keith Antee advised that he had talked with Charles Hampton since then and apparently Mr. Dupré had told him that the Corps would no longer assist in that regard because they simply didn't have the manpower. The Board agree that we did not want to tell someone where to build their fence because the difficulty in determining exactly where the toe of the levee stops. In the future, landowners will have to make their own decision as to whether to build the fence and they will be told that instead of trying to build it exactly six feet from the toe of the levee that perhaps they should build it fifteen to twenty feet from the toe of the levee so that there will be room for error.

The Board then discussed the two proposals submitted by Edko for spraying. One proposal was for two applications to the levees to control the thistles and Johnson grass. Alan Sheppard advised the Board that he had inspected the levees and did not find thistles to be an issue this year, and consequently he would recommend that the Board save that money and not spray for thistles or Johnson grass. He then discussed with the Board the second proposal contained in a letter dated April 12, 2011. This proposal calls for two applications to the drainage canals, two

applications for the gravel on the levees, and one application to the levee slopes. All of these areas would be sprayed for the total sum of \$104,500.00, which is basically the same amount that the Board spent last year for spraying. After further discussion, a motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Doris Rogé to accept the proposal totaling \$104,500.00. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Janet Jones, seconded by Doris Rogé, to adjourn. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approved on the 9th day of May, 2011, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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