

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
April 14, 2009  
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 14, 2009, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President  
Janet Jones, Secretary  
Doris Rogé, Member  
Adolph Sklar, Member  
Alfred Bruning, Member  
Billy Giddens, Member  
Rayburn Smith, Member  
Gary Anderson, Member

Also present were:

Gary Eldridge, DOTD  
Alan Sheppard, SprayMax

The minutes from the March 10, 2009 meeting were reviewed. On Motion by Doris Rogé, seconded by Janet Jones, the Minutes were approved.

The March, 2009 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. On Motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Janet Jones, the March, 2009 Financial Statement was approved.

The Maintenance Report was then given by Robert Vercher. Mr. Vercher advised that his crew had removed a tree from the bayou on Chris Street. Additionally, they had started bush hogging at Powhatan. He advised the Board that they were having trouble with one of the tractors. The tractor only has about 2500 hours on it. He was instructed to get an estimate as to the cost of repairs for the tractor.

Mr. Vercher further advised that he and Keith Antee had attended the Levee Certification Training Seminar at the Red

River Waterway Commission Office. This was an all day seminar, followed by a test.

Finally, Mr. Vercher advised that the Corps of Engineers had picked up the Levee signs and would install them at the various stations prior to the next Board meeting.

The DOTD report was given by Gary Eldridge. He reported on his inspection of the Saline Bayou Levee and the Channel L-4A crossing on Lateral Lane. Mr. Eldridge, Mr. Vercher, and other members of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District (NLDD) met on April 1, 2009 to investigate the levee slope damage on Slaine Bayou as noted in the USACE Levee Inspection Report.

The first area of concern is on the land side of the levee on Saline Bayou in the vicinity of Horseshoe Lake. The soil in this area does grow grass very well and allows the slope to erode. Mr. Eldridge recommended that Mr. Vercher and his crew take material from the adjacent pasture area to repair the slope. Once the earthwork is completed the disturbed area should be lime over-seated and fertilized. He also suggested that the area may be mulched, but acknowledged this may do more damage than good because of the potential of the cattle eating the hay used to mulch the area.

A second area inspected was the land and bayou sides of the levee at the end of Horseshoe Lake. There are several significant cattle trails and wallow areas in this vicinity. He recommended the same repairs as set above.

On March 27, 2009 he met with Karlton Methvin to investigate a drainage problem on Channel L-4A where it crosses Parish Road Lateral Lane. It was obvious from their inspection that there was a large accumulation of debris deposited on the roadside ditch slope, especially in the vicinity of the cross drain. It appeared the downstream end of the easternmost pipe was either crushed or filled such that the depth of flow through this conduit was only about 1' in lieu of the 4' diameter of the pipe. Based on DOTD's investigation, it was determined that two 48" pipes will convey the discharge associated with a 10 year as well as the 25 storm without overtopping the road. This analysis assumes that both of the pipes are round and completely open. Mr. Eldridge recommended that both pipes be inspected once the debris is removed to ascertain the condition of each pipe. If either pipe is damaged beyond repair it should be replaced. If a pipe is filled with sediment or debris it should be cleaned.

Karlton Methvin advised that he had talked with the Corps of Engineers and they believed that they would have enough rock to finish those places discussed at previous Board meetings. This should be accomplished during the summer.

Under new business, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana for acquiring funds relative to the Marco project was discussed. On motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Doris Rogé, Mr. Karlton Methvin was authorized to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana on behalf of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District.

The Board then discussed the millage rate and whether the Board desired to roll the millage rate forward or leave it the same. The Board agreed that the issue would be placed on the May agenda and voted on at that time.

The Board then discussed the need for hiring a part time employee to work this summer. It was agreed that anyone interested in working part time should fill out an application and deliver same to the Board's attorney, Ronald Corkern. Mr. Corkern was instructed to provide a copy of each application to the Board prior to next month's agenda.

The Board discussed the letter received from the Cane River Waterway Commission regarding Cane River Lake Dam. Mr. Eldridge agreed to meet with Nick Verrett and report to the Board concerning the ownership of the Cane River Lake Dam.

Under old business the Board was reminded of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana annual workshop in Baton Rouge on May 7 and 8. Doris Rogé, Janet Jones, Ronald Corkern, and Karlton Methvin will attend. On motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Gary Anderson, the Board approved the registration, per diem and travel expenses for Rogé, Jones, Corkern and Methvin to attend the annual workshop.

The Flexible Benefit Plan for employees was discussed. The plan chosen by the employees will result in no additional cost by either the employees or the Levee Board.

Finally, the Board discussed the favorable decision in the lawsuit entitled, "John Mark Taylor, et al v. Tensas Basin Levee Board, et al". The Federal Judge granted the Motion for Summary Judgment filed on behalf of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Janet Jones, seconded by Adolph Sklar, Jr. the meeting was adjourned.

Approved on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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