

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
May 14, 2019
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 May 14, 2019, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Janet Jones, Secretary
Terry Sklar, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Doris Rogé, Member

Absent were:

Casey Messenger, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jeremy Gilbert, EDKO

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 April, 2019 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Rogé to approve the April, 2019 minutes. This Motion passed unanimously.

The April, 2019 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Giddens and seconded by Smith to approve the April, 2019 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that pursuant to the Board's authorization, he had contracted with a gentleman to trap beavers. Before the high water the individual had trapped approximately 25 beavers. He will resume trapping when the water levels recede.

Dunn advised that his crew had opened and closed the gates at Hampton several times due to the fluctuating high water. In addition, they have clipped the limbs and brush on those ditches maintained by the Levee District.

Mr. Dunn informed the Board that the gates at Hampton continue to cause a problem. These are the gates that were originally manufactured by Waterman. There are four stems with nuts. One of the stems and nut work appropriately, but the other three do not, and there is continuous wear and tear on the nuts, causing the nuts to have to periodically be replaced. Dunn talked with the representative to Waterman because the nuts need to be replaced again, and the representative advised that Waterman has discontinued the type of nut in question. The sales representative checked to see if there were any old nuts still in stock, but there were none. Dunn has talked with a local machine shop, and the individual at that shop is looking to machine nuts that will work.

Further discussion among all Board members followed with respect to the best way to deal with the gates at Hampton. Sklar suggested that Dunn call Waterman directly and ask to speak to an engineer and explain the problem we have had since the gates were installed. Perhaps Waterman will offer a remedy at a reduced cost. It may be better to go ahead and replace the whole pedestal, including stems and nuts. Hopefully, Waterman would provide a price break since three out of the four stems are out of spec, causing the nuts to wear and break. Sklar also suggested that if Dunn did not receive a satisfactory response from Waterman then he should check with the local machine shop about replacing both the stem and the nuts in hopes of solving the problem once and for all.

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, discussed with the Board the two estimates he had made for lining the two pipes determined by the Corps of Engineers to be unsatisfactory. The cost of lining these pipes is going to be in the neighborhood of \$200,000. Corkern advised that it would be necessary to bid this project and asked Sticker if DOTD could provide the specifications to be

included in the bid. Sticker advised that he would check with his boss to determine if DOTD could provide technical assistance in this manner.

Sticker also advised that the Cane River Waterway Commission had obtained a permit to place a pipe over the levee at the location of their pump station. The levee in this area is deteriorating and needs to be addressed. Following further discussion, the Board requested that Corkern write a letter to the Cane River Waterway Commission placing them on notice of the need to make repairs to this area.

A discussion then followed regarding the level of water in Cane River and Red River. Sticker advised that Cane River is close to cresting at Cloutierville, and the Red River should start dropping below Lock & Dam No. 3. Sticker did not expect more than a 2/10ths to 3/10ths rise in the water on the lower end of Cane River. According to Sticker, Bayou Pierre has crested and is beginning to fall.

Karlton Methvin advised the Board that he had received a call from Spencer Touchstone with the Corps of Engineers advising that the permit request by Ken Guidry had been approved. Methvin advised that he had called Guidry to relay this information.

Ronald Corkern advised the Board that he had received a request from Paul Fleming to be reappointed to the Red River Waterway Commission. State law requires that Commission members be appointed by the Governor. The statute further provides that the Red River Valley Association, Natchitoches Parish Government, and Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District may each make a recommendation to the Governor, and from these recommendations the Governor shall make the appointment. Corkern advised the Board that Mr. Fleming had served on the Red River Waterway Commission for 20+ years and was seeking reappointment. A Motion to recommend Paul Fleming be appointed to the Board of Commissioners for the Red River Waterway Commission was made by Sklar and further discussion ensued. A Motion was then made by Smith to table the Motion by Sklar, and the Motion to table was seconded by Swafford. The Motion to table passed unanimously.

The Board then reviewed and discussed the quote from C & H Machine Shop for a valve stem core. No action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Jones and seconded by Swafford to adjourn. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 11th day of June, 2019, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

KARLTON METHVIN,
President