

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
July 11, 2023  
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 at Valley Farmer's Co-Op, 250 Rapides Drive, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on July 11, 2023, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator  
Mark Swafford, Member  
Terry Sklar, Member  
Rayburn Smith, Member  
Casey Messenger Member

Absent were:

Jolley Nash, Member  
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent  
Jordan Lemoine, Edko, LLC  
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer  
Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer  
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 7:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

The June minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Messenger to approve the June, 2023 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The June, 2023 financial statement was not available at the time of the meeting. It will be presented for review at the meeting in August.

The maintenance report was given by Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew was still checking the Federal levees and removing trees and limbs from the levees which resulted from the recent storms that passed through the area. The crew is also working on cleaning the L-20 ditch.

Dunn further advised that he received a complaint relative to limbs in our ditch in East Natchitoches. He inspected the ditch and there are limbs in the ditch that need to be removed. However, his crew will not be able to work off of the bank because homeowners have built fences, storage sheds, etc. right up to the edge of the ditch. We will have to use a machine to walk through the ditch to clean it out and we do not own such equipment. He checked on renting equipment that would do the job and it will cost approximately \$450 a day. He believes they can clean the ditch in one day, but they will have to wait until the ditch dries because it is too wet at the present time. A Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Smith to rent the necessary equipment to clean the ditch whenever it was dry enough to do so. Following public comment, Methvin, Swafford, Messenger and Smith voted in favor of the Motion and Sklar voted against the Motion. Mr. Sklar noted that his vote in opposition was not because he was opposed to cleaning the ditch, but he was opposed to having to rent equipment because people have built fences, storage sheds, etc. within our right of way, thus making it impossible for us to clean the ditch from the bank with the equipment we have.

In other business, Dunn advised he had talked with Greg Puckett regarding the cleaning of our ditch across his property. Mr. Puckett advised that it would be late September before he got his crop out and Dunn agreed that we would move our equipment elsewhere and come back after Puckett has harvested his crop.

Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer, advised that he had talked with the State regarding their inspection of the State levees. The report on our State levees is going to be good.

Paul Trimble, Engineer, advised that the liner in the culvert at Horseshoe Lake has been repaired by the original contractor at no cost to NLDD. Mr. Trimble further advised that at Flat Bayou the contractor cannot do the grouting with the amount of water that is coming through. In order to complete this project in the near future, it will cost the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District an additional \$3,043 that will not be reimbursed by the State. It will take the contractor about one week to do the additional work necessary to complete the project

now as opposed to waiting for perhaps several months for it to dry. A Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to approve the expenditure of \$3,043 to complete the work as soon as possible. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern reported to the Board the about the money that we had received from the State relative to the above referenced project. We have made three applications for reimbursement from the State, and have received three payments, all of which totals a little less than 75% of the project cost to date.

Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer, advised that she had gotten permission from DOTD to include our future capitol outlay requests in the DOTD requests for capitol outlay. If approved, we would not have to come up with 25% matching funds.

Jordan Lemoine with EDKO advised that he had received a complaint from Rebecca Rowell regarding trees on her property that she believed had been damaged from spraying the ditch behind her property. Mr. Lemoine inspected the trees, met with Ms. Rowell and assured her that they would not spray the ditch a second time until her Mayhaw trees were through producing. She appeared to be happy with this assurance.

In other business, Corkern presented the 2023-2024 budget for the Board's consideration. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Messenger to approve the proposed 2023-2024 budget.

Finally, Corkern reviewed with the Board the 4% annual raise given to each employee. This is a State mandated raise and Corkern reviewed with the Board the amount each employee would be making after the raise went into effect. The raises required no action on the part of the Board.

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

Approved on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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