

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
January 12, 2021
6:00 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 January 12, 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
Terry Sklar, Member
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member
Casey Messenger
Jolley Nash, Member

Absent were:

Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Also present were:

Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer
Jordan Lemoine, EDKO
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson, Inc.
Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 6:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

A Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Sklar to add to the agenda a Motion to approve payment of dues to the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana. A Motion was also made by Messenger and seconded by Mary Jones to authorize Karlton Methvin and Ronald Corkern to hire Nick Verrett, engineer, as a consultant to assist in the procurement and/or transfer of funds in the State capital outlay project which was approved for the replacement of the lower Cane River floodgates. Following

further discussion, the Motion to amend the agenda passed unanimously.

The December, 2020 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Nash to approve the December, 2020 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The December, 2020 bank statement was not available from the bank. Consequently, the Board reviewed the check register and following public comment, a Motion was made by Nolan Jones, Jr. and seconded by Messenger to approve the December, 2020 check register as presented. This Motion passed unanimously.

Karlton Methvin advised that Billy Dunn was still off work following neck surgery. Methvin advised that he had talked with Billy and he was recovering well and hoped to be back to limited duty in a couple of weeks.

Methvin further advised the Board that the crew had been filling in holes down at the wildlife preserve and also repairing the flood gates. There was a discussion regarding the repetitive repair work needed on the levee in the area of the wildlife preserve. Wildlife preserve personnel are using the levee and we are constantly spending money making repairs. Methvin advised that he would call Pat Stence and ask if the Federal Government had an easement, and regardless of whether they did or did not, whether or not they would share in the repair costs.

Jarmarquis Torrence reported that he was still working on design of the setback levee at Powhatan. He also advised that DOTD had received an after-the-fact permit application from the Lena Water System with respect to the water line recently placed within the right of way. Mr. Torrence recommended that we not approve the application at this point. Some work in the area has been done to backfill where the line was laid, but the work has not been completed because the ground is too wet. Torrence suggested that we wait until all of the work was finished before approving the permit application.

The engineering work on the Lena Water System was done by Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson. Since Paul Trimble a partner in MML&H was present, Corkern asked if he would request the project engineer to send an email to us outlining the status of the project.

A question was asked regarding the status of the Marco Road project. This is the project at Marco wherein a section of the roadway has already fallen in and the general public has created a new roadway in the adjacent pasture. Money has been requested through the Hazard Mitigation Program to build a setback levee, but it is the position of the Levee Board that this roadway will belong to the Natchitoches Parish Government. Apparently, at least one member of the Parish Council is of the opinion that the roadway is not a part of the Parish System. Corkern advised that he had provided a letter to John Richmond, President of the Natchitoches Parish Government, from Police Jury Secretary Ed Stoker written in the 1950s which acknowledged the road as being a part of the Parish Road System. Mary Jones advised the Board that it was her understanding that this matter would be taken up by the Parish Council, and hopefully they will pursue obtaining money for the setback levee and roadway through the Hazard Mitigation Program.

A Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Sklar to authorize payment of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana annual dues in the amount of \$1,250.00. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern then discussed with the Board the email he had received from the State advising that our capital outlay request submitted in 2017 had been approved and \$150,000 was available for immediate spending. However, the capital outlay request was for replacement of the lower Cane River floodgates, and this is the same project that the NLDD has been pursuing with FEMA for the last two years. Paul Trimble is the engineer on our FEMA project and he was present to answer questions regarding that project. It appears that the FEMA project to replace the floodgates is going to be approved and it is believed that FEMA will pay 100% of the cost. The NLDD still has many serious needs where the capital outlay money could be used. Corkern was asked to determine if we could change the scope of the work. Susan Douglas commented that she had done some checking on whether we could change the scope of the work and observed that our capital outlay request was very specific to "replacement of floodgates." However, it is hoped that there is other work that is not provided for in the FEMA project that could fall under the capital outlay project. For example, it was noted that the riprap in the area is moving and perhaps the \$150,000 that is currently available could be used to grout the riprap.

It was also noted that the capital outlay money could be used for the setback levee at Powhatan that is certainly needed

but NLDD cannot afford. Corkern advised that we really needed someone to stay on top of this project and that Nick Verrett was both an engineer and well versed in how the system works. A Motion was made by Messenger and seconded by Mary Jones to authorize Methvin and/or Corkern to retain Nick Verrett to help on the capital outlay project and to pay him an hourly rate of \$55.00. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

As a part of the capital outlay project, Corkern introduced the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana. Following discussion, a Motion was made by Nolan Jones, Jr. and seconded by Mary Jones, to authorize Karlton Methvin, President, to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana for the Lower Cane River Floodgate Replacement Program. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

A Resolution was then introduced by Mary Jones and seconded by Sklar designating Ronald Corkern, Jr., Attorney/Assistant Secretary, to act on behalf of NLDD in all matters pertaining to the capital outlay project, including certifying requests for State disbursements. Following public comments, this Resolution passed unanimously.

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

Approved on the 9th day of February, 2021, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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