

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
October 11, 2022
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 October 11, 2022, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Rayburn Smith, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Terry Sklar, Member
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member
Jolley Nash, Member

Absent were:

Mary Jones, Secretary
Casey Messenger Member

Also present were:

Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer
Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson
Jordan Lemoine, Edko, LLC
Kyle Hudson, KNH Trucking and Contracting, LLC

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 September, 2022 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Jones to approve the September, 2022 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The September, 2022 financial statement was read ad discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Smith

and seconded by Swafford to approve the September, 2022 financial statement. The Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was then made by Sklar to amend the agenda by adding the following items:

1. Adoption of Resolution No. 5 of 2022; and
2. Opening of bids for building four new levee gates.

This Motion was seconded by Smith. Following public discussion, the Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew had finished cleaning L-15A. They are now cleaning the Federal levees and getting them ready for winter. They are also repairing the holes they find either in the side of the levee or the crown. The crew has cut the grass on the lower Cane River Lake dam and cleaned up all of the debris in that area. They are currently cutting all of the State levees and getting them ready for winter.

Dunn further advised that he had met with Patsy Ward Hoover, the Mayor Natchez. Ms. Hoover had contacted Corkern regarding the drainage ditch that flows through parts of Natchez. Mayor Hoover had advised Corkern that the ditch needed to be cleaned because areas of the Village of Natchez would flood when there was a heavy rain. Dunn advised the Mayor that they would spray the ditch to kill all of the foliage, and then clean the ditch as much as they could. Corkern advised the Board that he had subsequently talked with Mayor Hoover and she was very complimentary of Dunn and the manner in which he had responded to her request.

In other business, Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer, reported on the meeting of the previous week with various members of the Corps of Engineers. The meeting was held at the Red River Waterway Commission camp grounds at Grand Ecore. Torrence advised the Corps of Engineers reported that the flow line for Red River would be completed in December of this year. During the meeting with the Corps Corkern inquired as to whether the agreement entered into three years previously between the Corps and the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District could now be resurrected since the flow line was due to be completed within the next couple of months. Corkern was advised by the Corps that program has been discontinued unless you had begun participation in the program which had been suspended due to the requirement that the Red River flow line be completed before any additional

work relative to accreditation of levees could proceed, and if the new flow line showed that the levees in your jurisdiction had a minimum 2' of freeboard then you could proceed with accreditation under the old program. We were told during the meeting with the Corps that the Natchitoches levees did not meet the minimum 2' of freeboard, and in fact, had a negative freeboard in one area.

Mr. Torrence advised the Board that he and Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer, had reviewed the maps in their office and believed that the Corps must be referring to an old levee dam down by the lower lock and dam that has not been in use for some period of time and had been replaced by a setback levee. Torrence and Lachney are going to contact the Corps to pinpoint the area or areas where the Corps does not believe we meet the minimum 2' of freeboard requirement. As a follow up to the report of Torrence, Corkern advised that he was told at the meeting with the Corps that Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District could pursue a new program called Risk Assessment. The Levee District must first request participation with the Corps in Risk Assessment. The cost associated with this endeavor is shared on a 50/50 basis between the Corps and the Levee District. The cost will range between \$250,000 and \$750,000. The Natchitoches Levee System and the Campti-Clarence Levee System are considered two different systems, and thus there would be two cost sharing assessments.

Corkern expressed his frustration, and said that he had been chasing every avenue of accreditation for the 14 years he had been associated with the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District. He suggested that the Board might want to contact Brad Sticker, retired DOTD Engineer, to see if he would be willing to work as a consultant for levee accreditation with NLDD on a part time basis. After further discussion, the Board asked Corkern and President Methvin to speak with Sticker to determine his willingness to assist and the cost associated with same.

Paul Trimble and Susan Douglas reported on the meeting they had with Corkern the previous week regarding the Capital Outlay projects we are working on. Douglas informed the Board that we had previously anticipated we may include in our Capital Outlay request an application for our share of the Risk Assessment costs for levee accreditation. However, Douglas learned that Capital Outlay is for building and purchase of equipment. There is no avenue for seeking funds for the cost associated with Risk Assessment.

Trimble advised that all of the work had been done, and he and Douglas would be getting together with Randy LaCaze this week to provide him the numbers needed to plug into the Capital Outlay requests.

Jordan Lemoine reported that his crew had finished spraying the ditch by St. Mary's, and are now going to spray the ditch in Natchez which had been reported by Mayor Hoover as being overgrown. Board Member Sklar inquired as to the cost associated with this additional spraying and Lemoine informed the Board they would not charge for this additional work.

President Methvin reviewed with the Board the proposal from Air Data Solutions for videoing our culverts. These culverts are due for inspection this next year. The proposal from Air Data Solutions was in the amount of \$15,710.00. Following public discussion, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Jones to approve the proposal from Air Data Solutions and authorize this entity to go forward with the videoing of the culverts. The Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern advised the Board that he had previously issued a public records request to the Red River Waterway Commission for all documentation identifying the flow line of the Red River between Shreveport and Alexandria. The Executive Director of the Red River Waterway Commission had contacted Corkern and advised that he was getting that material together. However, the request became moot following the meeting with the Corps, and thus Corkern advised the Red River Waterway Commission they did not have to respond to the public records request.

In other business, Corkern informed the Board that it needed to adopt Resolution No. 5 of 2022. The purpose of this Resolution is to rescind the provisions of Resolution No. 3 and adopt the provisions of Resolution No. 5 which combine the two Capital Outlay projects into one project. Following public discussion, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Smith to adopt Resolution No. 5 of 2022. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern then advised the Board that a request for proposal to build four new levee gates had gone out to several contractors, but only one bid had been received. That bid was from KNH Trucking and Contracting, LLC who was represented at the Board meeting by its President/Owner, Kyle Hudson. Following further discussion regarding the scope of the project, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Nash to accept the bid from KNH

Trucking and Contracting, LLC, and authorized President Methvin to execute the contract with KNH Trucking and Contracting, LLC for the sum of \$65,088.00. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern further informed the Board that the annual Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana meeting would be held in New Orleans November 29-December 1, 2022. It is necessary to make reservations and so each member needs to decide whether they would like to attend this meeting. President Methvin and Jolly Nash indicated they might attend. Corkern advised that his secretary would follow up with Methvin, Nash and Messenger during the next week to determine whether they wished for her to make reservations.

Corkern then informed the Board that it was time to change the monthly meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Jones to change the time for the monthly meetings to 6:00 p.m. Following public discussion, this Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved on the 8th day of November, 2022, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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