

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
December 10, 2013
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 in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on December 10, 2013, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Janet Jones, Secretary
Billy Giddens, Member
Doris Rogé, Member
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Absent were:

Rayburn Smith, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Foreman
Brad Sticker, DOTD
Allen Shephard, Edko, Inc.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order by the President, Karlton Methvin.

The minutes of the November, 2013 meeting were read and discussed. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr., and seconded by Mark Swafford, to approve the November, 2013 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The November, 2013 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. Mrs. Jones inquired as to why Karlton Methvin had received two travel checks for the annual meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana in New Orleans. Corkern advised that the larger of the two checks had been voided and

Mr. Methvin had only received the smaller check. The reason both Methvin and Corkern's travel checks were smaller than the travel check issued to Mrs. Rogé is because by law Mrs. Rogé is entitled to receive a per diem for each day of her attendance, but since Mr. Methvin receives a monthly salary as President, he is not entitled to receive the per diem. Since Mr. Corkern receives a retainer as attorney for the Levee Board, he likewise is not entitled to receive a per diem. In other discussion, Mark Swafford inquired about the \$2,800.00 check written to John Deere. Billy Dunn explained that this was for the drive shaft that had to be replaced. A Motion was thereafter made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Charles Brazzel, Jr. to approve the November, 2013 Financial Statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

Judge Rick Harrington then addressed the drainage situation in the area where he lives in the back of St. Clair Subdivision. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, explained the results of his inspection and advised that in periods of high rainfall over a short period of time the area is going to flood and there is little the Levee Board or the City can do. There is also a ditch that runs right behind Judge Harrington's house that belongs to the City of Natchitoches. This ditch runs into the Levee Board's drainage ditch. Mr. Sticker advised that over the years some sediment has built up in the bottom of the Levee Board's drainage and removing this sediment might improve the drainage to some degree. There was further discussion regarding the Board's ability to remove the sediment since only part of the drainage ditch is accessible. To remove the sediment we would need a long-arm backhoe which the Levee Board does not own, nor does the Police Jury. However, the Board expressed a willingness to rent the necessary equipment if we could work out a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of Natchitoches whereby the latter hauled the dirt after it was excavated. The Board requested Mr. Dunn, Mr. Corkern and Mr. Sticker to work with the City of Natchitoches to remove as much of the sediment as possible.

The maintenance superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that the flood gate at Marco had been hung and tied back. He also informed the Board that his team had cleared the L-10 channel from Hampton's place to Blanchard Road. They found about five beaver dams that were cleaned out, but the beavers have already started building them back. He further advised that across the river on Mr. Rayburn's old place the water is washing on the inlet side of our gate. They are going to excavate the area and fill with rock. He is going to see if

he can borrow an excavator in the area as opposed to bringing our excavator from Melrose.

Mr. Dunn also discussed with the Board the holes on the Levee near Freddie Lavespere's place. These are the holes that were filled by Regional Construction and grated about a year ago. However, traffic has caused the holes to reappear and now people are driving down the side of the levee to avoid the holes. The Board discussed placing a gate in this area, but there was some question as to who owned the levee. The Corps of Engineers has an easement with respect to the levee in this area. There was further discussion regarding the ownership of the levee and the belief that the property may actually be owned by Red River Waterway Commission. Corkern advised that he would contact Ken Guidry to determine if Red River Waterway owns the levee.

Mr. Dunn also inquired as to what the Board had decided to do with respect to the ditch through Nathan Albritton's property. The ditch needs to be cleaned, but Mr. Albritton does not want to allow us access to the ditch. Mr. Sklar agreed to contact Nathan Albritton and discuss the situation with him. The Board would love to simply give the ditch to Mr. Albritton and take it out of its inventory.

Mr. Dunn also advised that his group would be off December 20, 2013 through January 6, 2014. They will take annual leave during this period of time. Of course, he will monitor the weather and should they need to work because of flooding they will do so.

The DOTD report was given by Brad Sticker. Mr. Sticker advised that everything is on go for installation of the Larry Hampton flood gates in January. The flood gate, itself, is to be delivered in January and, weather permitting, the contractor will begin work shortly thereafter.

Mr. Sticker informed the Board that he would contact RABB and determine the cost of renting a long-reach trackhoe to clean the ditch behind St. Clair. RABB recently rented this size trackhoe for work they were conducting.

Mr. Sticker then discussed with the Board Senate Concurrent Resolution 39 of the 2013 regular Legislative Session. This Resolution calls for a comprehensive study and evaluation of Louisiana's Levee Districts and other Water Resource Boards. It is hoped that the purpose of this study is to consolidate those

Boards who have overlapping functions. Hopefully, whatever becomes of this study will not affect the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District since our Board deals not only with flood control levees, but with interior drainage for much of the Parish, including the City of Natchitoches.

Mr. Sticker also advised that he was afraid that the center pipe at Highway 495 in Cloutierville may be collapsing. This is the area where temporary work was conducted recently in hopes of providing a temporary fix until financing could be obtained for a permanent fix. He informed the Board that he would make a closer inspection of the pipe later this week and report to Methvin and Corkern.

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

Approved on the 14th day of January, 2014, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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