

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
February 13, 2018
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 February 13, 2018, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

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

Absent were:

Terry Sklar, Member
Casey Messenger

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jeremy Gilbert, EDKO
Ford Stenson, Edko, Inc.
Mike Basco, EDKO

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.

The minutes of the January, 2018 meeting were discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Smith, and seconded by Giddens, to approve the January, 2018 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The January, 2018 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Rogé

and seconded by Smith to approve the January, 2018 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that they had broken down beaver dams south of Hampton and at L4 and L4C. They grated the levees, fixed holes and put down rock. They found three new slides. Two of the slides are okay, but one needs a good bit of material. They may need Sticker look at this slide and get estimate for repairing.

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, reported that the State had surveyed the area of the slide along the levee below Rachal Canal and the preliminary comps were done. It will cost around \$300,000 to take the repairs to the parish road which is about 50' further out. To just take it to the existing point would cost about \$150,000. The road is still in the parish inventory. Methvin questioned whether the parish would help with the cost since it's a parish road. Methvin is going to contact Rick Nowlin.

Sticker also advised that he had received the CORPS samples but had not run analysis on cost of repairs, but at some point will need to address. The existing material will need to be removed and replaced.

Sticker further advised that quarterly inspections of the federal levees would be conducted March 12th and 13th.

In new business Methvin advised he, Corkern and Sticker had gone to Shreveport and met with the CORPS. They were informed that since our pipes had been videoed we will not be written up anymore during inspections. There are twelve pipes that still need to be videoed.

The adoption of the Chopin-Cloutierville floodgate operational procedure was discussed. A Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Swafford to table adoption until further review could be made. After public comments were offered and none received, the Motion passed unanimously.

The invoice and estimate of water loss from the Village of Clarence was discussed. Methvin asked Mr. Corkern's secretary to call Paul's Plumbing and confirm whether his invoice had been paid. It was agreed that if the plumbing bill had not been paid that the money for that bill should be sent directly to Paul's

Plumbing and pay to the Village of Clarence the amount of \$180.32 for water. If plumbing bill was paid by the Village of Clarence then the Board authorized the payment to the Village of Clarence in the total amount of \$993.62. A Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Swafford to authorize these payments. After public comments were offered and none received, the Motion passed unanimously.

Next there was a discussion regarding the professional services contract for spraying. Edko reported that they would be spraying thistles on both sides of the river. That will be done as soon as there are enough thistles to spray. They will be using 24D, which can be used through April 15th. They checked that date last year and learned that a waiver from Department of Ag would have to be acquired after that date, but the liability would be on Edko. They will also be spraying the Johnson grass, two applications to gravel, and the ditches. Edko realizes the Board may need to add some ditches. A Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Swafford to accept the estimate from Edko. After public comments were offered and none received, the Motion passed unanimously.

Methvin advised that Corkern has to be out of town on the date for the March meeting. Corkern asked that the meeting be changed for March. The date selected for the March meeting is Wednesday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. A Motion was made by Rogé and seconded by Jones to change the March meeting to Wednesday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. After public comments were offered and none received, the Motion passed unanimously.

Methvin further advised that the John Deere backhoe lease expires May 27, 2018 and the cost to purchase the backhoe would be \$64,156.45 which would include the remaining lease payments. Dunn advised that there was approximately 700 hours on the backhoe. The Board discussed that the better option may be to enter into a new lease for a new backhoe. Methvin was going to get with John Deere about new leasing options.

Gary Niette, an employee, has been diagnosed with liver cancer and will probably be out at least 6 months. Mr. Niette has not been employed for a year and so is still considered probationary. Corkern's secretary confirmed that the Board could keep Mr. Niette employed without pay after he exhausted all of his sick and annual leave. The Board has a job posting open for a Mobile Equipment Operator 1/Heavy now, but Dunn believes we may need to hire two new employees. Corkern will check with Civil

Service to see if the Board would be allowed to hire two new employees from the eligible applications received next month.

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

Approved on the 7th day of March, 2018, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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