

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
March 13, 2019  
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 March 13, 2019, 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  
Terry Sklar, Member  
Billy Giddens, Member  
Casey Messenger, Member

Absent were:

Rayburn Smith, Member  
Mark Swafford, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent  
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer  
Ford Stenson

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 discussion was held regarding the February, 2019 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Sklar, and seconded by Jones, to approve the February, 2019 minutes. This Motion passed unanimously.

The February, 2019 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Giddens and seconded by Sklar to approve the February, 2019 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew had removed the beaver dams out of several ditches where problems were occurring. They also cleaned the ditch at Melrose on Louis Wellans place. This allowed the water to drain from the adjoining land and resulted in getting the water off of the pecan trees. Dunn spoke with the farm manager and the two agreed that when the pecan crop was in, Dunn's crews would clean the ditch and spread the dirt across the adjoining pasture.

Dunn also advised that his crew had also cleaned L-7 ditch and had cleaned L-28 ditch from Hargis Road past Hall's Glass towards Cane River.

Dunn also advised the Board that he had contacted Gary Broadway about tracking beavers. He and Mr. Broadway were going to tour the areas where we were having problem and Dunn was requested to obtain a cost estimate from Mr. Broadway.

Dunn further advised that his crew had finished repairing the cow trails and removing the overhanging limbs and branches on the Natchitoches levee side. He also advised that they had grated the Oger Levee again, but this levee is used by the general public like a regular roadway, and consequently requires frequent maintenance.

Dunn also advised that they were having to change out the blades on the motor grader every seven hours. The cost of changing the blades is \$350 each period. Mr. Sklar suggested that Dunn check on using Tiger Teeth. This is more expensive, but will last a long time. Mr. Dunn agreed to look into this and report to the Board at the next meeting.

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, then advised the Board that the State would inspect the non-Federal levees on Wednesday and Thursday of the following week, weather permitting. He also advised that the Corps of Engineers was scheduled to conduct its annual inspection on April 17 and 18.

Sticker also advised the Board that he had finally received a response from the Corps regarding the two pipes that had failed video inspection. According to the Corps, these two pipes failed because there was a sag in them. The Corps reported that a liner would be an acceptable fix for this problem and Mr. Sticker will look into the cost of this fix.

Sticker then discussed with the Board the email received by Corkern from FEMA regarding accreditation of the levees in Natchitoches Parish. According to Mr. Sticker, although FEMA currently shows the Federal levees in Natchitoches Parish as being accredited, they are in the process of reviewing all levees, and it is his expectation that they will eventually determine these levees are not accredited inasmuch as we have never applied for accreditation and have submitted no paperwork to support accreditation.

Corkern informed the Board that we had previously requested the Corps to assist us in having our levees accredited and had agreed to pay the cost associated with this accreditation. However, the Board never received a cost estimate from the Corps because they advised they could not give us an estimate until all of our pipes were video inspected. Once the pipes were video inspected, we were then advised by the Corps they were no longer authorized to assist local levee boards in accreditation of the Federal levees, but Col. McCrery had requested that the Corps be allowed to assist the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District since we had requested this assistance when the program was still viable. However, Col. McCrery also advised that at the present time FEMA is showing our levees to be accredited and consequently we should do nothing.

A Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Jones to change the time of the monthly meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the farmers on the Board. Following public comments, the Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern informed the Board that adoption of the mileage rate would be on the agenda for the next Board meeting. This requires a two-thirds vote, and therefore is necessary that at least six Board members be present for this important vote.

Corkern also advised the Board that forms for the Personal Financial Disclosure Statements was in each Board Member's packet. Those forms should be completed and returned to Corkern's office for filing with the State.

Corkern also advised the Board that this is a new calendar year and consequently it is necessary that each individual undergo ethics training. This can be accomplished online or if anyone needs assistant they can go by Mr. Corkern's office and complete the training seminar on a computer in his office.

A discussion then followed regarding advertisement of the monthly meetings in the local newspapers. Historically, the notice of public meeting has been posted on the bulletin board outside of the Clerk's Office and published in both the *Natchitoches Times* and the *Alexandria Town Talk*. Recently, both newspapers have begun charging for this publication, whereas in the past it has been considered a public service notice and there was no charge for publishing same. The Board requested Corkern to review the applicable law, and unless it legally required to publish in one or more newspapers, that the notice be limited to placement on the bulletin board outside of the Clerk of Court's office.

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

Approved on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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