

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
March 11, 2008
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 11, 2008, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President
Janet Jones, Secretary
Doris Roge`, Member
Adolph Sklar, Jr., Member
Alfred Bruning, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

None

Also present were:

Ronald E. Corkern, Jr., Attorney/Assistant Secretary
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent
Allen Shepherd, SprayMax
Ryan Ingles, DOTD
Jerry Cruix, Natchitoches Parish Resident

The minutes from the February 12, 2008 meeting were reviewed. On Motion by Alfred Bruning, seconded by Doris Rogé, the Minutes were approved. The February, 2008 Financial Statement was then reviewed and discussed. On Motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr. and seconded by Janet Jones, the February, 2008 Financial Statement was approved.

Jerry Cruix, a resident of Natchitoches Parish, addressed the Board relative to concerns he had if an existing fence separating his property from the Levee was moved. The fence is currently approximately six (6') feet from the tow of th Levee. The Corps is requesting that all levees have a clear area of fifteen (15') feet from the tow of the Levee. Ryan Ingles, DOTD,

offered to meet with Mr. Cruix to inspect his property and determine what specific criticism the Corps had, if any, from the Corps Annual Inspection Report recently received. Mr. Ingles will report to the Board relative to his inspection at the next meeting.

A Motion was made by Mr. Sklar to supplement the Agenda to discuss changing the time of the Board meetings since daylight savings time was now in effect. The Motion to supplement the Agenda was seconded by Mr. Smith, and following the unanimous vote in favor, further discussion was held regarding the change in time. On Motion by Mr. Sklar, seconded by Mr. Smith, the Board voted to set the time for future meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.

The Maintenance report was then given by Robert Vercher. Mr. Vercher stated that Red River had risen almost six (6') feet in the last week, and his crew, along with Karlton Methvin, had closed a couple of flood gates to prevent water from backing into tributaries. His crew intends to do additional grading on the levees as soon as the weather permits.

Ryan Ingles with DOTD presented the draft of a response he had prepared to the Corps of Engineer Annual Inspection Report. He also stated that he had been in contact with individuals in Baton Rouge and it was believed that \$200,000.00 would be forthcoming in the very near future for work on the Marco Flood Gates, and that an additional \$800,000.00 would follow after July 1, 2008.

The Office Activity Report was given by Ronald Corkern, and he advised that he had received a draft of a lease from the Police Jury on the previous Friday. He received the draft too late to include it in the documents mailed to Board Members. Additionally, he advised the Board that he had received a call from Katherine Hamilton, Administrator of the Police Jury, advising that Mr. Townsend did not have authority to offer to pay \$2,000.00 for the Lease of Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District property for utilization as a trash compactor station. Mrs. Hamilton advised that when other governmental entities were involved, the Police Jury was not paying any monetary consideration.

The Board discussed its concern over liability issues if someone were hurt on the property to be leased by the Police Jury. Although the Lease Agreement includes a clause whereby the Police Jury would defend, indemnify and hold harmless NLDD from

any liability claims, there was a concern by Board Members whether as to whether the Police Jury had insurance for this coverage. On Motion by Mr. Sklar, seconded by Ms. Rogé, the Board voted the lease the property to the Police Jury for the annual sum of \$2,000.00, or in the alternative, to sell the property to the Police Jury for the appraised value. The consideration of \$2,000.00 would help offset the premium associated with the NLDD maintaining liability insurance on the property.

Under new business, the Board accepted the resignation of Mr. Ned Henry. Since Mr. Henry was also the Vice President of the Board, his resignation created a vacancy in that position. On Motion by Mr. Bruning, seconded by Mr. Smith, Doris Rogé was appointed Vice President by acclamation.

In other business, the Board reviewed the Permit request by Emory Jones to install an iron bridge across Bayou Poisson for cattle and all terrain vehicles to cross. Board Attorney Ronald Corkern was instructed to advise Mr. Jones that his Permit request had been approved subject to the conditions outlined in the letter from DOTD to the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District dated February 19, 2008.

In other new business, the Board reviewed the report provided by the National Weather Service setting forth tracking of the depth of Red River at various locations. Mr. Vercher indicated that he would continue to monitor the river and would reopen the gates that have been closed when appropriate.

In other business, the Board was reminded of the Annual Training Workshop conducted by the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana to be held May 1-2, 2008 in Baton Rouge. At present, Doris Rogé and Janet Jones will attend, and Karlton Methvin has indicated that he will attend if at all possible. Others were advised to notify Ronald Corkern by April 1, 2008 if they desire to attend the workshop so that he can make the appropriate reservations.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved on the 8th day of April, 2008, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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

