

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
April 8, 2008
7:30 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 April 8, 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
Alfred Bruning, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Gary Anderson, Member

Absent were:

Adolph Sklar, Member

Also present were:

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

The minutes from the March 11, 2008 meeting were reviewed. On Motion by Alfred Bruning, seconded by Janet Jones, the Minutes were approved. A Motion was then made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Janet Jones to supplement the agenda to add as an additional topic the possible change of time for the monthly meeting of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District. The Motion to amend the agenda was passed unanimously, and a Motion was then made by Rayburn Smith, seconded by Janet Jones to change the time of the monthly meeting to 7:00 p.m. This Motion was carried unanimously.

A Motion was made by Alfred Bruning and seconded by Rayburn Smith to supplement the agenda to discuss a professional service contract with SprayMax for the control of vegetation. The Motion

was carried unanimously. Mr. Allen Shepherd then presented a proposal to spray the levees for weed control at a total cost of \$76,000.00. Following further discussion the proposal was amended to reduce the number of spray applications for the levees to one and to add additional spraying for thistles and Johnson grass at the same total cost. On Motion by Doris Rogé, seconded by Janet Jones, the Board authorized its President, Karlton Methvin, to enter into a contract with SprayMax for spraying as set forth in the proposal dated April 8, 2008 and as modified by Allen Shepherd at the meeting.

The March, 2008 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. On Motion by Doris Rogé, seconded by Janet Jones, the March, 2008 Financial Statement was approved.

The Maintenance Report was then given by Robert Vercher. Mr. Vercher stated that according to the Corps of Engineers, that Red River was expected to crest on Wednesday at 30.4' and to start falling thereafter. Mr. Vercher further advised that somebody had damaged the flood gates at Shivery Dam. It appeared as though someone has tried to open the gates on two occasions resulting in damage to the gates. The property where the damage is located is either owned or leased by Roger Collin. The Board requested its attorney write a letter to Mr. Collin advising that someone had attempted to open the gates resulting in damage thereto and asking for his assistance in identifying the person or persons causing damage to public property. In further business Mr. Vercher advised that his crew intended to start mowing as soon as it was dry enough and he would coordinate with DOTD whenever they start moving the non-federal levees. Mr. Vercher further advised that he will hire a part time summer employee immediately and is looking for another part time employee to hire.

Ryan Ingles advised that he had met with Jerry Cruix and inspected his property. The fence in question is currently six (6') feet from the toe of the levee. To provide a clearance of sixteen (16') feet from the toe of the levee would encroach on the railroad right of way. Additionally, Mr. Cruix would be willing to move the fence, provided the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District paid the cost associated therewith. It was pointed out by Board members that if NLDD pays to move this fence, they would have to pay to move all fences. It was decided that no action would be taken to move the fence at the present time and further clarification would be sought from the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Ingles further stated that he met with Mike Wolff regarding the drainage ditch that runs through Mr. Wolff's property. Mr. Wolff would like for NLDD to reroute the ditch so that doesn't encumber his property. DOTD will further investigate the request made by Mr. Wolff to determine the feasibility of rerouting the ditch.

Mr. Ingles further advised that DOTD would help identify those encroachments between six (6') feet and fifteen (15') feet and provide to the Board of Commissioners the identity of the owners where such encroachments exist.

In new business, Gary Anderson was introduced and welcomed as a new Board member.

The Office Activity Report was given by Ronald Corkern. He reviewed his response to the 2007 Inspection Report by the Corps of Engineers and discussed the permit application by Tyler Murchison to establish a bridge across a drainage ditch that runs through his property. He also advised that he had talked with Katherine Hamilton, Administrator of the Police Jury advising that the Jury would really like for NLDD to donate the property for the trash compactor and suggested that a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement could be entered into whereby the Police Jury received use of the property for a trash compactor station and NLDD received the use of the Police Jury Room for its monthly meetings. Gary Anderson pointed out that he did not think the location was good for a trash compactor because it was on a major highway artery that provided access to Melrose Plantation and Little Eva Plantation. He felt as though the trash compactor should be on a side road as opposed to Highway 1. After further discussion by the Board and on Motion by Rayburn Smith, seconded by Gary Anderson, the Board voted unanimously not to allow the use of its property in Cloutierville for a trash compactor station.

Ronald Corkern further reviewed with the Board an email received from Senator Long regarding money for the Marco Flood Gates. \$200,000.00 is available immediately, but we are uncertain whether the additional \$800,000.00 will be received. Mr. Corkern further discussed with the Board the property valuation and millage rate notice received from the Tax Assessor. On Motion by Alfred Bruning, seconded by Doris Rogé, the Board voted unanimously to request Corkern to pursue the legal steps necessary to roll the millage rate forward in order to receive additional revenues to offset the new requirements mandated by FEMA and the Corps of Engineers.

Corkern also advised that letters had been sent to owners of all west bank property providing them with a right of way

agreement necessary for the Corps to obtain access to the levees on the west bank to add rock to the top of said levees.

The Board then discussed the adoption of a travel policy. On Motion by Rayburn Smith, seconded by Doris Rogé, the travel policy presented by Ronald Corkern was adopted.

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. Only Doris Rogé, Janet Jones, Karlton Methvin and Ronald Corkern plan to attend.

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

Approved on the 13th day of May, 2008, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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