

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
October 10, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

BE IT KNOWN that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District was called to order at Valley Farmer's Co-Op, 250 Rapides Drive, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on October 10, 2023, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Terry Sklar, Member
Casey Messenger Member
Jolley Nash, Member

Absent were:

Nolan Jones, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Jordan Lemoine, Edko, LLC
Ford Stinson, Edko, LLC
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer
Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 7:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

The September minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Smith to approve the September, 2023 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The August and September, 2023 financial statements were reviewed and discussed. A Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Nash to approve the August and September financial statements. The Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Dunn advised that his crew had finished cutting all of the State levees and had started cutting the Federal levees. They are getting all of the levees ready for the winter. The crew is also still working on cleaning L-20.

Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer, gave an update on DOTD projects within Natchitoches Parish. They have set a date in December for inspecting the State levees.

In other business, Corkern advised the Board that he and Susan Douglas traveled to Baton Rouge for a meeting with Senator Bernard and Mark Moses. Mr. Moses is the acting Commissioner of the Division of Administration. The purpose of the meeting was to request a Change Order relative to the lower Cane River project, which would allow us to apply the leftover funds in that project to restoring and raising the height of the Natchitoches levee near Hargis Road. Mr. Moses was receptive to our request and suggested we submit the appropriate change order to the project engineer on this project.

Paul Trimble advised that he had already started working on the change order and would have that ready to submit next week. Trimble believed the additional work would be less than \$100,000.00, which would mean we would not have to get approval from the Legislative Committee overseeing public contracts.

Corkern also advised the Board that he, Paul Trimble, and Susan Douglas had participated in a video conference with five employees of the Corps of Engineers, including Brian Jordan and Hunter Simerall. In the meeting with the Corps, Corkern was assured that if we were able to raise a section of the levee near Hargis Road six to eight inches over a stretch of 500 to 600 feet, the Natchitoches levee would meet the requirements for FEMA accreditation, and the Corps would recommend to FEMA that the Natchitoches levee be accredited. Assuming this happens, we will still be faced with a risk assessment ten years from now since our accreditation is only good for ten years. At the present time the cost of the risk assessment is averaging \$900,000.00, with that amount being shared on a 50/50 basis between the Levee District and the Corps of Engineers.

Corkern also advised the Board that in the meeting with the Corps they were informed that in addition to the above referenced work on the levee, we would have to submit to FEMA an operations manual, maintenance manual, and emergency action plan. Mr. Trimble provided a copy of the operations plan and

maintenance plan manual prepared by his firm on behalf of the 19th Levee District. Trimble informed the Board that the plan for the 19th Levee District cost approximately \$35,000.00, but he expected our cost to be less because of the amount of work done by DOTD in this area his group will be able to utilize.

Corkern also advised the Board that the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana annual meeting would be held in New Orleans on December 6 and 7. The deadline for registering is November 2, 2023. Corkern informed the Board that he would be unable to attend this year, and Methvin advised that he would also be unable to attend. No other Board member expressed a wish to attend the meeting this year.

A Motion was then made by Messenger and seconded by Nash to change the time of the monthly meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. beginning with the November meeting. Following public discussion, the Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously.

Approved on the 14th day of November, 2023, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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