

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
December 10, 2024
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 to order at Valley Farmer's Co-Op, 250 Rapides Drive, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on December 10, 2024, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Rayburn Smith, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Nolan Jones, Jr., Member
Casey Messenger, Member
Terry Sklar, Member
Travis Tyler, Member

Absent were:

Jolley Nash, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent
Jamarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer
Jordan Lemoine, Edko, LLC
Susan Douglas, Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 6:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

The November minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to approve the November, 2024 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The October, 2024 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Tyler to approve the October financial statement. The Motion passed unanimously. Corkern advised the

Board that the November, 2024 financial statement was not ready at the time of the Board meeting and would be presented at the January, 2025.

The November, 2024 ledger sheet was reviewed and discussed by the Board but required no action.

Susan Douglas with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixsen reported on the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana convention held in New Orleans a couple of weeks prior. She advised that there was a lot of discussion at the meeting regarding plans to move levee districts out from under DOTD. There was some talk of the Red River Waterway Commission being the umbrella under which everything would fall. Ms. Douglas further reported on the status on efforts to have the Natchitoches levees certified, and a discussion followed regarding efforts to keep the certification of the Natchitoches side of the levee front and center with respect to the Corps of Engineers.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Dunn advised that his crew had cleared out all of the culverts and gates that had accumulated during recent heavy rains. The crew is currently working on a few of the gates located on top of the levee to make sure that all of these gates are operational. Dunn advised that December 19 would be his crew's last day of work and they would return to work on January 6, 2025.

Jamarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer, updated the Commission on projects within Natchitoches Parish. He discussed with the Board a conversation he had had with SWEPCO regarding their desire to begin work in the area of the bridge on Highway 71. SWEPCO is building power lines in this area. SWEPCO's permit application has previously been approved by DOTD, but no approval has been received from the Corps of Engineers. SWEPCO is seeking permission from the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District to go ahead and begin work. After discussion, the Board requested their attorney, Ronald Corkern, to write a letter to SWEPCO advising that in the event they decide to proceed with work they do so at their own risk. In the unlikely event the Corps of Engineers should in any way alter or modify SWEPCO's permit application, then SWEPCO would be required to comply with such modifications.

A discussion then followed regarding the project near Marco to install new pipes. FEMA determined that it was necessary to put in new pipes and this made the project over budget.

Furthermore, FEMA advised that Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixsen was no properly employed for this project and the process of hiring engineers would have to start over.

Methvin advised that the Parish Administration was refusing to provide maintenance on the levee that ran through the wildlife preserve near Marco. It was believed that a contract existed between the Parish and the reserve for maintenance of the top of the levee but the Parish was refusing to provide this maintenance. Corkern was asked to contact former Parish President John Richmond and see if he had any knowledge of a contract between the Parish and the wildlife preserve for maintenance of the top of the levee.

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

Approved on the 14th day of January, 2025, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

KARLTON METHVIN, President