

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
December 8, 2015  
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 in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on December 8, 2015, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator  
Doris Rogé, Member  
Billy Giddens, Member  
Mark Swafford, Member  
Terry Sklar, Member  
Janet Jones, Secretary  
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Absent were:

Rayburn Smith, Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer  
Billy Dunn, Foreman  
Alan Shephard, Edko, Inc.

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.

The minutes of the November, 2015 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Terry Sklar and seconded by Billy Giddens, to approve the November, 2015 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The November, 2015 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Mrs. Jones pointed out that the check register did not reveal that the Board member check issued to her for the previous month had been voided. Mrs. Jones commented that she missed the October meeting and therefore she did not receive a check and the

one issued should be voided. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Terry Sklar to approve the November financial statements subject to the instructions to Mr. Corkern to be certain that the Board member check issued to Janet Jones was voided. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that they had cleaned the ditch that ran through the Rachal property and had stacked the debris on the side of the ditch. They were in the process of burning the debris with the intention of removing whatever remained, but were stopped by Mr. Rachal. The Board discussed whether or not the debris that was being burned was within the Levee Board's right of way or not. Mr. Dunn advised that most of it was within the right of way, but there may be some debris that extended beyond the right of way. The Board instructed Mr. Dunn to push all of the debris onto the right of way and burn it, and thereafter haul off the residue.

Mr. Dunn also advised that he had shown a welder the structures we needed to fix so that we can lift the flap gates and the welder was going to prepare a cost estimate to be presented to the Board.

Mr. Dunn also advised that his crew had closed all of the gates because of the Red River rising. We are currently at 30' at Grand Ecore. Mr. Brad Sticker advised that the river was forecasted to drop a half foot the following day, but then was expected to immediately rise back up to 30'.

A discussion followed regarding the gates at Chivary Dam. Mr. Dunn advised that they could not do anything with those gates at this time because of the high water.

Mr. Dunn also advised that they needed to clean the State levee at Powhatan, but cannot do it at this time. He indicated that we would have a lot of repairs to make to the levee in the spring near Clarence because of damage caused by the hogs.

Finally, Mr. Dunn advised that his crew would take off for the Christmas holidays beginning December 17, 2015.

Mr. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, reported that the Cane River Lake dam inspection was set for December 17. The dam appears to be in good shape.

Mr. Sticker also advised that he would like to meet with Karlton Methvin and Billy Dunn to look at the potential alignment of the proposed levee at Campti. This is the site where the levee sloughed off into the river during the flood back in the '80s. At present there is no levee and the Corps will give us an unsatisfactory rating until a new levee is built.

Mr. Sticker also advised that the repairs to the structure under Highway 495 at Cloutierville are still on hold because of the high water. Most of the work has been completed, but the contractor still needs to finish the earth fill. It may be spring before the water is low enough to finish this work.

In other business, Karlton Methvin reported on the annual meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana in New Orleans. Following his report, Mr. Corkern advised the Board that he had met with Willard Jones regarding the beaver dams located on his property. These dams have been cleared on two or three previous occasions, but the beavers build the dams back almost as soon as they are cleared. At present, Mr. Jones has a large area of land that is under water because of the beaver dams. Following further discussion, the Board instructed Billy Dunn to inspect Mr. Jones' property, as well as the Crooks property and determine the best course of action at this time. The beaver trapper has advised that he cannot set traps if the water is over the top of the beaver dams. He has to wait until the water is lower so that he can partially break the dam allowing the water to flow through, and this will bring the beavers back to the dam to make repairs. It does little good to break the dams and open the ditch if the beavers are not trapped first. However, it may be necessary to do that in order to give Mr. Jones temporary relief. Mr. Dunn was authorized to inspect the dams located on Mr. Jones' property, as well as above and below his property, and take appropriate action.

In other business, the Board discussed the status of the two mowers currently owned by the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District. One of the cutters is three years old and the other is five years old. Mr. Methvin advised that he checked with John Deere and determined that they would give us a credit for \$7,500 on the three-year old cutter and \$5,000 on the five-year old cutter if we decided to purchase two new cutters. The two new cutters purchased under State contract would cost \$15,888.56 per cutter, less \$12,500 for the trade-ins. The difference would total \$19,277.12. The new cutters would have a five-year warranty on the gear box. After public comment, a Motion was

made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Terry Sklar to purchase two new cutters from John Deere under the State contract at a total cost of \$19,277.12, which includes a trade-in value of \$12,500 for the two old cutters. This Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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