

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
February 9, 2011
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 February 9, 2011, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

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

Absent were:

Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Billy Giddens, Member

Also present were:

Gary Eldridge, DOTD
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent
Alan Sheppard, Edko, LLC

The minutes from the January 10, 2011 meeting were reviewed. On motion by Doris Rogé, seconded by Janet Jones, the January minutes were unanimously approved.

The January, 2011 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. and seconded by Doris Rogé to approve the January, 2011 Financial Statement.

Karlton Methvin reviewed with the Board the repairs that had been made to the trackhoe. The invoice for repairs already made were reviewed by the Board. Mr. Methvin pointed out the actual cost was approximately \$9,500.00, which was a little less than anticipated. He also reviewed with the Board the estimate from Head & Enquist for additional repairs to the trackhoe. The Board

agreed that these additional repairs were necessary and on motion by C. D. Brazzel, Jr., seconded by Mark Swafford, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the additional repairs by Head & Enquist.

Ronald Corkern discussed with the Board the current state of the budget. The Board reviewed a Statement of Activities - Budget prepared by Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham for the first seven months of the fiscal year. It appears our expenses will actually exceed our budget before the end of the fiscal year and if it exceeds by more than 5% we will need to amend the budget. The Board's CPA, Rebecca Metoyer, is following this and will advise if it is necessary to amend the budget.

Corkern also reviewed with the Board the 2010 annual channel inspection reports recently received from the Corps of Engineers. We received a "minimally acceptable" rating for the Campti-Clarence area as well as the Natchitoches Parish area. However, we received an "unacceptable" rating for the Cane River (Marco to Montrose) area. We are required to submit to the Corps of Engineers a plan for addressing the deficiencies with respect to the Cane River area within 90 days. The Board discussed the problem with performing any work in the channels since most lie within the wetlands and thus requires specific permit from the Corps of Engineer to do any work, most of which is prohibited. Gary Eldridge agreed to review the report from the Corps of Engineers and inspect the channels in the Cane River area and assist the Board in developing a plan to address the deficiencies.

Robert Vercher advised that his crew was checking all of the flood gates. He indicated with the bad whether we have had recently that is about all they have been able to do. He also noted that Pete Beaudoin had built a fence on the crown of the levee adjacent to his property in the southern end of the parish. The Board instructed its legal counsel, Ronald Corkern, to write a letter to Mr. Beaudoin advising him that the fence must be removed.

Gary Eldridge advised that he had not been able to inspect the drainage ditch adjacent to Mr. Ernst Morgan's property. He advised that the drainage ditch may actually be DOTD's responsibility. He indicated that he would inspect this ditch as quickly as possible and advise the Board as to whose responsibility it was.

Corkern advised that someone with DOTD had told Russell Stacey that he needed a letter from the Levee Board lawyer stating that it was permissible for him to build a fence across the channel on his property using the flap gate design previously provided by DOTD. Mr. Eldridge pointed out that Mr. Stacey would need to fill out a permit application and attach a copy of the design drawing to the application. Once that is approved he can then build the fence with the flap gate design.

In other business, Mr. Eldridge advised that he hoped to complete the design during the next two or three months for the gates at the lower Cane River Spillway. He thinks at the present time that he may just replace the gates with stainless steel gates.

Mr. Eldridge further advised that DOTD was close to finalizing plans for all gap closures. Once these plans are finalized, they will be submitted to the Corps of Engineers for approval.

In other business, the Board discussed the proposal for spraying received from Edko, LLC. The proposal was to spray the levees two times for the total sum of \$47,500.00. This price included all necessary materials, labor, equipment, qualified supervision, and insurance. The first spraying would be conducted in the next month and would be for the primary purpose of controlling thistles and also to prevent a significant amount of Johnson grass from germinating in the spring. A second spraying would be conducted during the summer for Johnson grass.

On motion by Doris Rogé, seconded by C. D. Brazzel, Jr., the Board voted unanimously to the spraying proposal from Edko, LLC.

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

Approved on the 8th day of March, 2011, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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