

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
February 10, 2016
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 10, 2016, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Janet Jones, Secretary
Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Billy Giddens, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Terry Sklar, Member

Absent were:

Doris Rogé, Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Billy Dunn, Foreman

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 January, 2016 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Terry Sklar, and seconded by Rayburn Smith, to approve the January, 2016 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The January, 2016 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Terry Sklar and seconded by Janet Jones to approve the January, 2016 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was then made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Mark Swafford to amend the agenda to discuss payment to Mark Serbanic for one-half of the invoice from Bynog's Tree Service for removal of trees lying within the District's servitude and threatening the home of Mr. Serbanic. Following public discussion, the Motion to amend the agenda was passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by the Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised they had cleaned the pipes under the Laird Fletcher Road and had also cleaned pipes in the City and piled the debris, but as of that day the City had not picked up the debris. Mr. Dunn had previously talked with the Director of Public Works, Michael Braxton, and Mr. Braxton had agreed for the City to pick up the debris after we had cleaned the ditches. The Board requested Corkern to contact Mr. Braxton and remind him there was debris on Ralph, Carolyn and East Fifth Streets that need to be picked up.

Mr. Dunn also advised the Board that they had opened all three of the Hampton flood gates last Wednesday.

Mr. Dunn further advised that his crew was in the process of moving trees and cleaning brush on the Campti-Clarence side of the river. All of this is in preparation for the inspection by the Corps of Engineers this summer.

Mr. Dunn further advised that they had graded the levee at the southern end of the parish. He informed the Board that we are getting real close to having to do some road work in that area. The levee in the area of Lock & Dam 3 is owned in fee title by the Red River Waterway Commission. Corkern was asked to check with Ken Guidry about placing a gate just beyond the entrance to the boat ramp so as to prevent traffic over the five mile stretch of levee.

Mr. Dunn also advised that the 2015 inspection report from the Corps of Engineers says that there is a tree encroaching on our servitude that is on property owned by Louis Wellan. The Board requested Mr. Corkern to write a letter to Mr. Wellan advising them that the tree is seven feet from the toe of the levee and will have to be removed. Brad Sticker advised that he would provide Corkern with a map showing the exact location of the tree. There was further discussion among Board members that the law changed in 2011 or 2012. Prior to that date, the servitude was six feet from the toe of the levee. The Legislature increased the servitude to fifteen feet and the Corps

is now inspecting fifteen feet from the toe of the levee and writing up any encroachments.

Mr. Dunn also advised the Board that the bank is eroding in the area of Saline Bayou. Before long it will be necessary for us to rock the levee to prevent further erosion. The Board requested Brad Sticker to prepare an estimate of costs for this project.

Mr. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, stated that he had reviewed the Corps' 2015 inspection report. The Corps requested a detailed plan for removing unwanted vegetation. However, a closer review of the report, itself, showed that there were only three locations identified where there was an encroachment of unwanted vegetation. One of the encroachments has already been removed, and the other two will be removed as soon as weather permits.

Mr. Sticker further advised that the water is down and the contractor will be back at work soon on the Cloutierville flood gates.

Mr. Sticker also advised that he had met with State inspectors regarding the four so-called State levees. The one on Hargis Road is going to be removed from the State inventory because it isn't a levee. The dam at the north end of Cane River is part of the Federal levee system, and the State will take it out of its inventory. After meeting with the State inspectors and visiting each of the four locations, it appears there will only be one dam that will be left in the State inventory. That is the dam located at the spillway system near Vic Jones' place.

A discussion then followed regarding video inspection of the pipes located within the District. Karlton Methvin reported that there were twenty Federal pipes and eleven State pipes. The State plans to purchase video equipment at a cost in excess of \$100,000. Several Levee Districts have been requested to contribute towards the cost to help speed up the purchasing process. In return, the State will inspect the pipes for the Levee District and will charge \$200 per pipe for upkeep of the equipment.

Terry Sklar asked who was going to clear the pipes before they were videoed. Brad Sticker advised this would have to be done by the District's employees since the State did not have the manpower for this. Sklar advised that clearing the pipes would

be more expensive than videoing them once they have been cleared. The biggest cost is in the cleaning and not in the videoing. Sklar requested the length of each pipe and advised that upon receiving that information he would obtain a cost estimate for hiring a private contractor to both clean and video the pipes. The District does not have the equipment or the manpower necessary to clean the pipes and consequently, it may not make sense to hire an outside contractor to clean the pipes and then pay the State to video them.

Mr. Sticker advised that he would provide Mr. Sklar with the length of our pipes so that he can obtain a cost estimate.

In other business, the Board discussed the need to purchase a new dirt bucket. The one we have been using is broken and cannot be repaired. Karlton Methvin presented a quote from Goldman Equipment, LLC for a six yard dirt pan with dolly wheels on the tongue in the amount of \$18,940. This is not a purchase made under State contract, and consequently, Corkern advised the dirt buggy would have to be bid. Karlton Methvin advised that he would check with Doggett Equipment to see if they sold dirt buggies, and if there was a possibility of purchasing one under State contract.

Billy Dunn advised that in the meantime, he needed permission to hire a dump truck to haul dirt where needed. The Board authorized Mr. Dunn to purchase dirt and have it hauled to the job site until we are able to replace the dirt buggy.

Discussion then followed regarding the invoice from Bynog's Tree Service which had been paid by Mark Serbanic. This invoice was for the removal of trees that were situated within the District's servitude and were in danger of falling on Mr. Serbanic's home. In a previous Board meeting the Board had indicated it would entertain payment of one-half of the cost of removal of these trees. The Board reviewed the invoice from Bynog's Tree Service and believe the total amount to be reasonable. Therefore, a Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Rayburn Smith to authorize the payment to Mark Serbanic of \$1,625, said sum representing one-half of the invoice submitted by Bynog's Tree Service for removal of the trees. Following public discussion, this Motion was approved unanimously. In further discussion, the Board agreed that in the future we should not make any payment for removal of trees unless an inspection is made by Billy Dunn and it is determined that the trees lie within our servitude and threaten a structure that is

not within our servitude. In other words, if individuals build structures within our service they do so at their own risk.

In other business, the Board approved hiring two additional employees since Dennis Antee will be retiring this summer. The Board requested Corkern to post with Civil Service two positions as Heavy Equipment Operators. This Motion was made by Terry Sklar and seconded by Mark Swafford. Following public discussion, the Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern then presented to the Board the engagement letter from Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham. Following public discussion, a Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Billy Giddens to authorize Corkern to execute the engagement letter.

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

Approved on the 8th day of March, 2016, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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