

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
March 10, 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 March 10, 2015, 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
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Billy Giddens, Member
Terry Sklar, 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 7:00 p.m by the Assistant Secretary, Ronald E. Corkern, Jr.

The minutes of the February, 2015 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Mark Swafford, to approve the February, 2015 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The February, 2015 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. and seconded by Rayburn Smith to approve the February, 2015 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

After public comment, a Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Janet Jones to supplement the agenda in the following respects:

1. Purchase of a Ford F-250 Truck; and
2. Discuss the possible purchase of a backhoe.

The Motion to supplement the agenda, as set forth above, was approved unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by the Maintenance Superintendent Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew had worked at Melrose a couple of days and was working their way back towards town. They also worked on the ditches in town and have cleaned all of the flood gates of debris that have been trapped due to the high water.

Mr. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, advised the Board that as of that morning, the Red River at Grand Ecore was predicted to crest at 29 feet this coming Saturday and would stay at that level for a couple of days. The action level for Red River is 32 feet and the level resulting in minor flooding is 33 feet.

Mr. Sticker also advised that the repairs to the structures at LA 495 are still on course. Bid letting is scheduled for April 8, 2015.

Mr. Sticker further informed the Board that he had completed his work on the L-20 drainage ditch. He now has a map showing the location of all of the pipes, size, etc. He met with Jolly Nash, and they are going to do the necessary work to open the old channel that goes around the dam they previously built and drains into Red River. Mr. Sticker reviewed the work they proposed to do and advised that it will serve the same purpose as lowering the height of the existing dam. With regards to the pipes at Lower Cane River, Sticker will not be able to thoroughly inspect them until the water goes down. The high water has apparently resulted in additional damage. At this point, Mr. Sticker does not have an answer to how to correct the problem, but expects to inspect the pipes and devise a repair plan before the next Board meeting.

In other business, Mr. Sticker advised that he had received a call from Rodney with the Corps of Engineers in Shreveport inquiring as to whether the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage

District would be interested in the Corps video inspecting our pipes in probably late summer. Following further discussion, the Board unanimously advised Mr. Sticker that he should contact the Corps of Engineers and express our desire for this assistance.

Mr. Karlton Methvin advised the Board that he had talked with Alan Sheppard regarding spraying that had been accomplished to date. Mr. Sheppard was out of state and was not able to attend the meeting. Methvin informed the Board that Mr. Sheppard's company had sprayed everything from Cloutierville to Marco and were working towards town.

Following public comments, a Motion was made by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. and seconded by Rayburn Smith to adopt Resolution No. 1 of 2015 setting the millage rate for 2015. Following discussion, the Resolution passed unanimously.

Corkern then advised that we had advertised for the position of Mobile Equipment Operator 1/Heavy. In response to the posting of this position, we received three applications. Following the review of the applications and public comment, a Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Rayburn Smith to hire Jerry Nugent beginning April 1, 2015, with a probationary period of one year. The Motion passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed the invoice from Cunningham Insurance Agency in the amount of \$# for the Louisiana Workers' Compensation premium. The Board noted that this year's premium was approximately \$800.00 less than last year's premium. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Charles Brazzel, Jr. to approve the purchase of Workers' Compensation as quoted by the Cunningham Insurance Agency. This Motion passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed the purchase of a Ford F-250. Billy Dunn advised that he had received quotes from Hixson Autoplex and Natchitoches Ford, Lincoln for the purchase of this truck under the State contract. The bid received from Hixson Autoplex was approximately \$3,000 less than the bid received from Natchitoches Ford, Lincoln. Following public comments and based upon the savings, a Motion was made by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. and seconded by Doris Rogé to purchase the Ford F-250 with the installed wench from Hixson Autoplex for the sum of \$#. The Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then following regarding the need for a backhoe and the cost of same. Billy Dunn had presented the Board with bids he had received from Doggett and Scott Equipment. An inquiry was made as to what the cost of a lease/purchase arrangement would be and Mr. Dunn advised that he had not looked into this. Following further discussion, the Board requested Mr. Dunn to ascertain the cost of a lease/purchase agreement and provide that information to the Board at its next meeting.

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 verbally voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 14th day of April, 2015, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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