

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
April 9, 2013
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 April 9, 2013, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

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

Absent were:

Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Foreman
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin. The minutes of the March, 2013 meeting were read and discussed. A Motion was made by Mark Swafford, and seconded by Rayburn Smith, to approve the March, 2013 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The March, 2013 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. A Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Rayburn Smith to approve the March, 2013 Financial Statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made to amend the Agenda to discuss the hiring of part time help for the summer. The Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Janet Jones. The Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew was currently cutting grass on the levee. They have currently cut grass up to Ken Hale's camp house. They are cutting from the top to the bottom of the levee. They are leaving nothing for hay.

Mr. Dunn also reported that a seal is beginning to leak on the mower that Andy is pulling. They will continue to watch this, but he believes he will be able to make it through the current cutting season.

Mr. Dunn advised that he had not completed spreading all of the dirt that they were working on at the last Board meeting, but had to choose between spreading dirt and cutting grass. Since the inspection by the Corps of Engineers is May 8 and 9, they decided to concentrate on cutting the grass. He also indicated this was another reason for the Board to approve hiring a part time employee. He indicated that if Mr. Robert Vercher was hired on a part time basis then Mr. Vercher would be able to cut grass and he would then have time to do dirt work.

Mr. Dunn finally advised that his crew would start working on Fridays and Saturdays since they only have four weeks until the inspection by the Corps of Engineers.

A Motion was then made by Janet Jones to hire Robert Vercher on an as-needed basis. Mr. Dunn will decide when Mr. Vercher is needed. This Motion was seconded by Doris Rogé and passed unanimously.

The DOTD Report was given by Brad Sticker. Mr. Sticker advised that he will receive the State's inspection report next week and will forward to Mr. Corkern and Mr. Methvin. He indicated that he had participated in the State's inspection and that our crew has done a lot of good work with respect to the things they could affect. There are still some things such as power pole encroachments and the missing segment of levee at Campti that we simply cannot do anything about.

Mr. Sticker also updated the Board on the drainage of East Natchitoches. Since the last meeting he met with Mayor Lee Posey, Karlton Methvin, Michael Braxton and others to inspect the ditches in East Natchitoches. It appeared as though the City employees were not certain which ditches were the responsibility of the Levee Board. The only ditch we have in East Natchitoches that is our responsibility is L19. An inspection of that ditch

indicated that it was in pretty good shape. Mr. Sticker explained that it was better to have grass in the ditch than bear dirt because the dirt was going to wash downstream and create a problem somewhere else. The L19 channel is pretty clear although it may need some additional spraying to control the grass and weeds. Nevertheless, once the water gets to our ditch, our ditch is sufficient to take it away from the City. The real problem appears to be with the Live Oak Subdivision in East Natchitoches. This subdivision has two undersized pipes draining the west side of the subdivision. That is something the Levee Board has no control over.

Mr. Sticker also advised that a pre-bid meeting would be held on April 17, 2013 for the Larry Hampton flood gates. Bids will actually be opened at the Board's Meeting in May.

Mr. Corkern explained that we had to postpone considering quotes for the Lower Cane River repairs. This was due to the fact that the plans and specifications called for parts to be supplied by Hydrograte and Hydrogate had refused to give a quote. During the last two days Mr. Sticker had talked with representatives of Hydrogate, including the local Hydrogate dealer in Baton Rouge. The dealer in Baton Rouge intervened and it appears as though they will now quote the parts that are needed. We will send a new notice to all of the interested contractors stating when quotes are due.

Finally, Mr. Sticker advised that the Cane River Waterway Commission had retained a consultant who had contacted him and stated the permitting process. The two of them were supposed to meet tomorrow. They will need a permit to go up and over the levee and will also need other permits as well. He also requested that Mr. Corkern send Billy Dunn a copy of all final permit approvals so that when Billy and his crew are working they will know what permits have been granted.

In other business, Rayburn Smith asked if the thistles on his side of the levee were going to be sprayed. Mr. Methvin advised that he was under the impression they had already been sprayed. Mr. Smith indicated that he had been on the levee a week or so earlier and the thistles were not dead and did not appear to be dying. Based on what he saw, he did not think they had been sprayed as of that date. He advised that he would ride the levee tomorrow and contact Karlton regarding his observations. If it appears the thistles are not dead or dying, Karlton will contact Allen Shephard. Karlton Methvin advised the

Board that the two John Deere Tractors should be delivered the middle part of May.

The Board then discussed grading the levee from Lock & Dam No. 3 north towards Cloutierville. Two quotes for this work were received and reviewed by the Board. The quote from Fairview was cheaper with respect to the grading but called for considerably more rock than did the quote from Regional Construction. Mr. Dunn advised that the individual he spoke with from Fairview indicated that they would not be able to get to the levee until later because of other work they were doing at the present time. The Board felt it was imperative that this work be done before the Corps' inspection on May 8 and 9 or otherwise this section of levee would not pass. A Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Rayburn Smith to contact Regional Construction to grade the levee and provide minimal rock necessary to pass inspection. After this inspection the Board will consider placing gates on the levee to prevent traffic from again tearing the levee up in this area. At that time the Board may also consider a more permanent fix to the levee surface. The 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 14th day of May, 2013, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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