

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

April 14, 2026

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 to order at Valley Farmer's Co-Op, 250 Rapides Drive, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on April 14, 2026, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Mark Swafford, Member
Terry Sklar, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Jolley Nash, Member
Travis Tyler, Member

Absent were:

Casey Messenger Member
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer
Luke Miller, Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson
Jordan Lemoine, Edko, LLC
Trey Simon, Alera Group
Paul Geraci, Alera Group
Randy LaCaze

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 7:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

A Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Nash to amend the agenda to rescind the Motion passed at the previous meeting changing the time for future meetings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Henceforth all meetings of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District will be at 6:00 p.m. Following public comment the Motion to amend the agenda passed unanimously.

The March, 2026 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Nash to approve the March, 2026 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The February and March, 2026 financial statements were reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Nash and seconded by Sklar to approve the financial statements. The Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern explained to the Board that Amendment No. 44 to House Bill 2 (the General Appropriations Bill) put \$865,000 in P1 and 2.16 million in P5 for the Powhatan/Campti/Clarence project. With the 25% local match, that gives NLDD \$1,081,250.00, plus \$168,750.00 (previously allocated) for construction and design of the Powhatan Levee work. This is roughly one-half of the amount needed to complete the project as currently designed.

Randy LaCaze addressed the Board with respect to the possibilities moving forward. In his opinion this was definitely a favorable development even though it was not enough money for the whole project. There are two options available. Bonds will have to be sold to fund the amount placed in P1 and when we seek permission to sell Bonds we could ask for the full amount of the project. It is possible that will be granted and, if so, we could actually bid the entire project. The other alternative is to revive the current plans and specifications to fit within the sum of money currently in P1 plus the Levee Board's 25% match. We could then begin construction and next year seek to have the balance of funds needed moved from P5 to P1. Luke Miller addressed the Board and suggested that the plans could be revised so that we would enter into a contract to do dirt work, placement of erosion control fabric and hydro-seed the area. This work could all be done within the money currently in P1. Next year we could seek to have money moved from P5 to P1 so as to complete the project. Of course, nothing happens until the Governor approves the final version of House Bill 2.

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent, advised that his crew had grated approximately 7 miles of the Oger Levee. The crew is currently working on the L-26 ditch cleaning it out. This ditch is located on Highway 491 before you get to the levee.

Jamarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer, discussed Trinity Baptist Church's request to put in a retaining wall on the north side of the drainage ditch that runs between the church's property and the City's park. The City of Natchitoches has expressed no opposition to this retaining wall. DOTD has no opposition to the retaining wall provided the wall is built according to DOTD's

specifications. DOTD is currently in the process of reviewing the area where the retaining wall will be placed and developing specifications. Sklar expressed concern over who would maintain the retaining wall. He suggested that the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District approve the building of this retaining wall provided it is built in accordance with specifications developed by DOTD and further provided the church expressly agrees to maintain the retaining wall. Sklar suggested that we should not write a letter approving the retaining wall until we have an opportunity to review the specifications developed by DOTD. This matter will be placed on next month's agenda for further discussion.

In other business, Karlton Methvin reported on his conversations with John Deere relative to the two tractors we are currently leasing. Our current lease expires on April 30, 2026. John Deere proposed a trade-in of the two tractors for which John Deere would allow \$76,000.00 for one tractor and \$75,000.00 for the second tractor. They would then lease to NLDD two used tractors for \$96,000.00 each. One of the tractors has 280 hours on it, and the other tractor has a little over 300 hours on it. An alternative to this proposal by John Deere would be for NLDD to keep the two tractors we have and purchase an extended warranty. Methvin advised that John Deere indicated that if we keep the two tractors we could purchase a three-year extended warranty for an additional charge of \$4,500.00 per tractor. A discussion followed regarding John Deere's proposal versus keeping the tractors we have and purchasing a three-year extended warranty. Following discussion and public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to keep the tractors we have and purchase the three-year extended warranty. The Motion passed unanimously.

Karlton Methvin reported on Natchitoches Day at the Capital which he attended. From all accounts, the event which was organized by the Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce, was quite successful.

A motion was then made by Sklar and seconded by Nash to change the time of the Board's monthly meeting to 6:00 p.m. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously.

Approved on the 12th day of May, 2026, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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