

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

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

Absent were:

Rayburn Smith, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Foreman
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order by the President, Karlton Methvin.

The minutes of the June, 2013 meeting were read and discussed. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr., and seconded by Mark Swafford, to approve the June, 2013 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The June, 2013 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. A Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Billy Giddens to approve the June, 2013 Financial Statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that they were again cutting grass on the Federal levees. They had previously been doing dirt work on the State levees, but they pulled off and went to work cutting grass because the grass was getting high. His crew still has some dirt work to do on the State levees, and they will get back on it as soon as they catch up with the grass cutting.

Mr. Dunn further advised that he had completed the inspection of the levees for the quarterly report that must be provided to the Corps of Engineers. He indicated that he would get together with Brad Sticker during the next few weeks to finalize the report and submit to the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Dunn also advised that the new tractors were doing a good job, but they seemed to be lighter than the older tractors and were not heavy enough to hold on the side of the levee. They were having difficulty with the front end of the tractor sliding on some areas of the levee where the slope was steep. This forces the operator to stay on the brakes in order to keep the tractors from sliding. The Board discussed options for remedying this situation, and Mr. Dunn advised that they had already filled the tires with water and ordered weights for the front of the tractors. He expressed hope that when the weights are added to the front of the tractors this will resolve the problem.

In other business, Mr. Dunn advised that he had contacted Mr. Lodridge of Lodridge Welding Company about repairs to the existing flood gate and the fabrication of a new gate for the lower Cane River flood gates as per the Board's instructions at the last meeting. He presented to the Board a written estimate from Lodridge Welding Company for the repair of one gate and the fabrication of a second gate in the total amount of \$8,062.62.

The DOTD report was given by Brad Sticker. Mr. Sticker advised that he would get with Billy Dunn during the next week and finalize the quarterly inspection report for the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Sticker also informed the Board of the pre-construction meeting for the Larry Hampton flood gates project which was held at Corkern's law office on July 8, 2013. Present at the pre-construction meeting were Mr. Tom Tubre, President of TKTMJ, Inc., Ronald Corkern, Brad Sticker, and additional representatives from DOTD. Since the meeting, Mr. Sticker has received notice from the manufacturer of the flood gate that they had been contacted by TKTMJ, Inc. relative to the fabrication of

the new gate. The manufacturer says that the estimated time for preparing drawings of the gate and fabricating same is approximately 120 days. The contractor believes that he can do the work in a week once all of the material is in place.

Mr. Sticker further reported on the work done on the dam at Cloutierville which had been washing and threatening the closure of the local highway. DOTD has performed significant work on site to repair the dam and hopefully buy us some more time to get funding necessary to make permanent repairs. The Board again discussed the need to have this project included in next year's capital outlay budget. Corkern was instructed to again speak with Senator Long about the necessary process we need to follow in order to ensure this project is included in next year's capital outlay budget.

Mr. Sticker also informed the Board that he would once again return to work on the Emergency Action Plan for Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District. Both the Federal and State Government require us to have an Emergency Action Plan in place which deals with the process for gate closures, etc. in the event of an emergency.

Finally, Mr. Sticker advised the Board that he would try and determine who he needed to speak with at Wildlife & Fisheries and would request that they apply for an After-the-Fact Permit with respect to the pipeline that crosses the levee at the old Russell Cook place.

In other business, Ronald Corkern advised the Board that he and Brad Sticker had again discussed the best means for making the necessary repairs to the lower Cane River flood gates. Corkern reminded the Board that we had previously requested quotes for that work and received only one quote from Progressive Construction Company, LLC, which quote as significantly higher than the amount estimated by the engineer. The main reason the quote was so high was because the manufacturer of the gate quoted an extremely high price for a new gate. The Board had previously discussed having a gate fabricated locally and the Levee Board doing the necessary work. However, it was determined that we would not be entitled to the remainder of the funding for this project from Facility & Planning. Corkern suggested that we negotiate with Progressive or another contractor to do the work, including having the gate fabricated locally. Because of the anticipated amount of the project, this is not a project that must be bid. Since we requested quotes once before and received only one quote, the Board agreed it would probably be useless to again request quotes or put the project out for bids.

Following further discussion, the Board requested Corkern and Mr. Sticker to follow up on speaking with local contractors to determine if there was a contractor who could do the work for the amount estimated by the engineer or at least something close to that amount.

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 13th day of August, 2013, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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