

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
July 12, 2016
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 12, 2016, 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
Billy Giddens, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member
Terry Sklar, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Foreman
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jeremy Gilbert, Edko, Inc.
Ford Stenson, Edko, Inc.

The minutes of the June, 2016 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Janet Jones and seconded by Rayburn Smith, to approve the June, 2016 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The June, 2016 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. President, Karlton Methvin, inquired as to why payments to the employees did not show up on the monthly financial statements. Assistant Secretary, Ronald Corkern, advised he would check and advise. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Janet Jones to approve the June, 2016 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

After public comment, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Billy Giddens to supplement the agenda to consider repairs to the pipe and flood gate at Chivary Dam. The to supplement the agenda was approved unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by the Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew had finished cutting all of the Federal levees. The levees were ready for the Corps inspection which was held Monday and Tuesday of this week. Mr. Dunn and Brad Sticker rode with the Corps and Mr. Dunn was of the belief that our levees looked good and were in good shape, except for the none deficiencies, such as our inability to video the pipes.

Mr. Dunn further advised that on down the road there is a crossing where the pipe has silted in. Dunn obtained permission from the landowner to clear out the pipe and did so. This has improved drainage and allowed the water that had backed up to the levee to drain.

Mr. Dunn also advised that they were able to remove the bladder at Chivary Dam, as well as the sandbags and cables. They also dammed both ends and pumped the water out so that Brad Sticker could inspect and make a determination as to what repairs could or should be made.

Mr. Dunn also advised that the Corps of Engineers wanted Mr. Ralph Ingram to submit a permit application for the ramps providing access to the levees on his property. Mr. Dunn also advised that the ramps, as currently constructed, are too steep and his crew will be unable to mow the ramps. Mr. Methvin advised the Board that Mr. Ingram was currently out of town, but when he returned he would visit with him about the slope of the ramps and advise him that the slope would have to be modified in order that we can cut them.

The DOTD report was given by Mr. Brad Sticker. He advised that he had accompanied the Corps of Engineers during the inspection of the Federal levees and everything looked good except for the pipes. Once again, the Corps will note that the pipes are unacceptable because they have not been videoed. Mr. Sticker also advised that DOTD's plan to purchase video equipment had been put on hold in view of the budget cuts that have been made to all departments, including DOTD. Consequently, we will have to make other arrangements for video inspections in the near future. Sticker also advised that the encroachments on

our right of way which were shown on last year's inspection report by the Corps had been removed.

Sticker also advised that he had inspected the Chivary Dam that day. Based on his inspection, it appears as though the pipe has been lined in the past. He does not believe that the lining, itself, is leaking, but the pipe is in very bad condition. He also inspected the gate cover and determined that it is in very bad shape. We will not be able to use the old gate cover. He is going to continue his inspection for the purpose of determining if we can purchase or have manufactured a gate cover that can be held in place and provide both a quick and reliable fix for the short term.

A Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Rayburn Smith for Corkern to determine at what point public bid laws would require the repairs to Chivary Dam must be submitted for bids and if the estimated cost of repairs, as determined by Mr. Sticker is less than the amount required to be bid publically, then President Karlton Methvin would be authorized to contract immediately for the purchase of material and labor to make the necessary repairs to Chivary Dam as discussed. Following public discussion, this Motion was passed unanimously.

In further business, Brad Sticker advised that the contractor had installed two of the gates at Cloutierville and should finally wind up that job by the fall.

Finally, Mr. Sticker advised that when the ground dries a little more he will look again at the Miller pipe on Hargis Road to see if he can make a determination as to why it is leaking. He will report to the Board at the next meeting.

President Karlton Methvin advised that he had looked at some of the areas recently sprayed by Edko and discussed with both Ford Stenson and Jeremy Gilbert that some of the areas may need a second application. Mr. Stenson advised that they would ride the levees next week with Billy Dunn and touch up any areas where additional spraying was needed. Mr. Stenson further advised that he had walked the Whitfield ditch and needed further direction as to exactly what his company should consider in making a proposal.

Ronald Corkern then discussed with the Board the request by John and Rebecca Ackel to remove a tree located on rental property owned by them and situated on Whitfield Drive. Corkern advised that the tree in question was located on the District's

right of way and an inspection by Karlton Methvin determined that if the tree did fall it would fall on the home owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ackel. Although the tree looks healthy at the present time, it was noted that Mr. Bynog of Bynog's tree service had informed the Ackels that the roots of the tree were done. Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith, and seconded by Doris Rogé to agree to pay one-half of the estimate from Bynog Tree Service, in other words \$750.00, for removal of the tree on the Ackel property and to establish the following policy with respect to the removal of trees within the District's right of way:

Upon receipt of a request from a property owner to remove any tree or part thereof located within the District's right of way, the District will first inspect the tree in question and only if it is determined that should the tree or any part thereof fall it would cause damage to a permanent structure, then the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District would require the property owner to obtain three estimates for the removal of said tree or any part thereof and upon receipt of three estimates, the District would consider paying one-half of the lowest submitted estimate.

After public comments, 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 verbally voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 9th day of August, 2016, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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