

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

August 2, 2022

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 to order at Valley Farmer's Co-Op, 250 Rapides Drive, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on August 2, 2022, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Mary Jones, Secretary
Rayburn Smith, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Terry Sklar, Member
Casey Messenger Member
Jolley Nash, Member
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member

Absent were:

None

Also present were:

Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer
Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson
Jordan Lemoine, Edko, LLC

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 President, Karlton Methvin.

A Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Smith to amend the agenda to add the following items for discussion: (1) Motion to combine the two phases of FP&C Project No. 36-L-26-20-01 which is the Ross Lake-Flat Bayou Project and the levee service restoration project into one project and bid the two phases at one time; (2) Motion to approve a low water crossing at Copy Cat Bayou to the adjacent landowner, Kathy Anderson, while the

bridges on Highway 485 are being replaced; (3) Motion to obtain additional bids for removal of tree from the Warren Massia property; and (4) Motion to accept proposal from Edko, LLC to spray two applications on L-2B1. Following public discussion relative to the Motion to amend the agenda, a vote was held thereon and the Motion passed unanimously.

The July, 2022 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Nolan Jones to approve the July, 2022 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The July, 2022 financial statement was not ready for review at the time of the meeting since the meeting was a week early. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Karlton Methvin advised that Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent, was on vacation, and thus Methvin gave the Superintendent's progress report. Methvin advised that the crew was continuing to bushhog and clear the drainage ditches.

Methvin further advised that he had received a request through Board Member Jolley Nash from property owner Kathy Anderson to allow for a low water crossing in the drainage ditch near their property on Highway 485 so as to allow access while the bridges on Highway 485 are being replaced. Nash further informed the Board that the Andersons owned land and an RV Park near where one of the bridges will be replaced. It will take several months to replace the bridge and they will not have access to their property without detouring a significant distance. They propose to put an open box type culvert in the ditch to allow for a low water crossing at their expense, or the expense of the contractor who is working on replacement of the bridges.

Methvin had requested Jonathan Lachney and Jarmarquis Torrence to inspect the area and advise as to whether this would be an issue. Mr. Lachney informed the Board that he and Jarmarquis had looked at the area and did not believe it would be a problem. The low water crossing will be temporary and will be removed as soon as the bridge in that vicinity is replaced. Lachney did recommend that the Andersons be advised to obtain a permit or after-the-fact permit from the Corps of Engineers for this low water crossing. After further discussion, Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Swafford to express to the Andersons that the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District had no opposition to the installation of a temporary lower water

crossing at Copy Cat Bayou, and to advise the Andersons that they should seek a permit or after-the-fact permit from the Corps of Engineers. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

Paul Trimble advised that he and Susan Douglas had been discussing with the Louisiana Department of Administration the Project No. 36-L-26-20-01 which has been divided into two phases. Trimble advised that he and Susan had been informed that the two phases can probably be combined and let as one project. This may result in a benefit to the Levee Board, inasmuch as it is likely to generate more interest from potential contractors and hopefully more competitive bidding. It is expected that we will be able to let this project in approximately two months. Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Messenger to combine the two phases of Project No. 36-L-26-20-01 and bid the two phases as one project. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

Susan Douglas then provided handouts to the Board that she had obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. One handout dealt with the Transition Guidance for Levee System Evaluations for the National Flood Insurance Program, and the other handout dealt with the Corps guide to Levee Safety Programs. Ms. Douglas further informed the Board that it appears all levees, even those who have previously been certified, will have to be re-certified under exiting guidelines. At present there are concerns that the Caddo Levees, previously certified by FEMA may have to raise the height of some of their levees in order to be re-certified. It appears to be an evolving process that no can predict the future of.

In other business, Corkern reviewed with the Board the proposal received from Courtesy Automotive Group to purchase a truck under the State contract for the total sum of \$50,714.50. The truck is available for purchase and pick up immediately. After further discussion, a Motion was made by Messenger and seconded by Sklar to accept the quote from Courtesy Automotive Group, and authorized Corkern to purchase a truck pursuant to the State contract for the total sum of \$50,714.50. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern then advised the Board that he had met with Warren Massia and his son, Mark Massia, regarding the large tree limb that had fallen from our drainage ditch over the fence and into the back yard of Warren Massia's property. Corkern advised that he advised Mr. Massia that under the current state of the law

(Locia v. Parr) the NLDD would not owe for any damage caused to his fence or yard because the tree was not defective, but the limb fell because of high winds related to a thunderstorm. Massia advised Corkern that he was not looking for repairs to his fence or any damage to his property, but was only asking if the Levee Board would either remove or pay for the removal of the limb from his yard. Methvin stated that he did not think we should use our employees to remove the limb because of liability issues and requested Corkern to obtain a quote from Walker Tree Service to remove the limb. Corkern advised that he had talked with Wayne Walker who had inspected the property and advised that in addition to the limb in question, there was a Sycamore tree in the ditch that was leaning and he would remove both trees for \$1,900.00.

Sklar expressed concern over setting a precedent and noted that property owners had built fences within our right of way, and if we are going to pay for the removal of limbs from their property than we should first require the property owner making such request to remove any fencing that encroached upon our right of way so that we would have access to clean our ditches. After further discussion, a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Mary Jones to direct Corkern to obtain additional quotes for the removal of only the tree limb that has fallen onto the Massia property and if anyone who is insured was able to do the work for \$1,000.00 or less, then Corkern was authorized to approve the removal of the limb and to pay the associated invoice. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

In other business, Corkern advised that he had received an email from Caity Wilson inquiring as to when the tall grass on the sides of the levee at Miller Farm Road would be mowed. Corkern was told to inform Ms. Wilson that the levee would be mowed within the next two weeks.

Corkern also advised the Board that he had talked with Barry Bernard and with Trooper Ronnie Dowden regarding the ditch that runs behind the Natchitoches Wood Preserving Plant, and had obtained their permission to spray the ditch. Jordan Lemoine informed the Board that his crew had gained access to the ditch from a different venue and had already sprayed same.

In other business, Jordan Lemoine provided the Board with a proposal from Edko, LLC to spray two applications on L-2B1 for the price of \$1,928.69. After further discussion, a Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Messenger to accept the

proposal from Edko, LLC and approve the spraying of L-2B1. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved on the 13th day of September, 2022, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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