

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
March 12, 2013
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 in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on March 12, 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
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Foreman
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin. The minutes of the February, 2013 meeting were read and discussed. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr., and seconded by Mark Swafford, to approve the February, 2013 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The February, 2013 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr. and seconded by Billy Giddens to approve the February, 2013 Financial Statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made to amend the Agenda to discuss the purchase of two tractors and a bushhog. The Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Adolph Sklar, Jr. The Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew was presently repairing cow washes and bull rubs on the end of the levee near Jerry Crooks place. He advised that they were filling in the areas where the dirt had washed with clay. The clay is a little wet and it is hard to deal with, but he felt this would provide a better base. After the dirt is spread they are planting Bermuda grass.

Mr. Dunn further advised that his crew will begin spraying the flood gates. He has consulted with Allen Shephard about chemicals that will kill the vegetation, but not kill the grass and everything else. The chemicals they have used in the past has killed everything and left the dirt bear so that it washes whenever there is a rain. Mr. Sheppard has advised of a chemical that will fulfill their objectives, but will also cost a little more than what they have been using. The Board felt it was cheaper to pay a little more for the chemical than to haul dirt to fill in the areas that have washed. Mr. Dunn was instructed to obtain a quote for the new chemical from both Valley Farmers Co-Op and from Edco, Inc. and was given permission to purchase from whichever entity offered the lower price.

Mr. Dunn further advised the Board that the top of the levee on the south end below Bob Dalme's place needs to be graded. Since we do not have a grader, he contacted Regional Construction for an estimate on the work needed. He received a bid from Regional Construction for \$3,600.00. This bid is only for the grading of the levee. We will also need to add some rock in a few places and this will be separate.

Mr. Dunn advised that Tony Leone had a ditch crossing on his place where the pipe in the ditch had caved in and needed to be replaced. Karlton Methvin then advised the Board that he had received from Mr. Leone a bid from Don Collins to do the work. The bid called for removing the old pipe, replacing the old pipe with a new pipe, and several loads of dirt. The total estimate was \$1,722.00. Mr. Methvin further advised that it was his understanding that the work had already been completed and that Mr. Leone was seeking reimbursement from the Board. There was general discussion among the Board members regarding the propriety of paying for a crossing. The general consensus of the Board was that we do not need to cross the ditch, but only needed for the ditch to drain water. Consequently, in the past the cost associated with any crossing has been borne by the landowner. As a courtesy, we have in the past placed a culvert in a ditch and covered it, but only when the landowner purchased the culvert.

The Board agreed that if it paid for this crossing it would establish a precedent and therefor have to pay for other crossings. The Board agreed unanimously that the request for reimbursement by Mr. Leone should be denied.

Brad Sticker then gave the DOTD report. He advised that on Friday we will be meeting with contractors regarding the repairs to the lower Cane River flood gates. Billy Dunn is normally off work on Friday, but advised that he would be present for the meeting and the site inspection.

In other business, Mr. Sticker advised that he had provided to Ronald Corkern the revised cost estimates for Phases II and III of work originally estimated by DOTD in 2009. Phase II is now the flood gate replacement at Cloutierville. When DOTD prioritized this projects in 2009, the repairs to the Cloutierville flood gates was given a Number 3 ranking in terms of priority. However, because of the washing that has occurred around the flap gates, the road in Cloutierville is in danger of caving in. Consequently, this project has now moved to second in terms of priority. The Number 1 project in terms of priority was the lower Cane River flood gates which were replaced in 2011.

DOTD prepared a new estimate on the Phase II and Phase III repairs. The Cloutierville flood gates estimate is only approximately \$56,000.00 more than the original estimate in 2009. Ronald Corkern advised that he had provided the documentation received from Mr. Sticker to Senator Gerald Long. A request has been made that Senator Long assist in locating funds to make these repairs. It is likely that the project will have to be included in the capital outlay project in order for there to be funds to make the repairs within the next year.

Mr. Sticker also advised that he had met with Mr. Wagley regarding his proposed fence at Powhatan. Mr. Wagley has decided that they are going to build the fence just like it was originally permitted.

Mr. Sticker advised that he had received an email from Atmos Energy regarding the slope of the levee where they are going to put a pipe over the levee. It appears the proposal of Atmos Energy is acceptable.

Finally, Mr. Sticker advised that DOTD will be conducting a levee inspection on March 19 and 20. The Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District will be able to use the results of this

inspection as our quarterly report to the Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers has advised that their annual inspection will be conducted on May 8 and 9.

Ronald Corkern advised that he had requested an Attorney's General Opinion as to whether the bids for the Larry Hampton flood gate project would have to be bid electronically. The Assistant Attorney General advised that it was his opinion we would need to offer the bids electronically. Corkern further advised that there are several private entities that will assist but it is a detailed process that still requires significant input from someone local. Mr. Corkern advised that Mr. Edd Lee is the Purchasing Agent for the City of Natchitoches and has been to several seminars regarding the electronic bidding process. The Board approved hiring Mr. Lee as a consultant to assist in the bid process for the Larry Hampton flood gates at a cost not to exceed \$250.00.

Mr. Sticker advised that he would have to revise the plans and specifications to reflect that electronic bidding would be acceptable.

Karlton Methvin presented the Board with a cost estimate from the local John Deere dealership for the purchase of two tractors and a bushhog. The items would be purchased pursuant to the State Contract. A Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Rayburn Smith to purchase the two cab tractors and bushhog as per the attached proposal from Goldman Equipment, LLC. The Motion passed unanimously.

In other business, Mr. Corkern advised the Board that it was necessary to adopt an Equal Employment Opportunity Policy. A policy was read to the Board and a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Janet Jones to adopt the policy as per the attached. The Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Doris Rogé reported on the Red River Valley Association Annual Meeting held in Shreveport on February 20-22. She advised that Representative Fleming and Senator Vitter spoke at the meeting. They gave an update on the status of levee inspections and the intent of the Corps to revise the original manner in which it would deal with levee accreditation. However, accreditation is still going to be required and there appears to be no money coming from the Federal Government to assist with this.

Finally, Janet Jones made a Motion to change the monthly meeting time to 7:00 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Adolph Sklar, Jr. 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 8th day of April, 2013, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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