

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
March 10, 2020  
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 in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on March 10, 2020, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator  
Rayburn Smith, Member  
Mark Swafford, Member  
Terry Sklar, Member  
Casey Messenger, Member

Absent were:

Janet Jones, Secretary

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent  
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer  
Jeremy Gilbert, EDKO  
Ford Stinson, EDKO  
Mike Basco, EDKO  
Paul Trimble, Engineer, Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 6:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent, advised the Board that with the wet weather we have had recently it has been difficult for them to make levee repairs. However, they are repairing the cow trails where they can and continuing to check the gates to make sure all are operable.

President Methvin recognized Paul Trimble, Engineer with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson. Mr. Trimble advised that they

had received a second round of questions from GOHSEP with respect to the Lower Cane, Bayou Rachel, and Red Bayou projects and were preparing responses. He advised that they had received a letter from Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries saying that the project did not adversely impact them. He is trying to obtain a similar letter from U. S. Wildlife and Fisheries. He also advised that someone had placed a piece of plywood in the Levee Board structure that was causing water to back up. The piece of plywood needs to be removed so that our contractor can dewater the area and slip line the pipes. Corkern was asked to write a letter to Dr. Shelton in Winnfield advising of the problem caused by this piece of plywood and asking him to inform anyone with an interest in this area not to in any way alter the existing structure, and further advising that any changes would require a permit from the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Trimble also presented his firm's invoice for work performed on the Lower Cane River project. A Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Rayburn Smith to approve the invoice and authorize payment of same. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, advised the Board that overall our levees were in good shape. There are ruts in various places that need to be repaired, but as soon as Billy's people make repairs the cows rut them up again. He further informed the Board that there was a need to again schedule an inspection of the Powhatan area and to again look at a setback levee.

A discussion also followed regarding the area on Lower Cane River near Marco where the road had completely caved in and a setback levee was needed. There is an area where the setback levee would end that is also very close to the existing highway and a discussion was had regarding purchasing rift raft from Skyplex (Brian Jones). Methvin advised that he would contact Jones and see what he wanted for the concrete that he had stored on his property.

Sticker also informed the Board that the Corps of Engineers is not going to move forward with certification of any levees below Shreveport until they complete a new flow line from Shreveport, south. No time frame has been set in which this will be done.

Sticker also discussed with the Board repair versus replacement of the gates at Hampton Road. Billy Dunn has talked

with a local welder but has not received a quote. Following further discussion regarding repair of the gates versus replacement of the gates and following public comment, a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Swafford to allow a local welder to look at the gates and give a quote for the repairs. The Motion passed unanimously.

In other business, President Methvin advised the Board that the lease on our John Deere excavator ends on May 31, 2020. A discussion was held regarding leasing a new excavator or purchasing the excavator we now have once the lease expires. The majority of the Board was in favor of leasing a new excavator and Dunn was asked to get a quote from John Deere and Komatsu. Sklar suggested that we also get a quote from Volvo noting that Volvo provides excellent service for their equipment. The Board agreed that we should obtain quotes from John Deere, Komatsu and Volvo.

In other business, representatives from Edko presented their proposal for spraying. The pricing was the same as last year with some additional spraying. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to accept the proposal presented by Edko. This Motion passed unanimously.

President Methvin advised the Board that two of our tractors are two years old and out of warranty. A discussion followed regarding the purchase of new tractors. Methvin advised that new tractors would cost \$77,500 each, but that we had received an offer from Goldman to give us \$55,000 for a trade-in of the two tractors we currently have. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Smith to purchase two new tractors. This Motion passed unanimously.

In other business, Corkern reminded the Board of the letter received earlier from Ralph Ingram requesting the Board to write a letter to the City and Parish Government advising that the East Natchitoches drainage ditch was at capacity. Corkern informed the Board that the City of Natchitoches had adopted an Ordinance addressing this situation and in essence prohibiting a developer from any construction that would increase the discharge of water into the drainage ditch at a faster rate than an existed prior to the development. Corkern advised that he had written a letter to Mr. Ingram and provided him with a copy of the Ordinance.

In other business, Corkern advised the Board that at a previous meeting the members present instructed Billy Dunn to sell the 2011 truck at auction since it was now surplus property, having purchased a new truck. Corkern advised that we needed a Motion to authorize or ratify the sale of the 2011 truck.

Following public discussion a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to ratify the sale of the 2011 truck at auction. This Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern also asked the Board to ratify payment of the ALBL annual dues, which Corkern had previously paid in the amount of \$1,200. Following public discussion a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to ratify the payment of ALBL annual dues. This Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern also advised the Board that Senator Bernard had written a letter of recommendation to the Governor relative to the appointment of Mary Jones, Jolley Nash and Nolan Jones to the Board of Directors for the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District. It is uncertain when those appointments will be made by the Governor, and until such time as those individuals are appointed by the Governor, their input will be welcomed at Board meetings, but they will not be able to cast a vote or counts towards a quorum, and the NLDD will not be able to reimburse them for their mileage or make payment for attending the monthly meetings.

Corkern also advised that with the decision of Mrs. Janet Jones not to seek reappointment, it would be necessary for the Board to select a new Secretary-Treasurer. A discussion was held among Board Members and it was decided that this position should be left vacant until the three new applicants are appointed by the Governor.

Corkern also advised the Board that the 35<sup>th</sup> ALBL annual workshop would be held in Baton Rouge on May 7-8, 2020, and that anyone wishing to attend this workshop would need to let him know by no later than the April meeting.

Corkern also reminded the Board that the Annual Financial Disclosure Statement was due by May 15, 2020, and that each member would again have to complete the ethics online training for the calendar year 2020.

A Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Smith to change the meeting time for the monthly meetings of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District to 7:00 p.m. Following public discussion this Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020, at Natchitoches,  
Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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