

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

**April 11, 2023**

**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 April 11, 2023, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

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

Absent were:

Terry Sklar, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent  
Jordan Lemoine, Edko, LLC  
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer  
Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer  
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 7:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

The March minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Messenger to approve the March, 2023 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The March, 2023 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Jones and seconded by Swafford to approve the March, 2023 financial statement. The Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew had finished spraying all of the structures for vegetation. They had also finished clearing the L4 ditch in Clarence, and were currently working on the crown of the levees. He advised that Edko, LLC had finished spraying for thistle and it looked good.

The DOTD report was given by Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer. He explained that the contractor who had applied for a permit to put in a crossing at the pump station was anxious to receive the permit in order to continue their work. Mr. Torrence was able to get the Corps of Engineers to send an email saying that they would give a letter of approval, but it may take a while to get that out. Based on that information, the contractor had been advised he can proceed.

Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer, advised that she had been in contact with the Corps, and they are trying to decide whether they can certify the levee on the Natchitoches side under the old method, or whether they have to apply the new risk assessment method. She has sent information to the Corps and is waiting for a response.

Ms. Douglas also advised that she is working with DOTD to submit in the DOTD request for capital outlay next year, our request for the two setback levees. If we are able to get this approved through the DOTD capital outlay request then the money will not be subject to a 25% contribution by Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District. She is also asking DOTD to put in the capital outlay request money to raise the height of the levee where needed. There is about one mile of levee in one area and two miles in another area where it will need to be raised.

Ms. Douglas further discussed with the Commissioners the USACE/FEMA Joint National Levee Safety Program. This program is moving forward at a rapid pace and we will be seeing this in Louisiana even though we already have levee programs in place.

Paul Trimble advised that he is working with Progressive on the levee surfacing. The work is progressing and looks good.

In other business, Karlton Methvin, President, reminded the Board that a vote on rolling the millage forward would be on next month's agenda, and since Mary Jones has resigned from the Board, we only have seven members, and consequently five will need to be present.

Corkern advised that he would be on a cruise the week of the May Board meeting and requested that the meeting be moved to May 16, 2023. A Motion was made by Jones and seconded by Smith to move the meeting to May 16, 2023. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion followed regarding the purchase/lease of a new excavator. After comments from several Board members it was determined that Billy Dunn, Karlton Methvin, and Jolley Nash would look into the purchase/lease of a new excavator and report to the Board at the May meeting.

Corkern advised the Board that Danny Martin would become a permanent employee as of May 23, 2023. Billy Dunn expressed that Martin was an excellent employee and he had no hesitation in making him a permanent employee.

Corkern presented the Board the invoices from Edko, LLC. The invoices were in line with the bid for spraying which the Board had previously approved, but Corkern nevertheless wanted the Board to be aware that payment was going to be made in case any of the Board members had an issue with the work that had been done. After further discussion, a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Nash to approve payment of the Edko invoices. This Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern then informed the Board of an email received from Martie Cain regarding a tree that is in our right-of-way, but the limbs are rubbing on the roof of her home, and also there is a City power line running through the tree. Ms. Cain had requested that the Levee Board cut the tree. A discussion regarding this issue followed, and it was determine that the tree did not impede the flow of water, and since we do not have equipment for trimming or cutting trees it would be necessary for the Levee Board to contract this work out. The Board was of the opinion that we simply do not have in our budget to hire someone to cut trees that are not impeding the flow of water. Corkern advised the Board that the power line running through the tree belonged to the City of Natchitoches and the City had an air servitude that gave them the right and duty to trim the tree to avoid contact with the power line. Corkern was asked to write a letter to the Mayor and Ms. Cain advising of the Board's inability to address this issue but giving permission to either to trim the tree or remove it entirely.

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

Approved on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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