

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
April 13, 2010
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 April 13, 2010, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Ronald Corkern, Attorney/Assistant Secretary
Janet Jones, Secretary
Doris Rogé, Member
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Absent were:

Rayburn Smith, Member

Also present were:

Gary Eldridge, DOTD
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent
Alan Sheppard, Edko, LLC
Larry Ardoin, DOTD
Nick Verret, DOTD

The minutes for the March 9, 2010 meeting were reviewed. On motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Doris Rogé, the March minutes were unanimously approved.

The March, 2010 Financial Statement was not made available to the Board members. Corkern advised that his secretary had been out of the office due to her father's illness, and that the financial statement was not in the packets. It was agreed that the March financial statement would be reviewed by the Board and submitted for approval at the May meeting.

Larry Ardoin with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development then addressed the Board regarding levee certification. He advised the Board that in 2009 an appropriation had been placed in House Bill No. 1 for funding to Red River Parish and Bossier Parish for levee certification. The suggestion was that Corkern write to Representative Nowlin and Senator Long requesting a similar appropriation in the 2010 budget. Mr. Ardoin further suggested that we write to Robert Fitzgerald with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and request the Corps assistance in the video inspection of our pipes. Mr. Ardoin further advised the Board that there were no engineering firms in the State of Louisiana who would take on the liability associated with the task of certifying the levees. There are a couple of engineering firms in the country who have indicated a willingness to do this, but the cost has been estimated to be anywhere from \$40,000.00 to \$200,000.00 per mile. Since Natchitoches has approximately 80 miles of Federal levees, the cost to Natchitoches would probably be a minimum of \$3,200,000.00, which exceeds the assets of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District. Mr. Ardoin further discussed Bills in Congress which might provide some relief and urged everyone present to be in contact with our State Senators and U. S. Congressmen.

Nick Verret gave an update regarding the Ross Lake structure and Flat Bayou. At the present time the erosion is very bad. Mr. Verret was advised that there were no barricades in place at this time. Mr. Verret indicated that DOTD was working diligently on a fix to this problem. There are currently finalizing design drawings and hope to have that completed in the next few weeks so that the project can be bid in June. He further indicated that adjoining landowners had offered to make some temporary repairs, but he recommended against that.

The Maintenance Report was given by Robert Vercher. Mr. Vercher advised that his crew had been doing some grading on the Chopin levees and had knocked down two beaver dams in the area. He was also fixing to go onto the Seaman property and clean it up. Following that his crew will start bushhogging in Powhatan.

The DOTD report was given by Gary Eldridge. He advised that he had received a letter from Ralph Ingram requesting that he be allowed to make some changes with respect to a drainage canal on his property. Mr. Eldridge will meet with Ingram to determine exactly what he wants to do and assist him in developing a plan

acceptable to DOTD. He also advised that he was going to look at a fence on Mrs. Dunn's property. He had received a request from an individual in the area to install a wider gate so that he could get his equipment through. This is actually a decision that will have to be made by David Dupré and the Corps of Engineers.

The office report was given by Ronald Corkern. He advised that he had been in contact with the motor company and determined that the truck we had ordered had been built and shipped, but was recalled before it arrived to make an adjustment to it. Hopefully, we will have the truck by the next meeting. He further advised that we had received three applications for summer employment which would be discussed later in the meeting. Also, he advised that Roger Collum had been contacted and he had talked with David Dupré. The two of them were going to meet and agree on what Mr. Collum would have to do with respect to his waterline in order to satisfy the Corps of Engineers.

Under new business, the Board reviewed the applications for employment. On Motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Janet Jones, the Board voted unanimously to hire Charles Bond for the summer.

In other new business, Corkern advised the Board that the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana annual meeting would be May 6 and 7, 2010 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Doris Rogé and Janet Jones had already committed to attend the annual meeting, and Charles Brazzel, Jr. indicated he would like to attend if it was not too late to make a room reservation.

Under old business, the Board reviewed the proposal from Bynog Tree Service, Inc. to cut the trees in the ditch that ran along side Tony Hernandez's home. On motion by Doris Rogé, seconded by Adolph Sklar, Jr., the Board voted unanimously to accept the proposal from Bynog Tree Service, Inc.

The Board also discussed the removal of the fence at Gary Roshto's place. Karlton Methvin explained that he had looked at the property along with David Dupré. If the trees are removed it will only increase the amount of the erosion. David Dupré agreed with this and advised that he was going to suggest to people above him that the Corps not require these trees to be removed.

Corkern advised Mr. Vercher that he had talked with George Celles and it was okay for them to clean up the property owned by

Celles, Posey and others. Karlton Methvin further advised the Board that the new tractor had arrived.

On Motion by Janet Jones, seconded by Mark Swafford, the Board voted to adjourn.

Approved on the 11th day of May, 2010, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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