

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
May 14, 2013  
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 May 14, 2013, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator  
Billy Giddens, Member  
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member  
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member  
Doris Rogé, Member  
Mark Swafford, Member  
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Janet Jones, Secretary

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Foreman  
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer  
Alan Shephard, Edko, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin. The minutes of the April, 2013 meeting were read and discussed. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr., and seconded by Mark Swafford, to approve the April, 2013 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The April, 2013 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. A Motion was made by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. and seconded by Doris Rogé to approve the April, 2013 Financial Statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that the Corps had completed its

inspections of the levees. He felt as though we would receive a pretty good report from the Corps, with the exception of the Campti-Clarence area where no levee exists and we have been trying to obtain approval based on the elevation of the area above the river where there is no levee.

Mr. Dunn further advised that he had been by the John Deere franchise and learned that our tractors were in as well as the cutter. We will take possession of the equipment as soon as it is serviced. Dunn advised that we were presently having problems with one of the old tractors. Following discussion, the Board advised Mr. Dunn not to run the tractor giving us trouble anymore.

Mr. Dunn also advised that the small levee at Marco was getting to the point that the slope was so bad they could not run the tractors on it anymore. He advised that we will have to do something to improve the slope of the levee in this area so that they will be able to cut it with the tractors.

Mr. Dunn also advised that we needed tires for the pickup truck. The Board advised Mr. Dunn to get prices from three sources and to buy the cheapest tires available.

Finally, Mr. Dunn advised that Robert Vercher had indicated he would no longer be working part time. Following discussion, it was determined by the Board and Mr. Dunn that we would not replace Mr. Vercher at the present time.

In other business, Rayburn Smith reported on the thistles that had been sprayed on the levee in his area. At an earlier meeting, Mr. Smith had inquired as to whether the thistles had been sprayed. Subsequent to that meeting he determined that the thistles had been sprayed, but it may have occurred while the wind was blowing and consequently the application was not even.

The DOTD report was given by Brad Sticker. Mr. Sticker advised that we had received a letter of no objection from DOTD regarding Billy Giddens' permit request for a pipeline crossing the levee.

He further advised that he had met that afternoon with Mr. Wagley at Powhatan and Mr. Wagley was going to move a fence from the protected side of the levee to the flood side. Mr. Wagley had already submitted a permit application and Mr. Sticker indicated that he would change the language on the

application so that the request for approval would be to place a fence on the flood side of the levee.

In other business, Mr. Sticker advised that the Cane River Waterway Commission had submitted a permit application to install pumps at Hampton Lake and a pipe crossing the levee. He advised that he is in the process of running the numbers to make sure there will be no backup of water into East Natchitoches if we have high water.

Mr. Sticker also advised that the Corps completed its inspection of the levees and he felt as though we would receive another unsatisfactory rating on that part of the levee that is missing at Campti-Clarence. On the Natchitoches side of the levee there was nothing new to report. Overall our levees appear to be in as good a shape as they have ever been in.

He further advised that the Board, through its counsel, needed to get in touch with Wildlife & Fisheries and request them to submit an after-the-fact permit request for the pumping stations at the refuge. The Board instructed Ronald Corkern to follow up on this suggestion.

In other business, Ronald Corkern advised the Board that Caddo Parish had received notice from FEMA granting certification to their levees. Corkern advised that he would speak with Mike Schiflet and determine the cost of certifying the Caddo levees and exactly what was required by FEMA.

In other business, Doris Rogé reported on the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana annual meeting held in Baton Rouge. She indicated there was nothing really new to report and probably the most significant thing she learned was that the ALBL voted to support staying with the legislation enacted the year before extending the easement to 15' beyond the toe of the levee from 10' beyond the toe of the levee.

Under new business, a Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Doris Rogé to cancel the existing Verizon account for the two cell phones used by the employees and instead to give a phone allowance to Billy Dunn to be applied toward his personal cell phone account. Corkern advised the Board that since the previous meeting they had cancelled the existing account and had determined that the minimum cost for an account with minimum usage totaled \$45.64. The Board voted unanimously to approve a cell phone allowance in favor of Billy Dunn in this amount.

Karlton Methvin then opened bids for the Larry Hampton Flood Gate project. Only one bid was submitted and it was from TKTMJ, Inc. In the amount of \$111,745.00. Karlton advised that the engineers estimate for this work was \$93,200.00. President Methvin appointed a committee consisting of C. D. Brazzel, Jr., Mark Swafford, Ronald Corkern, Brad Sticker and himself to study the bids to be certain they met all of the specifications. A Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Doris Rogé to accept the bid from TKTMJ, Inc. subject to approval by the committee. The Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Methvin then opened quotes for the lower Cane River flood gates. There was only one bid submitted. The lone bid was from Progressive Construction Company, LLC in the amount of \$72,825.00. The engineer's estimate for the lower Cane River flood gate repairs was \$49,637.40. After further discussion a Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr. and seconded by Rayburn Smith to reject the bid from Progressive Construction Company, LLC due to the amount of the bid being so much more than the engineer's estimated cost. The Motion passed unanimously.

In other business, the Board discussed the revised invoice from Head & Enquist Equipment Services, Inc. for repairs to our equipment. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr. and seconded Billy Giddens to approve the revised invoice and authorize Corkern to pay same. The Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Mark Swafford to adjourn. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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