

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
May 9, 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 May 9, 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 April minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Jones to approve the April, 2023 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

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

The maintenance report was given by Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew had started cleaning the ditch just north of Clarence, and that they still had a good ways to go in order to finish the job. They will probably on this project for another 2-3 weeks at least.

Dunn further advised that his crew had cut all of the State levees, and had cut the top bank of all of the ditches.

Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer, reported that he did not have any updated information on behalf of DOTD

Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer, reminded the Board of a meeting the following Wednesday with the Corps of Engineers at the Red River Waterway Commission Park located at Grand Ecore. She reviewed with the Board what topics she thought would be discussed by the Corps of Engineers. Corkern advised that he would not be able to attend because he would be in a mediation in Lake Charles and Methvin advised that he would probably not be able to attend because he is still planting.

Paul Trimble, Engineer, advised that the contractor had finished resurfacing the levee, and that he would not be able to complete the project until the water level went down. It may be towards the end of the summer before the contractor is able to complete the project in its entirety. Trimble recommended that the Board approve a beneficial occupancy. Following further comment a Motion was made by Messenger, and seconded by Nash to approve the beneficial occupancy. The Motion passed unanimously.

President Methvin led a discussion regarding the lease/purchase of a trackhoe. The current lease on our trackhoe is about to expire. Nash had obtained quotes from WPI, Doggett and Scott Equipment. WPI sells Komatsu and they quoted a purchase price of \$232,000, with a 48-inch bucket and a premiere warranty for three years. The same piece of equipment could be leased at a price of \$3,485 a month for a period of three years, thus totaling \$138,420.

Doggett submitted a quote of \$247,847.67 with a 42-inch bucket, and it also included a three-year warranty. Doggett further quoted a lease price of \$5,119.56 for three years, or a total of \$184,304.16.

Scott Equipment quoted a sale of the trackhoe we are currently leasing for the sum of \$152,000. The warranty would be good for 3,000 hours and we currently have approximately 900

hours on the trackhoe. Scott Equipment also quoted the purchase of a new tractor for \$242,265 or a lease at the rate of \$5,266.68 a month for three years resulting in a total lease price of \$189,648.

The last quote was received from Louisiana Machinery. The offered to sell a trackhoe for \$294,556, and to lease the equipment for \$6,835 a month for a period of three years, or a total of \$246,062.88.

Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Nash and seconded by Messenger to buy the Komatsu Tractor from WPI. This Motion passed unanimously.

Jordan Lemoine with Edko, LLC advised the Board that his crew had finished spraying all of the drainage ditches in town, and were about to start spraying the ditches in the parish.

In other business, Corkern read to the Board the Resolution to adopt the millage rates for the tax year 2023. Following public discussion, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Smith to adopt this Resolution for 2023. The Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern then reviewed with the Board the invoice received from Progressive Construction for the work it had performed to date on the lower Cane River project, and the two invoices from Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson for the work they had done on the same project. Corkern pointed out that our Engineer, Paul Trimble, had inspected the work and recommended payment of the invoice. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Messenger to approve payment of the invoice from Progressive Construction and the two invoices from Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson. The Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved on the 13th day of June, 2023, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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