

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

May 9, 2017

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 9, 2017, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Billy Giddens, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Casey Messenger, Member

Absent were:

Janet Jones, Secretary
Doris Rogé, Member
Terry Sklar, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jeremy Gilbert, Edko, Inc.
Ford Stenson, Edko, Inc.

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

The minutes of the April, 2017 meeting were read and discussed. After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Mark Swafford, and seconded by Rayburn Smith, to approve the April, 2017 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The April, 2017 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Billy Giddens and seconded by Mark Swafford to approve the April, 2017 financial statement. The Motion passed unanimously.

The Board welcomed new Board member Casey Messenger. Mr. Messgener gave a brief summary of his background.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised the Board that the levee inspection by the Corps of Engineers would be conducted on June 12 and 13. Our employees are mowing and getting ready for the inspection. They have recently been mowing at Marco. They have finished there and continue mowing the Natchitoches side. He advised that his workers had broken several beaver dams. They are waiting for the water level to go down so that they can clean out the culverts. Van Eversull had a beaver dam on his place that he broke himself, but something else is holding the water. Mr. Dunn advised that he would inspect the area to see if he can determine what the problem is and resolve it.

Mr. Dunn also advised the Board that Mrytle Lowring quit. He recommended that for the time being we continue with only three (3) employees and not replace Ms. Lowring. Following discussion, the Board agreed to continue with only three (3) employees at the present time.

Mr. Dunn also advised that his group had taken trees out of the Rachal canal. They are currently mowing the bank, but the trees are growing back in the channel. Mr. Dunn indicated that he would like to spray about 200' of the channel. Following discussion by the Board members, the representatives of Edko, Inc. were asked to inspect and quote a price for spraying the channel in this area.

Karlton Methvin led a discussion regarding levee certification by FEMA. Mr. Methvin discussed a meeting he had with Mr. McRainey and Brad Sticker in Baton Rouge. The Board agreed that we should enter into an agreement with the Corps of Engineers for the sum of \$75,000 to obtain the Corps' assistance in obtaining FEMA certification.

Ronald Corkern advised that the Corps would not begin their work on certification until a list of necessary items were completed by the Levee Board. One of those items that must be completed is a video inspection of all of the pipes. Karlton was asked by the Board to contact the Corps and tell them we wish to receive correspondence detailing those items that must be completed before the Corps will begin work and further that we wish to enter into a contract for the sum of \$75,000 to obtain the Corps' assistance in obtaining FEMA certification.

A discussion then following regarding the need for the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District to purchase or lease a new trackhoe. Justin Morris with Doggett presented a lease proposal for a John Deere Trackhoe. The Board discussed the lease proposal from Doggett and also the lease proposed received from Head & Enquist. Following discussion, a Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Rayburn Smith to enter into a lease contract with Doggett for the John Deere Trackhoe, which agreement included a credit of \$20,000 on a trade-in for our old trackhoe. Following public discussion, the Motion passed unanimously.

A presentation was then made by Don Cummings and David Sweeney with Air Data Solutions for the video inspection of our pipes. Following further discussion, the Board requested a written proposal from Air Data Solutions, which proposal will be considered at the next monthly meeting.

In other business, Karlton Methvin reported on the meeting in Baton Rouge of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana. It was at this meeting that he had an opportunity to speak with representatives of the Corps of Engineers regarding FEMA certification. In other business, a Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Rayburn Smith to continue our membership in the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association and to pay the annual dues. Following public discussion, this Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Corkern then advised the Board that we had received \$57,,354.82 from FEMA for water control facilities. This money is for replacement of the Ross Bayou gates.

Corkern also advised the Board that we needed to renew our commercial policy. That policy is currently written through Cunningham. A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Billy Giddens to renew the commercial policy with Cunningham. Following public discussion, this 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, 2017, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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

