

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

June 1, 2021

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 in the Natchitoches Municipal Building, 560 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on June 1, 2021, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Mary Jones, Secretary
Terry Sklar, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Casey Messenger Member
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member
Jolley Nash, Member

Absent were:

Mark Swafford, Member

Also present were:

Jordan Lemoine, EDKO
Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer
Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer

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 May, 2021 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Messenger to approve the May, 2021 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The May, 2021 financial statement was not ready at the time of the meeting. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Maintenance Superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. Dunn advised that it had been so wet the crew was unable to do any work other than keeping the flood gates and drainage ditches clear of debris. Dunn also advised that he had checked the levee at Marco and it was doing good. The water has actually dropped a couple of feet which has taken pressure off of the levee. Dunn further advised that he was very pleased with the new hire, Danny Martin. He said that Martin was very willing to work and quick to volunteer when something needed to be done. Dunn added that so far he had not operated any equipment.

Jarmarquis Torrence advised that he has been keeping an eye on Red River. The river is expected to rise another foot, and the current prediction is that it will crest at 32.5'. It was also predicted that the river would start falling the next day.

Karlton Methvin reported on the work his committee had done relative to the purchase/lease of a backhoe. As discussed at the previous Board meeting, the 3-year lease of current backhoe will expire. Methvin advised that our current lease is \$1,300 a month, but a new lease for the same equipment would cost \$2,800 a month. We can purchase the backhoe we have been leasing for the total sum of \$67,284.53. For an additional \$3,000 the equipment will be under full warranty, exclusive of mileage and labor. The current piece of equipment only has 650 hours on it.

A Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Nash to purchase the backhoe currently being leased for the above referenced amount and purchase the warranty for an additional \$3,000. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

Susan Douglas reported that she was continuing to follow House Bill 2, and that she had been told at the outset that it would probably be July before we would be authorized to spend any money.

A discussion then followed regarding the proposal received from Mr. John Wolford for disposing of feral pigs on our levees. Methvin advised the Board that there was a group working through the State that would do the same thing, but would trap the pigs instead of shooting them. There was concern among Board members about shooting the pigs versus trapping the pigs. The general consensus of the Board was that they would prefer the pigs be trapped and thus avoid the potential for shooting something other than a pig.

In other business, Corkern presented the proposed 2021-2022 budget for the Board's consideration. Following discussion and public comment, a Motion was made by Nolan Jones, Jr. and seconded by Nash to adopt the annual budget for 2021-2022. The Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board a Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Nolan Jones, Jr. to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously.

Approved on the 13th day of July, 2021, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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