

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
July 13, 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 July 13, 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
Mark Swafford, Member
Casey Messenger Member
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member
Jolley Nash, Member

Absent were:

Terry Sklar, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Also present were:

Ford Stinson, Edko, LLC
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 June, 2021 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Nolan Jones, Jr. to approve the June, 2021 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The May and June, 2021 financial statements were reviewed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Nolan Jones, Jr. and seconded by Nash to approve the May and June, 2021 financial statements. The Motion passed unanimously.

The Maintenance Superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. Dunn advised that his crew had finished cutting the grass on all of the Federal levees. They had also been making repairs to the crown of the levees where needed. Mr. Dunn assisted the Corps of Engineers in their recent inspection of the Federal levees and believes that everything went well.

Susan Douglas reported that House Bill 2 had been signed by the Governor. The Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District was allotted \$150,000 in Priority 1, which monies will be used for engineering on the desired project. The District also was allotted approximately \$700,000 in Priority 5. Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Messenger to hire Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson to prepare the engineering work on the Capitol Outlay Projects. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Douglas advised that she would get with Paul Trimble at Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson and request his firm to begin the engineering work.

Jarmarquis Torrence reported that the State had finished their quarterly inspection of levees, and further advised that he had ridden with the Corps of Engineers during their inspection of the Federal levees. He did not observe any problem with our levees and did not believe the Corps found any problems.

In other business, Ford Stinson with Edko, LLC advised that he had two more crews coming the next day to help spray the Johnson grass. He further reported that his people were about 60% through with spraying the drainage ditches.

Corkern discussed with the Board the employee merit raises and employee evaluations. The documentation for these evaluations and raises were reviewed and signed.

Corkern further advised the Board that the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana would hold its annual meeting in New Orleans on December 8 and 9, 2021. Board members were encouraged to attend.

Corkern also advised that the drainage project in East Natchitoches was now fully funded under the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. Consequently, the \$688,000 which the Levee District, Natchitoches Parish, City of Natchitoches and Cane River Waterway Commission had agreed to contribute to this project would not be

necessary. However, Corkern advised that he had conversations with Jim Rhodes representing the Cane River Waterway Commission, as well as John Richmond representing the Parish, and those individuals indicated that they believed the entities they represented would still be willing to make their contribution and the money could be used to improve drainage in the existing L10-11 drainage canal. Following further discussion, the sentiment of the Board was that it would contribute \$100,000 as it had pledged to contribute to the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

Corkern further advised that we had received a revised version of the Corps of Engineers' inspection report dated September 24, 2020. The initial report included an unsatisfactory rating related to a pond located on the Giddens property and the adjoining property. The new revised report showed this area as "minimally acceptable."

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

Approved on the 14th day of September, 2021, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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