

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

July 8, 2008

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 July 8, 2008, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President
Janet Jones, Secretary
Doris Rogé, Member
Alfred Bruning, Member
Gary Anderson, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Billy Giddens, Member

Absent were:

Adolph Sklar, Member

Also present were:

Ronald E. Corkern, Jr., Attorney/Assistant Secretary
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent
Ryan Ingles, DOTD

The minutes from the June 10, 2008 meeting were reviewed. On Motion by Doris Rogé, seconded by Janet Jones, the Minutes were approved.

The June, 2008 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. On Motion by Janet Jones, seconded by Alfred Bruning, the June, 2008 Financial Statement was approved.

The Maintenance Report was then given by Robert Vercher. He reported that the repair to the flood gates approved at the last meeting had been completed by a contractor and Corkern advised that the contractor had been paid. Additional work has been done on the flood gate at Shivery Dam, but the cost of this work has not yet been paid. Vercher further advised that his crew hoped

to start bushhogging again next week. There was further discuss among the Board members regarding the ditch that runs behind the Carol Williams' property. Ms. Williams attended the May meeting of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District and requested assistance in approving the drainage of that ditch. Karlton Methvin advised that he had walked the ditch with others and determined that some property owners had built fences on the edge of the ditch that would prevent getting heavy equipment into the area. It was determined that the best remedy would be to spray the ditch to kill all of the vegetation. This has previously been accomplished and Methvin advised that he believed Mrs. Williams was satisfied that the Levee Board had done the best it could do.

The DOTD report was given by Ryan Ingles. Mr. Ingles advised that he had talked with John Davis at the Division of Administration about the money previously allocated for the lower Cane River flood gates, also known as the Marco flood gates. He was told by Mr. Davis that the previous administration had allocated so many projects to Priority 2 that there was not enough money available to move past Priority 5 projects up to Priority 2. In the 2007 capitol outlay \$200,000 was allocated to Priority 2, and \$1,800,000 was allocated to Priority 5. In the 2008 capitol outlay the \$200,000 was moved to Priority 1 which will make those funds available immediately and only \$800,000 was moved to Priority 5. Mr. Ingles requested the Board Attorney, Ronald Corkern, to contact the project manager, Edwin Lee, in order to enter into the necessary agreement to secure the current \$200,000 that is available.

Mr. Ingles further provided the Board with a copy of the email he had sent to Mr. Gary Zimmerer with FEMA specifically requiring as to the necessity for the certification of the State of Louisiana Red River Levee since it does not appear that the flood map is showing benefits derived from the existence of that levee and also inquiring why FEMA was communicating with the Natchitoches Levee Board when it ordinarily communicates only with participating communities regarding levee certification. In this instance, the participating community would be the Parish of Natchitoches. Mr. Ingles advised that he did not receive a response to his email, nor to several telephone calls placed to Mr. Zimmerer.

The Office Activity Report was given by Ronald Corkern. He advised that his office had been in communication with the State Civil Service for the past month in an effort to fill the

position created by the death of Mr. Harvey. Mr. Corkern advised that his secretary had been speaking with Stephanie McNell with Civil Service trying to get Mr. Harvey's position filled. Ms. McNell advised that the NLDD had been "dropped from the system" because they had not received the necessary annual reports. As soon as the NLDD is returned to the system Ms. McNell will provide us with a posting form so that the job vacancy can be posted. Seven days after the posting of this position we will be able to interview applicants and hire someone to fill the position.

In other business, Mr. Corkern advised that Robert Vercher had asked for a form from LASERS for the employees to fill out to allow their spouses the option of the lump sum payment of unused annual/sick leave in the event of their untimely death. A request for such a form was sent to Matthew Frederick with LASERS, but he replied in an email dated July 7, 2008 that currently there is not a form that allows the member to make that election prior to retirement. He further advised that LASERS legal division was currently looking into the situation to see if there is anything they can do under the law to change that. Unfortunately, the current statute says that the election is to be made at the time of retirement, and drop participants are not considered to be retired until they actually terminate employment.

On motion by Rayburn Smith, seconded by Janet Jones, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Following discussion during the executive session, a motion was made by Alfred Bruning, and seconded by Gary Anderson to come out of the executive session and return to the regular meeting.

At this time a motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Janet Jones to hire two new employees if permissible. This motion passed unanimously.

The Board was advised that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers would conduct its 2008 inspection from September 23-26, 2008. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to do so.

In further business, Ronald Corkern advised the Board that Karlton Methvin was actually acting in a dual capacity as both President and Administrator. While many levee districts employ a full time Administrator, it is not feasible for the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District to do so. The Louisiana

Revised Statutes provide that where a Board member serves in the capacity as both President and Administrator he may be paid a salary in lieu of the monthly stipend, not to exceed \$1,000 per month. Following further discussion and on motion by Doris Rogé, seconded by Janet Jones, the Board voted unanimously to elect Karlton Methvin as the President/Administrator of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District at a salary of \$1,000 per month.

In other business, Corkern advised the Board that his secretary had been spending a considerable amount of time on Levee work involving an administrator nature since January, 2008. Mr. Corkern advised that he compensated her personally for her overtime work. On further discussion by the Board it was suggested that Corkern determine whether the Board could pay a part time secretary without that individual being subject to Civil Service and advise the Board at the next meeting.

The Board further discussed the merit increase for Robert Vercher due August 1, 2008. Corkern has advised he had previously provided Karlton Methvin with the annual reviews to be completed for all employees and it was decided that Karlton Methvin and Robert Vercher would meet to complete all of the personnel reviews prior to August 1, 2008.

In other business, a motion was made by Rayburn Smith, and seconded by Janet Jones, to authorize Karlton Methvin to execute a PAL Certification Agreement for the Campti-Clarence Eastbank Levee, Natchitoches Westbank Levee, and the State of Louisiana Red River Levee.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved on the 12th day of August, 2008, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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