

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

**August 9, 2010**

**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 August 9, 2010, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator  
Ronald Corkern, Attorney/Assistant Secretary  
Janet Jones, Secretary  
Doris Rogé, Member  
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member  
Mark Swafford, Member  
Rayburn Smith, Member  
C.D. Brazzel, Jr., Member  
Billy Giddens, Member

Absent were:

None

Also present were:

Gary Eldridge, DOTD  
Alan Sheppard, Edko  
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent

Rayburn Smith Janet Jones made a Motion to supplement the agenda in order to discuss making repairs to one of the bushhogs currently being used, or in the alternative, purchasing a new one. The Motion to supplement the agenda was seconded by Mark Swafford and passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Adolph Sklar, Jr. to amend the agenda to discuss spraying the lower end of the levee. The Motion to supplement the agenda was passed unanimously.

The minutes for the July 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed. On Motion by C. D. Brazzel, Jr., seconded by Doris Rogé, the July minutes were unanimously approved.

The July, 2010 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. On Motion by Mark Swafford, seconded by Rayburn Smith, the July Financial Statement was approved.

The Maintenance Report was given by Robert Vercher. Mr. Vercher explained where his crew was currently working and the plans for the next couple of weeks. He also advised that his crew needed permission to clean the property that Steve Smith was leasing. He had talked with Mr. Smith and he was supposed to give him the address for the owner of the property but had not done so. Rayburn Smith and Karlton Methvin advised they were familiar with the property and knew Steve Smith and would contact him regarding this issue. Mr. Vercher further advised that one of the bushhogs was broken and that he had received a bid of \$4,000.00 to make repairs. The Board then discussed whether to make repairs to the old bushhog or whether they should purchase a new bushhog. The Board members agreed unanimously that it would be better to spend the money on a new bushhog. Further discuss followed as to the make and model of the bushhog to be purchased. Gary Eldridge recommended that we contact Rapides Levee Board to determine what kind of bushhogs they were using since they operated quite a few. Karlton Methvin advised that he would call Chris Brouillette with the Rapides Levee Board to find out what kind of bushhogs they were using. A Motion was made by C. D. Brazzel, Jr., seconded by Adolph Sklar, Jr., to authorize Karlton Methvin to purchase under State contract whatever bushhog he determined was most suitable for our needs. This Motion passed unanimously.

Gary Eldridge advised that he rode all of the levees with the Corps of Engineers during their recent inspection and he personally thought the levees looked good. He indicated that Mr. Vercher's crew should be commended for the job they have done. He also advised the Board that he would devise a Stop Drop Plan for the levee crossing the railroad near Billy Giddens place. The gates that are there are inoperable because the earth has settled and they are out of line. Rather than rebuild the existing gates, it would be better to determine the material needed and stop pile the material onsite so that if it was necessary to close the gap an urban dam could be quickly built. During the inspection the Corps of Engineers had indicated such a Stop Drop Plan would be satisfactory. Mr. Eldridge further informed the

Board that in October, 2007, DOTD committed to engineering the gates on Cane River. He stated that he would follow up with DOTD to get someone to commit to doing the engineering. The Cane River Waterway Commission has agreed to pay for the cost of installing the new gates if DOTD will provide the design drawings. Mr. Eldridge also provided drawings and plans for the Marco flood gates. It was agreed that Eldridge and Corkern would meet to review the legal aspects, as well as other items that must be completed prior to submitting to the Facility and Planning Commission.

There was discussion among the Board and Alan Sheppard regarding the spraying of the lower end of the levee. Mr. Sheppard advised that he could spray this area at a cost that would probably be in the range of \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00, but certainly no more than \$5,000.00. On Motion by Rayburn Smith, seconded by Adolph Sklar, Jr., the Board voted unanimously to authorize Mr. Sheppard to complete this additional spraying.

Under new business the Board discussed repairs to the excavator. It was agreed that they would continue to operate the excavator until the winter and then allow Head & Enquist to make necessary repairs.

In other new business, a Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Doris Rogé, to ratify the audit contract executed by Karlton Methvin on behalf of the Levee Board with Griffin & Company, LLC. The Motion passed unanimously.

In other business, a Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr., and seconded by C. D. Brazzel, Jr., authorizing Mr. Vercher to purchase an office air conditioner which he had priced at \$269.00.

Robert Vercher noted that the air conditioner in the truck that had been discussed at the previous meeting had since been repaired.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Janet Jones, seconded by Doris Rogé, to adjourn. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Septmeber, 2010, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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

