

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
September 14, 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 September 14, 2021, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

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

Absent were:

Mary Jones, Secretary

Also present were:

Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer
Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer
Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer
Jordan Lemoine, Edko, LLC
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson, 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 July, 2021 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Swafford to approve the July, 2021 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The July and August, 2021 financial statements were reviewed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Smith

and seconded by Jones to approve the July and August, 2021 financial statements. The Motion passed unanimously.

The Maintenance Superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. Dunn advised that his crew had been removing limbs and bushes that had grown into the Levee Board's right of way. This is done about every 3 to 4 years. They have also been patching holes in the crown of the levees where necessary, and recently cut the grass on the lower Cane River dam in preparation for inspections by the State. They have also continued to repair hog ruts.

Mr. Dunn was asked if he had received an estimate on repairs to the Hampton flood gates and he advised that he had not. Corkern was asked to put this item of business on next month's agenda.

Paul Trimble with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson gave an update on the projects he has been working on. He advised that FEMA is requiring additional work to be done on the lower Cane River project. Mr. Trimble advised that his engineering firm was currently \$18,000 in the hole on its original contract, and the additional work required by FEMA will cost another \$5,000 in engineering time. After further discussion, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Jones to amend the engineering contract with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson to increase the maximum engineering fees by an additional \$25,000. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

Susan Douglas reported on the two projects funded through Capital Outlay. Susan advised that we had received notice that the \$150,000 placed in Priority 1 would be available for withdrawal in the very near future. The Board discussed the two projects funded through Capital Outlay. One is grouting of the drainage structures, and the other is restoration of the levee road starting at Marco. Corkern informed the Board that the additional \$750,000 currently in Priority 5 may never be moved to Priority 1. Consequently, if we use the \$150,000 for engineering costs on the two projects and no money is ever moved from Priority 5 into Priority 1, then we would have nothing to show for the money spent other than a set of plans. A Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Smith to use the \$150,000 in Priority 1 to complete the grouting on the drainage structures. The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$221,540. After using the \$150,000 received through Capital Outlay, the Levee Board would be responsible for the remaining \$71,540. Following

further discussion the Board voted unanimously to use the \$150,000 in Priority 1 to complete the grouting of the drainage structures.

Ms. Douglas also discussed with the Board our intent to apply for Capital Outlay funds in November, 2021 to complete setback levees at Campti and Powhatan. Our Capital Outlay package must be submitted in November, and part of the package would include an engineering cost estimate for these two projects. Paul Trimble advised that his engineering firm would not charge on the front end while preparing the cost estimates. Trimble advised that his firm would assist in putting together the package with the hopes that they would get the engineering work if funds were allotted. Ms. Douglas was advised to proceed with putting together the package for submission in the Capital Outlay budget.

In other business, Jordan Lemoine advised that they were almost through spraying under the terms of the contract. His group sprayed one day on the drainage ditches inside the City of Natchitoches. He does not expect to be able to work the remainder of the week because of weather, but should be able to finish all of the drainage ditches within a few days once the weather permits.

Corkern advised the Board that the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana would hold its 80th Annual Meeting in New Orleans on December 8-9, 2021. The cutoff for registering and making hotel reservations is November 4, 2021. Consequently, the October Board meeting will be the last chance for members to sign up for this conference.

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

Approved on the 12th day of October, 2021, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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