

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
September 9, 2014
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 September 9, 2014, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Doris Rogé, Member
Janet Jones, Secretary
Rayburn Smith, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member
Mark Swafford, Member

Absent were:

None.

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Alan Sheppard
Billy Dunn

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 minutes of the August, 2014 meeting were read and discussed. A Motion was made by Doris Rogé, and seconded by Janet Jones, to approve the August, 2014 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The August, 2014 financial statement was not available for the meeting and it was decided that it would be reviewed and discussed at the next month's meeting.

The Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn, reported that they were still cutting grass on the Natchitoches side. At L-13 in Marco they have been working on the ditches for weeks on the places the Corps wanted fixed. They have plenty of dirt but need a truck to haul it and would like approval to hire Hargis. They are going to use dirt from the spoil of the ditch. Dunn is to contact Hargis.

Dunn also reported on the fence in Melrose owned by Sonny. Gary Brun was going to have it fixed but never did. Board requested Dunn to contact Brun again to see if he was going to do the work. Sticker said that the Corps would give them minimal acceptance as long as there was no vegetation.

Dunn reported that there is an area that has two places that have water. Red River Waterway Commission wants to put burn on one. Sticker wants to take a look at the situation to determine if its within the WRP easement and who they need to contact. Dunn and Sticker will get together later this week to review this.

In other business, Mr. Methvin advised that he had found someone to trap beavers. He will get that person's name and number to Billy Dunn.

The check registered was reviewed by the Board and there was a question regarding two payments in August to Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham and Mr. Corkern's secretary was asked to check on those two payments. Mr. Corkern's secretary has determined that one of the bills was for payment of the July services and the other was for the August services to Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham.

The Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana Annual Meeting is being held on December 3 and 4, 2014. The Board will let Mr. Corkern know at next month's meeting who will be attending that meeting. The deadline for submitting names for presentation of memorials at that meeting is October 2, 2014 and Mr. Corkern's secretary was asked to make sure that Mr. Adolph Sklar, Jr.'s name and information was submitted before the deadline.

The Report on the annual audit and Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Corkern had met with the auditor and the minor discrepancies were reviewed with him, but Mr. Corkern was out of town for the Board meeting and so it was decided that they would defer further discussion regarding

the audit until next month's meeting when Mr. Corkern could report on the audit with the Board.

In further business, Mr. Methvin reported that the Lower Cane River Flood Gate Improvements had been completed by Regional Construction, LLC and that a Certificate of Substantial Completion had been completed, as well as a request to the State for the balance of the funds for payment of the project. The Board agreed that they should pay Regional Construction, LLC and then get reimbursed by the State. A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith, and seconded by Billy Giddens, to approve the payment to Regional Construction, LLC, less the retainage to be held until a Lien Certificate was submitted. The Motion passed unanimously.

Also in further business, Mr. Methvin advised that annual merit raises of 4% could be given in October to the employees. A discussion was had regarding the raises and whether or not an employee in the drop program could receive a raise. Mr. Methvin asked Mr. Corkern's secretary to check with Civil Service regarding this. A Motion was made by C. D. Brazzel, Jr., and seconded by Janet Jones, to give the employees the 4% merit raise beginning in October, 2014. The Motion passed unanimously.

The DOTD report was given by Brad Sticker. Mr. Sticker advised that the preliminary plans were completed regarding the work to be performed by the State at Louisiana 495 in Cloutierville Mr. Sticker will get those plans to Mr. Dunn. Sticker believes the State will be able to let bid on this project early next year.

Mr. Sticker also reported that he had come up with several cost options for the work on Channel L-30 near Judge Harrington's home. One option would be to clean from Keyser to Sta. 65-00 which is about 45 yards at the cost of about \$89,000. They could do the work in week if they set themselves up right. That includes hauling off site. To do the work from Keyser to Blanchard Road (L-10) would cost approximately \$355,000, but this doesn't include acquiring real estate or right of ways. They cannot eliminate flooding problem by just clearing out sediment. The City advised that it was the Board's ditch and so they would not be able to help. The Parish Commission is in no shape to be able to help monetarily either. Sticker advised that there would be no Federal assistance programs available for funding. The Board will continue to look at the situation.

Mr. Sticker advised that the work on the Lower Cane River project had been completed. There is an issue with the attachment point being low and it catches to the gate frame. Sticker and Dunn looked at the problem and decided they would need to hire a welder to correct the issue. Dunn contacted a welder and was told it would cost about \$900 to fix. A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith, and seconded by Billy Giddens, to hire a welder to fix the gate frame.

Mr. Sticker advised that he had been contacted by the Red River Waterway Commission regarding a burn they wanted to build. Mr. Sticker recommended to the Red River Waterway Commission that they submit a permit.

Mr. Sticker also advised that the engineers were ready to let bids for Phase I of the pumping station. The installation of the pump will be done during Phase II which is projected in early summer. The pumping station will not be useable until 2016. It has been permitted. It will be 60-90 days before construction starts on Phase I.

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

Approved on the 14th day of October, 2014, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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