

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
November 8, 2011
6:00 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 November 8, 2011, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

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

Absent were:

Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by the President, Karlton Methvin. A Motion was made by Doris Rogé, seconded by Janet Jones, to supplement the agenda by adding thereto the following items:

- A. Resolution authorizing Karlton Methvin to execute an engagement letter with Johnson, Thomas and Cunningham for accounting services; and
- B. Discussion of the Hampton Flood Gates and authorization to purchase lift nuts to make temporary repairs.

The Motion to supplement the agenda passed unanimously.

The minutes from the October 11, 2011 meeting were reviewed. On Motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Rayburn Smith, the October minutes were unanimously approved.

The October, 2011 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr. and seconded by Rayburn Smith to approve the October, 2011 Financial Statement. The Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Robert Vercher. Mr. Vercher advised that his group had worked all of the flood gates in our system, and everything worked except for one of the flood gates located at the Hampton property. The middle gate broke as they were raising it and fell several feet. DOTD was notified of the gate failure, as was the Corps of Engineers. A meeting of the Corps of Engineers, Brad Sticker with DOTD, Karlton Methvin and Ronald Corkern was held at the Hampton Flood Gates the week before. Mr. Vercher advised that Brad Sticker would be able to advise the Board in more detail regarding the gate failure and the repairs necessary. Mr. Vercher concluded by advising the Board that his group was now working on cleaning the fence row at Melrose.

Brad Sticker advised that Board that work on the lower Cane River structures was completed on October 21, 2011. An inspection of the work was conducted by DOTD, Karlton Methvin, Ronald Corkern and the Corps of Engineers. It appears the contractor did an excellent job. We are now waiting on the expiration of the lien period following which final payment will be made to the contractor.

Mr. Sticker further advised that he was present for the inspection of the Hampton Flood Gates, along with representatives from the Corps of Engineers. It appears as though the center gate dropped about five feet. Mr. Sticker gave a detailed explanation to the Board as to the cause of the failure. Mr. Sklar noted that we experienced the same problem previously. Mr. Sticker advised that he had been in contact with a representative from Waterman, Inc. Which company was the manufacturer of the gate and structure. He is waiting to receive a quote from Waterman regarding replacement of the gate. As soon as he receives that information he will provide it to Ronald Corkern so that Corkern can write a letter to the Corps of Engineers requesting assistance. However, David Dupré with the Corps of Engineers expressed doubt during the inspection that there would be any funds available from the Corps to assist in making repairs. Corkern will also request help through our Legislators. Mr. Sticker recommended that the Board authorize

the purchase of lift nuts to make repairs to the other two (2) gates so that in the event the gates had to be operated we would be able to do so without fear of the other two (2) gates failing. A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Mark Swafford to authorize the purchase of lift nuts at a cost of approximately \$800.00 in order to make temporary repairs to the gates. The Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sticker further advised that the DOTD inspection of State levees was fairly good overall. The primary problem areas involve fences crossing the levees without gates on top of the levee to allow access by vehicles in case of an emergency. Also, there were areas where there were encroachments on the right of way of trees and limbs. Overall, the State levees appeared in good shape.

Karlton Methvin advised that he was present during the final inspection of the lower Cane River Flood Gates. It appeared the contractor had done an excellent job and he was very pleased with the work product. Mr. Methvin also advised that he was present for the inspection of the Hampton Flood Gate along with Brad Sticker, Ronald Corkern, and representatives from the Corps of Engineers. He questioned whether we should try to repair the existing structure or go back to flap gates if the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was going to have to pay the total cost, itself. Following further discussion on this issue, it was decided that we would first need to obtain a cost estimate from Brad Sticker before making this decision.

Ronald Corkern advised the Board that the annual contract with the accounting firm of Johnson, Thomas and Cunningham was up for renewal. They provide accounting services that have been valuable at a cost of \$325.00 per month. He requested that the Board authorize Karlton Methvin to execute the engagement letter with our accounting firm. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr. and seconded by Janet Jones to authorize Karlton Methvin to execute the engagement letter with Johnson, Thomas and Cunningham for accounting services. This Motion passed unanimously.

In other business, Corkern reminded the Board of the annual meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana to be held in New Orleans on December 7 and 8. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association which is scheduled for December 8-10, 2011. Corkern inquired as to whether any other Board Members would like to attend these meetings, but no one else was able to attend on the dates mentioned.

Under old business the Board again discussed a promotion of Keith Antee to Mobile Equipment Operator 2/Heavy from Mobile

Equipment Operator 1/Heavy. It was noted that the position would have to be posted and there was some discussion as to what the Board would do if an individual applied for the job with more heavy equipment experience than Keith Antee. Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Mark Swafford to table the possible promotion of Keith Antee.

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 13th day of December, 2011, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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