

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
February 10, 2015
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 February 10, 2015, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

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

Absent were:

Terry Sklar, Member

Also present were:

Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Billy Dunn, Foreman
Alan Shephard, Edko, Inc.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 6:00 p.m by the Assistant Secretary, Ronald E. Corkern, Jr.

The minutes of the January, 2015 meeting were read and discussed. After public comment, a Motion was made by Janet Jones, and seconded by C. D. Brazzel, Jr., to approve the January, 2015 minutes. The Motion verbally passed unanimously.

The January, 2015 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by

Rayburn Smith and seconded by Doris Rogé to approve the January, 2015 financial statement. This Motion verbally passed unanimously.

After public comment, a Motion was made by Janet Jones and seconded by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. to supplement the agenda in the following respects:

1. Change the monthly meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. effective with the March 10, 2015 meeting; and
2. Approve travel to Ronald E. Corkern, Jr. for attending the meeting in Baton Rouge of the Louisiana State Civil Service Commission in order to support the request for a pay raise for Billy Dunn.

The Motion to supplement the agenda, as set forth above, was approved unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by the Maintenance Superintendent Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn first thanked the Board for the pay raise that had recently approved by the State Civil Service Commission. Mr. Dunn then advised the Board that his crew had completed work on removing the two miles of electrical lines through the Wildlife Refuge near Cloutierville.

Mr. Dunn further advised that he had talked with the foreman for the Cane River Waterway Commission project regarding the pumping of water into Cane River. The Cane River Waterway Commission is going to need to build a coffer dam to complete their work, and we will also need to build a coffer dam to complete our repairs to the levee gates. Mr. Dunn advised that we could not build our coffer dam until the Cane River Waterway Commission completes their work.

Mr. Dunn also advised that he had talked with Gary Broom, the foreman at Melrose, and had also talked with Sonny Johnson regarding the cleaning of the fence line on Melrose that encroaches on our servitude. He had been given permission by both Mr. Broom and Mr. Johnson to remove the fence and adjacent vegetation, and his crew will be working on that soon.

At the previous meeting the Board voted to hire a full time employee beginning this summer in order to replace Keith Antee when he retires a year from now. Mr. Dunn suggested that we hire Jerry Nugent full time. Mr. Nugent is the individual we hired on

a part time basis last year. The Board approved the hiring of a full time employee and requested Corkern to advise the position in accordance with State Civil Service regulations.

Mr. Dunn further advised the Board that his truck was making a noise under the hood, but he had taken it by the dealership and they could not find anything wrong with it. The Board discussed the number of miles on the truck and determined that we should look into replacing the truck. The Board requested Corkern to check with Ford Motor Company to determine if the same truck could be purchased from them under the State contract, and if so, the total cost.

Mr. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, addressed the Board and advised that DOTD had approved the application for either a new permit or to amend the earlier permit that was made by the Cane River Waterway Commission. This amended permit seeks to add a waterline across the levee. The new application has been approved by DOTD and forwarded to the Corps of Engineers for approval.

Mr. Sticker then discussed repairs to the Larry Hampton Flood Gates. He indicated that he had estimated a ballpark figure of \$550.00 per band for the repairs. The total cost would probably be in the neighborhood of \$2,000.00, or a little less.

Mr. Sticker also advised that the Cloutierville Flood Gates was still on schedule. They are hoping to let the contract in Jne.

Mr. Sticker also gave an update on cleaning Channel L-20. He advised the Board of meetings previously held with Gary Broom, Jolly Nash, Corkern, Methvin, and himself. Likewise, Methvin, Corkern, and he had met with Joe Regard. Mr. Nash agreed to take whatever action was necessary to alleviate any obstruction caused by the dam on his property. DOTD had recently completed a survey of the old channel that goes around the dam to see if it would be feasible to divert some of the water through that channel. Mr. Sticker will complete his calculations within the next week and then visit with Mr. Nash regarding his findings.

Since the initial meeting with Mr. Regard, Regard has called Brad Sticker and asked several other questions concerning the Board's intentions with respect to cleaning the entire channel. Mr. Regard would like to schedule another meeting and Corkern was

requested to schedule a meeting with Mr. Regard for February 19, 2015 if possible.

Alan Shephard addressed the Board regarding necessary spraying for this spring and summer. He advised that in 2013 he had sprayed for Johnson grass and thistles on one side of the river, and had sprayed just for thistles on the other side. In 2014 he sprayed both sides just for thistles. The Board agreed that he should spray immediately for thistles on both sides and at the next meeting submit a proposal for all spraying through the remainder of the year. After public comment, a Motion was made by Mark Swafford and seconded by Rayburn Smith to spray for thistles on both sides of the river prior to March 15, 2015 at a cost of \$22,000.00. The Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern addressed the Board regarding the pay raise that had been approved for Billy Dunn, and his trip to Baton Rouge to appear before the State Civil Service Commission. He also advised the Board that during the next month we would be advertising to roll the milage forward and that a public hearing would be held before the meeting next month followed by a vote to approve adoption of the milage rate.

After public comment, a Motion was then made by Janet Jones and seconded by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. to move the meeting time to 7:00 p.m., beginning with the March meeting. This Motion passed unanimously.

After public comment, a Motion was made by Janet Jones and C. D. Brazzel, Jr. to approve travel for Ronald Corkern, Jr. to Baton Rouge to attend the State Civil Service Commission meeting. This Motion passed unanimously.

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 verbally voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 10th day of March, 2015, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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