

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
February 9, 2010
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 9, 2010, 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
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member
Billy Giddens, Member

Absent were:

Mark Swafford, Member

Also present were:

Gary Eldridge, DOTD
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent
Alan Sheppard, Edko, LLC
Billy Dunn, Employee
Sylvester Sers, Guest

The minutes from the January 12, 2010 meeting were reviewed. On motion by C. D. Brazzel, Jr., seconded by Doris Rogé, the January minutes were unanimously approved.

The January, 2010 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. On motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Doris Rogé, the January, 2010 Financial Statement was unanimously approved.

On Motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Rayburn Smith, the Board voted unanimously to add to the agenda the issue of spraying for thistle. Alan Sheppard with Edko, LLC was present

and advised the Board that if it chose to spray for thistle it must do so by no later than the middle of March or it would not do any good. Following further discussion, on Motion by Adolph Sklar, Jr., seconded by Rayburn Smith, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Edko, LLC to spray for thistle in all areas where there was a thistle problem at a cost not to exceed \$18,500.00. It was agreed that in those areas where there is a thistle problem, Edko, LLC would spray 30' from the centerline of the levee.

Mr. Sers then addressed the Board and advised that he had property situated at Melrose which had a drainage ditch under the control of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District that runs through his property. He advised that the drainage ditch stays stopped and floods his property whenever there is a heavy rain. He would like to have the ditch cleaned out. He also advised that there used to be a pipe in the ditch on his property that allowed him to cross the ditch to get to his pasture, but that this pipe had rusted out and no longer existed. He would like to have a culvert placed in the ditch. The Board advised he would have to purchase the culvert. The Board advised that it could not do anything with the drainage ditch as wet as it was, but whenever it was dry enough the Board would inspect the ditch and determine what needed to be done. It may be that we will need to obtain a right of way from some of the other landowners in order to clean the ditch throughout its entire length.

The Maintenance Report was then given by Robert Vercher. He advised that they were cleaning the right of way on Mr. Smith's place and were checking flood gates. It is difficult to do any other work because it is so wet. At the present time all of the flood gates are open, but they continue to monitor the river. He advised that he had to put a u-joint in the truck to keep it going until the new truck arrives. He also advised that he had received a quote for a 250 gallon tank and spray rig to be mounted in the back of a truck. The quote was in the amount of \$3,865.00. Several members of the Board thought this price appeared to be high. Alan Sheppard advised that he would obtain a quote from his company and communicate that to either Karlton Methvin or Ronald Corkern the next day. The Board decided to defer purchase of the spray rig until it could obtain another quote from Edko, LLC.

The DOTD report was given by Gary Eldridge. Mr. Eldridge advised that he had looked at the Cane River Spillway. It is too wet at the present time to do any work. However, when we are

able, it appears as though we need to do some dirt work and then put a gate up to keep cows from moving back and forth across the same rut. He also advised that Larry Ardoin is now the Deputy Secretary for the water resource section of DOTD. He suggested it might be a good idea to invite Mr. Ardoin to attend one of our Board meetings.

Finally, Mr. Eldridge reported that he had attended a meeting in Alexandria last week with the Corps of Engineers and FEMA over the levee certification issue. The meeting turned into mostly a Corps and FEMA roast. It did not appear as though anything substantive was accomplished, but at least the public and the politicians are becoming aware of the issue.

The office activity report was given by Ronald Corkern. He advised that a Ford F-250 Truck had been ordered through Hixson Auto Plex under the State contract at a total cost of \$25,127.00. He also reported that he had talked with Craig McRaney with the Corps of Engineers about our levee certification. Mr. McRaney advised that the Corps had found some as-built drawings and some other drawings that he was going to provide to us on a disk. He thought this information may be of some benefit in helping us obtain certification. Mr. McRaney also indicated that Natchitoches may be one of the first levee districts scheduled for the Periodic Inspection. If everything goes as planned work on our Periodic Inspection may begin in February. Corkern further announced that the Red River Valley Association annual convention would be held in Bossier City February 17, 18, and 19. C. D. Brazzel and Doris Rogé advised they would attend the convention. Corkern also stated that the next ALBL Executive Committee meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Mike Anderson's Seafood in Gonzales, Louisiana. Karlton Methvin will attend if possible. Corkern also reported that he had received an email from Anthony (Tony) Hernandez concerning a drainage ditch located between his property and Calvin Braxton's property. Mr. Hernandez advised that there were trees in the drainage ditch that were rotten and some had fallen on his property. He was concerned that these trees may fall on his home. He asked that we remove the dead trees from the drainage ditch. Robert Vercher was instructed to inspect this ditch as soon as possible and remove any dead trees or other obstructions to drainage.

Under new business, a motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Adolph Sklar, Jr. to hire Andy Pierce to fill the vacant position. The Board voted unanimously to rehire Andy Pierce.

In other new business the Board approved the annual merit increase for Billy Dunn effective March 1, 2010.

On Motion by Janet Jones, seconded by Doris Rogé, the Board voted to adjourn.

Approved on the 9th day of March, 2010, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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