

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
February 14, 2017
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 14, 2017, 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
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Terry Sklar, Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jeremy Gilbert, Edko, Inc.
Ford Stenson, 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/Attorney, Ronald E. Corkern, Jr.

A Motion was made by Janet Jones and seconded by Rayburn Smith to amend the agenda to add the approval of the Board to change the time of the monthly meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. After public comments offered and none received the Motion was passed with Karlton Methvin, Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith voting yes and zero votes against.

A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Mark Swafford to amend the agenda to authorize Karlton Methvin to travel to Baton Rouge on Friday, February 17, 2017 to attend the monthly meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana. After public comments offered and none received the Motion was passed with Karlton Methvin, Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith voting yes and zero votes against.

A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Doris Rogé to amend the agenda to ratify the action of President Karlton Methvin in contracting with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson Engineers for preparation of the 2017 GOHSEP HMGP application for Bayou Rachal drainage control structure replacement. After public comments offered and none received the Motion was passed with Karlton Methvin, Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith voting yes and zero votes against.

The minutes of the January, 2017 meeting were read and discussed. After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith, and seconded by Mark Swafford, to approve the January, 2017 minutes. Karlton Methvin, Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith voted to pass the Motion, with no nay votes.

The January, 2017 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Janet Jones to approve the January, 2017 financial statement. Karlton Methvin, Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith voted to pass the Motion, with no nay votes.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Dunn advised that they had installed two 18" pipes on Ken Guidry's property. One pipe had been damaged and it was removed, and it was removed, repaired and replaced. Also, they installed a 36" pipe and a load of riff raft to prevent washing around it.

On Highway 71 at Saline Bayou the crew extended the existing pipe 10' to aid in drainage.

The crew has also been repairing portions of the levee damaged by hogs and cows. This is a continuing process that occurs on a weekly basis.

A discussion followed regarding the hog population and the damage they do to our levees. There was a discussion regarding the best means of eliminating the hogs. Once the hogs are trapped, they need to be killed, but State employees are not allowed to carry weapons in State vehicles. There is an exception to this rule for law enforcement and Corkern was requested to contact Sheriff Jones to determine if Billy Dunn could be made a deputy for the sole purpose of carrying a firearm to eradicate hogs after they have been trapped.

The DOTD report was given by Mr. Brad Sticker, DOTD engineer. There was a discussion regarding GOHSEP and the three FEMA projects. Corkern advised the Board that one project had been approved and a direct deposit to our checking account had been made by FEMA on February 2, 2017 in the amount of \$14,584.16. The other two projects are still under review by FEMA.

Mr. Sticker informed the Board that since the last meeting we had grouted the irrigation pipeline at Chivary. That line is now completely plugged. An inspection of the area was also made by the DOTD bridge engineer. It was determined that we should continue to monitor movement of the approach slab and if there was no movement, we would not worry about doing anything additional. Mr. Sticker asked Corkern to check and see if he had received from him an email with the DOTD letter of no objection attached to it for the Cane River Waterway Commission project.

In other business, Mr. Sticker informed the Board that the State had inspected the Natchitoches Levee that day and would be inspecting the Campti-Clarence Levee the following day. Those doing the inspection indicated that everything looked good except for the cow ruts.

In other business, Karlton Methvin reminded the Board that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would conduct their inspection July 31-August 4, 2017 and August 14-18, 2017. We are scheduled this year for a five-year inspection, which is more detailed than the annual inspections. However, this is contingent upon sufficient funds for the Corps to conduct the enhanced inspections.

Mr. Methvin also advised the Board that the invoice in their packet from John Deere in the amount of \$23,379.06 represented the final payment for both tractors. After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Billy Giddens and

seconded by Doris Rogé authorizing Corkern to pay the invoice from John Deere. Karlton Methvin, Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith voted to pass the Motion, with no nay votes.

Ronald Corkern then discussed with the Board the meeting held with Representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Red River Waterway Commission office in February. Corkern, Brad Sticker, and Karlton Methvin attended the meeting. At the meeting it was learned that we could request the Corps of Engineers to do the necessary work for FEMA certification of our levees. The cost associated with this would have to be paid by the Natchitoches Levee Board. The Board reviewed a letter from Corkern to the Corps of Engineers requesting a cost estimate for levee certification. Hopefully we will have a response by the next Board meeting.

President Karlton Methvin advised the Board that we believed there was reasonable opportunity the Levee Board could receive in excess of \$800,000 from GOHSEP for replacement of the Bayou Rachal drainage control structure. Because of the deadline for filing this application, Corkern and Methvin engaged Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson Engineers at a cost not to exceed \$13,250.00. After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Mark Swafford to approve the contract with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson Engineers for preparation of the 2017 GOHSEP HMGP application for Bayou Rachal control structure replacement. Karlton Methvin, Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith voted to pass the Motion, with no nay votes.

After public comments offered and none received, a motion was then made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Billy Giddens to authorize President Karlton Methvin to travel to Baton Rouge for the February meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana. Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith voted to pass the Motion, with no nay votes, and Karlton Methvin abstaining.

After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Janet Jones and seconded by Mark Swafford to change the time of the monthly meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. After public comments offered and none received the Motion was passed with Karlton Methvin, Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith voting yes and zero votes against.

Finally, Corkern reminded the Board of the annual convention of the Red River Valley Associations to be held in Bossier later this month. Doris Rogé and Mark Swafford will attend that meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Janet Jones and seconded by Doris Rogé to adjourn. Karlton Methvin, Janet Jones, Doris Rogé, Billy Giddens, Mark Swafford, Rayburn Smith in favor of the Motion, with no votes against.

Approved on the 14th day of March, 2017, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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