

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
March 8, 2022
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 to order in the Natchitoches Municipal Building, 560 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on March 8, 2022, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Mary Jones, Secretary
Mark Swafford, Member
Casey Messenger Member
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member
Terry Sklar, Member

Absent were:

Rayburn Smith, Member
Jolley Nash, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent
Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer
Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer
Jordan Lemoine, Edko, LLC
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson

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 President, Karlton Methvin.

The February, 2022 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Swafford to approve the February, 2022 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The January, 2022 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by

Swafford and seconded by Nolan Jones to approve the January, 2022 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

Paul Trimble with Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson reported that he had presented construction plans for the capital outlay projects that have been approved. He reviewed with the Board the Ross Lake and Flat Bayou drainage outfall improvements and a discussion followed. Mr. Trimble advised that no action needed to be taken by the Board, but he simply wanted to keep the Board advised regarding the progress of these projects.

The Maintenance Superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. Dunn advised that his crew had been working on the ditches. They had been cleaning debris, stumps and vegetation from L2-B1, L8 (Bayou Possion), L10 (ditch coming out of East Natchitoches), and L4C (the ditch that runs beside Natchitoches Wood Preserving Company - Bernard Cresote Plant). Nolan Jones inquired about the ditch (L20) that runs besides the St. Matthews School. The ditch has a lot of debris and is ponding water instead of draining. Karlton Methvin advised that he had looked at the ditch and it does need to be cleaned out. A discussion followed as to whether the ditch could be cleaned with the long reach tractor that the Board is currently leasing. Other discussion raised the issue of whether a portion of this ditch would be considered wetlands, and thus require a 404 Permit. A Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Mary Jones to authorize Meyer, Meyer, Lacroix & Hixson to inspect this ditch and make recommendations to the Board. The Motion passed unanimously.

The DOTD report was given by Jonathan Lachney. Lachney advised that the Bayou Chivary bids are to be let in June of this year, and work will probably two months later. He indicated that it is estimated it will take 8 to 10 months to complete the work along Highway 71.

The Saline Bayou bridge will be let in October of this year. The road will remain open throughout construction of this bridge. Lachney also discussed the crossing on Highway 119 (David Bailey property). The owner of this property wanted a low water crossing, but that would not work well for this location. Lachney has recommended that they owner purchase two pipes. DOTD will assist in recommending the size of the pipes. If the owner purchases the pipes then Dunn's crew will put the pipes in.

A discussion followed regarding an incident occurring at the dam on the north end of Cane River. Apparently, Suddenlink was installing a cable and drilled a hole into the levee that struck

a gas line. Suddenlink had not obtained a permit from Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District and did not realize they needed a permit before doing any work on the levee. DOTD inspected the damaged gas line and dictated the repairs that needed to be made. Suddenlink has agreed to make all repairs in accordance with the recommendations of DOTD.

In other business, Corkern advised the Board that he had not heard from Kyle Hudson with KNH Trucking and Contracting, LLC regarding the floodgate repairs. Corkern was not sure who to call because a written bid had not been received, but had been relayed to the Board by Rayburn Smith. Smith was absent from the Board meeting, and Corkern advised that he would contact Smith to obtain the name of the contractor to whom the bid had been awarded and contact him. Corkern was instructed to make certain that the contractor possessed a contractor's license and insurance. A Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Sklar to award the contract for repair of the liftgates to Carnahan, the second lowest bidder if Kyle Hudson did not possess a contractor's license, a certificate of insurance, or was unable to do the work. It was noted that the difference between the lowest bid and the Carnahan bid was only \$600.00.

The Board reviewed the applications received for Mobile Equipment Operator 1/Heavy and a committee of Billy Dunn, Mark Swafford, Mary Jones, Nolan Jones, Terry Sklar, and Karlton Methvin were appointed to interview the applicants. Dunn was directed to review the applications and choose 2 or 3 individuals to interview at Corkern's Office on the following Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Jordan Lemoine advised the Board that his crew had finished spraying the Campti-Clarence side of the levee for thistles. Lemoine advised that he would check the area in a couple of weeks, and anything they missed they would get to at that time.

In other business, a Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Nolan Jones to change the time for the monthly meetings to 7:00 p.m. to accommodate the farmers on the Board. This Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern advised that Nash and Mary Jones needed to complete their Financial Disclosure Statements by May 15. He further advised that Nash and Smith needed to complete the online ethics training.

There being no further business to come before the Board a Motion was made by Mary Jones and seconded by Sklar to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously.

Approved on the 12th day of April, 2022, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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