

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
May 11, 2021  
7:00 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 May 11, 2021, 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  
Terry Sklar, Member  
Rayburn Smith, Member  
Casey Messenger Member  
Nolan Jones, Jr. Member

Absent were:

Jolley Nash, Member

Also present were:

Ford Stinson, EDKO  
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson, Inc.  
Susan Douglas, DOTD Levee Safety Engineer  
Jarmarquis Torrence, DOTD Engineer  
Jonathan Lachney, DOTD Engineer

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 7:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

A Motion was made by Terry Sklar and seconded by Rayburn Smith to supplement the agenda by adding to the agenda the purchase/lease of a new backhoe. Following public discussion, this Motion passed unanimously.

The April, 2021 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by

Mary Jones to approve the April, 2021 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The April, 2021 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Swafford to approve the April, 2021 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

The Maintenance Superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. Dunn advised that the crew was working on repairing damage caused by field hogs and was continuing to pick up limbs and debris from the last storm. The crew has also sprayed all structures and cross fences and cleaned W-2, L-4, L-10 and L-36A ditches. The crew is currently working on patching holes on the crown of the levee. They have closed the gates at Rodger Collum's place as a matter of caution.

Paul Trimble advised that there was nothing new to report on the project his firm was working on. He continues to stay in touch with FEMA and will advise the Board when any progress is made.

Jarmarquis Torrence advised that he had recently inspected the levee at Marco Road. Cane River is up, but there is no change in the bank so far. He further advised that Red River is rising and they are keeping an eye on it.

Jonathan Lachney reported on the application by DOTD for permits related to three bridge crossings. These applications were sent to the Corps for approval and the Corps has requested a new gap closure plan. Mr. Lachney is going to discuss this request with Brad Sticker. He believes Brad had previously worked on a gap closure plan that was not finalized and had not been adopted by the Board.

A discussion followed regarding the purchase or lease of a new backhoe. Karlton Methvin advised the Board that our current backhoe lease would expire the end of May. He had checked with at least two dealerships and the cost of leasing a backhoe has risen considerably more than our current lease. In fact, a new lease for the same backhoe is double what the old lease was. A discussion followed as to whether we should simply purchase the backhoe we are now leasing. A Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Messenger to appoint a committee composed of Methvin, Sklar and Swafford to further study the purchase of the backhoe we are currently leasing versus leasing a new backhoe and to make

a decision as to which would be in the best interest of the NLDD and to move forward with either the purchase or lease of backhoe. Following public comment this Motion passed unanimously.

Corkern then brought before the Board the Resolution to roll the millage rate forward for the tax year 2021. The Resolution to roll the millage forward was read in full, a copy of which is attached. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Nolan Jones, Jr. to roll the millage forward in accordance with the Resolution. The vote was recorded as follows: Yea - Methvin, Mary Jones, Swafford, Smith, Sklar, Messenger, Nolan Jones, Jr.; Nay - none; Absent - Nash.

A discussion then followed regarding the applications for Mobile Equipment Operator 1/Heavy position. The Board reviewed each application and determined that Mr. Martin and Mr. Yount should be interviewed. A committee consisting of Dunn, Nolan Jones, Jr. and Messenger was appointed to interview the applicants.

Corkern again advised the Board that the Red River Valley Association annual convention would be held at the Horseshoe Casino/Resort in Bossier on June 2 & 3. No members were able to attend.

Further discussion, Corkern advised the Board that the regularly scheduled meeting for June would be on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and he would be on vacation that week. He also advised that his administrative assistant, Tina Coffey, who usually attends in his absence would not be able to attend on June 8, inasmuch as she was having a medical procedure. Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Nolan Jones, Jr. to move the June meeting to June 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2021, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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