

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

July 9, 2019

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 in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on July 9, 2019, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Janet Jones, Secretary
Billy Giddens, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Doris Rogé, Member
Casey Messenger, Member

Absent were:

Terry Sklar, Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jamarcus Torrence, DOTD
Paul Trimble, Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson
Jeremy Gilbert, EDKO
Ford Stinson, EDKO

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 Giddens and seconded by Messenger to amend the agenda so as to include a recommendation to Governor Edwards to appoint Terry Sklar to the Red River Waterway Commission. Following public comments, this Motion to amend the agenda passed unanimously.

The June, 2019 minutes were read and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Rogé and seconded by Giddens

to approve the June, 2019 minutes. This Motion passed unanimously.

The June, 2019 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Messenger to approve the June, 2019 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

Paul Trimble with Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson gave an update on the work performed by his company relative to the lower Cane River flood improvement project. He advised that all of the documents prepared by his firm were timely filed with GOSHEP in March, 2019. The cost benefit analysis was turned out to be 1.26, and this exceeded the required cost benefit level of 1.05. At this time we are simply waiting to hear from GOSHEP regarding the status of our application, and we are expecting to receive authority to move to the next phase.

Mr. Trimble then reviewed with the Board his company's proposal for preparing bid documents, overseeing the bid phase, and performing periodic inspections during construction of the two pipes previously determined to be unacceptable by the Corps of Engineers. Following further discussion and public comments, a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Jones to engage the engineering firm of Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson at a total cost of \$17,350 as outlined in their proposal dated July 2, 2019 to perform bid document preparation, construction administration, and periodic construction inspections. The Motion passed unanimously.

The invoice received from Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson for worked performed on the lower Cane River flood control improvement project was reviewed and discussed. A Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Smith to approve the payment to Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson in the amount of \$19,113.00. Following public comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

A discussion then followed with Ford Stinson and Jeremy Gilbert of Edko, regarding what had been sprayed, what had not been sprayed, and future spraying plans.

Billy Dunn, the Maintenance Superintendent, advised the Board that his crew was currently cutting grass. All of the grass on the Natchitoches side of the levee has been cut and they are about halfway through on the Campti side of the levee. Additionally, we had damage done as a result of several of the

storms that moved through the area, and on those days when it is too wet to cut grass, they have been cleaning up debris from the storms, and also working on the gates replacing hinges, etc.

Mr. Dunn also advised that the 2011 truck has been using a lot of oil. The truck currently has 200,000 miles on it. Dunn inquired as to whether the Board wished to look into putting a new engine or a rebuilt engine into the old truck, or looking at purchasing a new truck. Further discussion followed and it was determined that the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District could no longer piggy back off of another legal entity as we did when this truck was purchased and we piggy backed off of the Alexandria State contract. In order for us to purchase under the State contract, we would need our own fleet number. The Board requested Corkern to check on getting a fleet number. After obtaining a fleet number Mr. Dunn will look into the cost of a new truck purchase versus putting a rebuilt or new engine into the old truck.

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, reported on his conversations with Waterman since the last meeting. He spoke with one individual on two separate occasions and emailed him all of the information regarding the problem we have had with the lift nut on one side of the gate. The individual never responded to either email, but in a telephone conversation simply stated that "we don't make those parts anymore" and gave him the name and number of a salesman to contact regarding a new lift gate. Sticker then contacted John Calhoun with Waterman regarding the cost of a whole new lift assembly. Calhoun is supposed to prove a price for that following which we can compare that price with the cost of having a machine shop build what we need.

A discussion then followed regarding bank caving issues at various locations. Methvin inquired as to whether the Corps of Engineers would help with the cost of repairs and Sticker advised it was very unlikely. Sticker advised that some of the repairs could be made by our own crew.

A discussion also followed regarding the slide at Marco. At Marco we have 4' left on the crown. Mr. Sticker indicated he would revisit the cost estimate he had prepared previously for repairing this slide with an 8' crown. He will present that at the next meeting.

Sticker also advised that the Corps of Engineers had finally sent a letter to Ken Guidry approving his emergency repair permit request.

Finally, Sticker advised that the Corps' inspection of our levees would be in August.

A Motion was then made by Smith to nominate Terry Sklar to the Governor for appointment to the Red River Waterway Commission, Corkern advised that our recommendation may be too late inasmuch as all recommendations were to have been submitted to the Governor by June 1, 2019. The Board decided to submit the letter even if it was deemed to be too late, and a Motion was made by Smith and seconded by Messenger to recommend to Governor Edwards that he appoint Terry Sklar to represent this District on the Red River Waterway Commission. The Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Jones and seconded by Swafford to adjourn. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 13th day of August, 2019, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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