

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
July 11, 2017
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 11, 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
Billy Giddens, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Terry Sklar, Member
Casey Messenger, Member

Absent were:

Doris Rogé, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jeremy Gilbert, Edko, Inc.
Ford Stenson, Edko, Inc.
Don Cummings

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.

The minutes of the May and June, 2017 meetings were read and discussed. After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Terry Sklar, and seconded by Rayburn Smith, to approve the May and June, 2017 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The May and June, 2017 financial statements were reviewed and discussed. After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Mark Swafford

to approve the May and June, 2017 financial statements. The Motion passed unanimously.

President Methvin introduced Mr. Don Cummings with Air Data Solutions. Mr. Cummings reviewed with the Board the proposal by his company to video all culverts and pipes on the Natchitoches side of Red River and submit same to the Corps of Engineers. The proposal from Air Data Solutions came with a total contract price of \$15,710.00. Following discussion by the Board, a Motion was made by Terry Sklar and seconded by Casey Messenger to authorize President Karlton Methvin to enter into a contract with Air Data Solutions for videoing of all pipes and culverts on the Natchitoches side of Red River at a total cost of \$15,710.00. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was then given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew had spent the last month cutting grass primarily at Marco and Bayou Poisson. They also finished picking up limbs and debris from all of the levees, including the State levees, resulting from the previous storm. For the past week the crew has been cutting the grass at Powhata. Additionally, the crew has sprayed all of the fence lines.

Mr. Dunn advised that he had consulted with several individuals about replacement of the gates at Marco. He has ordered three gates from the individual who was not only the most knowledgeable with respect to what was needed, but also the cheapest. During the discussion it was noted that the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District has previously received payment from FEMA for the cost of these gates and that we are under a deadline by which we must spend the money. In other words, the gates must be installed and paid for by the deadline. It is believed the deadline is some time in September, and Corkern was instructed to determine the specific deadline and note same so that an extension of time could be requested one month before if it appeared we may not meet the current deadline.

Mr. Dunn then led a discussion regarding Bayou Poisson (L-10) and the trees that had fallen into that Bayou. Dunn advised that his crew was unable to remove the trees because they could not be reached with either the backhoe or the excavator. Dunn advised that he needed to either purchase or borrow an aluminum boat so that they could tie a rope to the trees that had fallen into the Bayou and pull them to the bank so that they

could then be removed with the excavator. Rayburn Smith advised that he had an aluminum boat they could borrow for this purpose.

Dunn further advised the Board that he had requested bids for the removal of trees and debris from the ditches in East Natchitoches. He had hoped to obtain a bid from Bynog tree service, but Mr. Bynog did not submit a bid and has not returned his calls. He received only one bid and it was from SkyPlex Trucking, L.L.C. in the amount of \$49,950.00. Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Terry Sklar to authorize President Karlton Methvin to enter into a contract with SkyPlex Trucking, L.L.C. in accordance with the SkyPlex proposal for the total sum of \$49,950.00. This Motion passed unanimously.

In other business, Brad Sticker advised that the City of Natchitoches' permit request to cross L-19 had been approved by DOTD. A Letter to No Objection has been received and provided to the City. Approval from the Corps of Engineers is not needed for this permit. Ronald Corkern was asked to contact Nick Verrett with the City and let him know that the permit had been approved and that the City could proceed with the work.

A discussion then followed regarding the annual budget. After public comments offered and none received, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Billy Giddens to adopt the 2017-2018 Budget as submitted. This Motion passed unanimously.

President Karlton Methvin led a discussion regarding the request to contribute \$5,000.00 to the flood coalition project. The intent is for the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana to retain a lobbyist to lobby Congress regarding flood insurance rates. Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Terry Sklar and seconded by Mark Swafford not to make a financial contribution at this time inasmuch as the Board had previously authorized an engagement with the Corps of Engineers to provide levee certification for all levees on the Natchitoches side. The total cost of levee certification is unknown, but it will certainly be expensive. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion note to make a financial contribution for this project.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Janet Jones and seconded by Casey Messenger to adjourn. The Motion passed unanimously.

Approved on the 8th day of August, 2017, at Natchitoches,
Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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