

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
August 14, 2018
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 August 14, 2018, 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
Mark Swafford, Member
Terry Sklar, Member
Casey Messenger, Member

Board Members absent were:

Billy Giddens, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Maintenance Superintendent
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Jeremy Gilbert, Edko
Don Cummings, Air Data Solutions

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 discussion was held regarding the July, 2018 minutes. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Sklar, and seconded by Jones, to approve the July, 2018 minutes. This Motion passed unanimously.

The July, 2018 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Messenger to approve the July, 2018 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

Don Cummings with Air Data Solutions discussed with the Board reviewing the remainder of the pipes in our system. Air Data Solutions videoed the pipes on the Campti-Clarence Levee and all of those pipes have been approved by the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Cummings advised the Board that his company would charge the same thing for videoing the remainder of the pipes as they charged before, which was \$10.00 per foot. Further discussion followed regarding the total number of pipes that would have to be videoed and those pipes which would have to be de-watered before they could be videoed. There are at least two pipes that will have to be de-watered before they can be videoed. Mr. Dunn advised that they would not be able to get the track from where it is currently located to the pipes that will have to be de-watered for at least a couple of months. Mr. Cummings advised that his company could begin videoing whenever we were ready. A Motion was made by Sklar to authorize Air Data Solutions to video the remaining pipes, and to begin work immediately on those pipes that did not have to be de-watered. That Motion was seconded by Swafford, and following public discussion, the Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn reported that his crew had been working on Miller Bayou (W-2) for a month, and probably had another two months of work in that area. The crew has been mowing, spraying, cleaning pipes, and preparing for the inspection by the Corps of Engineers which would begin August 15, 2018.

A further discussion followed regarding the L-2A1 Ditch. Mr. Dunn advised that he felt we needed two 60" pipes in that ditch that are at least 40' long in order to carry the water, and also provide a crossing for vehicles. Mark Swafford inquired as to whether we had looked at placing a railcar or flatcar across the ditch which would serve as a bridge and not impede the flow of water. Following further discussion, the Board asked Mr. Dunn to coordinate with Brad Sticker to determine the best way to provide a crossing at this location, and the cost associated therewith. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Sticker will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Dunn further advised the Board that he had received a quote from Johnny Carney (welder) to build and install two lifts that would allow the work crew to lift the flap gates at Cloutierville at a cost of \$13,012.40. Following further discussion, a Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Sklar

to authorize Johnny Carney to build and install the lifts at this location.

Mr. Dunn thereafter advised the Board that he intended to take off seven days next month after the Labor Day holiday.

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, discussed the hazard mitigation grant. He requested that Ronald Corkern contact Nick Verrett to determine if he has, in his possession, a copy of the final scope of work statement for the Lower Cane River Flood Control Improvements. Corkern was asked to obtain the final scope of work statement and provide a copy of that to Mr. Sticker. A discussion then followed regarding the necessity for hiring engineers to assist in the planning phase of the lower Cane River flood control improvements. Karlton Methvin pointed out that Meyer, Meyer, and LaCroix had assisted in preparing some of the work that was submitted with our application. Following further discussion, the Board asked Corkern to contact Paul Tremble with Meyer, Meyer, and LaCroix and seek their assistance with respect to the engineering work that has been approved.

The Board then discussed the Resolution authorizing the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District to enter into an agreement implementing the grant under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program. After further discussion, and following public comments, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Messenger to adopt the Resolution of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. Pursuant to the Resolution, the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District will owe 25% of the engineering and design fees, or approximately \$22,000.00. The Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sticker further advised the Board that he and Billy Dunn had inspected the Rachal Canal, and that there were no other pipes between the Moreau structure and Elton Kennedy's place. Mr. Sticker then inquired as to whether a letter had been sent to Mr. Moreau regarding the pipe located on his property at Station 138+45. Corkern advised that a letter had been sent to Mr. Moreau, asking him to contact Corkern and advise as to whether he was willing to purchase the pipe to go in this ditch. Corkern advised that he had not received a response from Mr. Moreau. Following further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the pipe was not permitted and should be removed. The Board instructed Billy Dunn to remove the pipe at his earliest convenience.

Mr. Sticker also advised the Board that the levee at Marco was continuing to slide. At this point in time, the whole crown is gone. Mr. Sticker did not have an exact cost for making repairs, but indicated it would be expensive. He had previously made a rough estimate of \$200,000 to \$300,000. There is very little levee left in this location.

Mr. Sticker advised that Corkern had previously inquired as to whether L-24 (Bayou Jacko) was in the Levee Board system. Bayou Jacko runs through the City of Natchitoches. Sticker advised that as best he could tell, the part of Bayou Jacko south of Texas Street is in the system, and the part of Bayou Jacko that is north of Texas Street is not in the system. Corkern informed the Board that he had made the inquiry because he had been asked by the City of Natchitoches if Bayou Jacko was a part of the Levee Board drainage system. Employees of the City had noticed large cracks in the concrete that was allowing water to enter and washout the dirt. Terry Sklar advised that portion of Bayou Jacko that is concreted was done by local contractor, Don Collins, pursuant to a contract with the City of Natchitoches that was overseen by Ben Mayeaux when he was the Director of Community Development.

Mr. Sticker also discussed with the Board a permit application he had received from Nick Verrett with the City of Natchitoches. The permit was for the replacement of an existing CMT cross-drain pipe under School Drive in East Natchitoches. This pipe structure is located in Lateral No. L-19A, which is a drainage ditch maintained by NLDD. Sticker further advised that downstream of this crossing someone has put in a 42" pressure pipe that is inadequate. This pipe is not permitted and we would need two 48" pipes at this location in order to avoid restricting the water flow. The Board requested Corkern to send a letter to Gahagan Land & Timber Company advising that the pipe currently in that location is not permitted, is undersized, and will have to be removed.

Following the report of Mr. Sticker, a discussion was held regarding whether we should again submit a request for Capital Outlay funding. A Motion was made by Swafford and seconded by Rogé to retain Randy LaCaze to again submit a Capital Outlay request on behalf of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District.

Ronald Corkern advised that he had received an email from Tisha London with the Office of Community Development regarding the FEMA Public Assistance Non-Federal Share Match Program. This

program will reimburse the Levee Board for 25% of the funds expended because of the 2016 flood. FEMA had previously reimbursed the Board for 75% of the costs. A Resolution is required to allow Karlton Methvin to sign any Agreements or other documents required by the Office of Community Development for this match program. After further discussion, and following public comments, a Motion was made by Sklar and seconded by Messenger to adopt the Resolution of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

A discussion then followed regarding Gooch Bayou and the drainage issues in that area. After discussing the issues without resolution, Brad Sticker informed the Board that when he had the opportunity he would walk the area with Dunn and develop a further understanding of which way and where the water was flowing and would report back to the Board.

Although there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board was at a loss as to how to adjourn the meeting since Ms. Jones had to leave a few minutes early. After considerable discussion, Corkern advised the Board that legally anyone could make the Motion to adjourn, and that Motion did not have to be made by Ms. Jones. Accepting the advice of counsel, Messenger moved to adjourn, and this Motion was seconded by Sklar. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 11th day of September, 2018, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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