

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
August 11, 2015
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 11, 2015, 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
Billy Giddens, Member
Terry Sklar, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Billy Dunn, Foreman
Alan Shephard, Edko
Stephen Rachal
Jerry Rachal

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 Rayburn Smith and seconded by Doris Rogé to amend the agenda to add the following items for discussion:

1. Declare the 1997 Ford F-250 Pickup Truck to be surplus and authorize its sale at public action in Winnfield on September 11, 2015; and
2. To authorize entering into a contract with Tina Coffey to serve as the Board's liaison and to accumulate and

file all documentation to support the Board's claim for reimbursement by FEMA of expenses incurred in fighting the May/June Red River flood.

Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the July, 2015 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Terry Sklar and seconded by Mark Swafford, to approve the July, 2015 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The July, 2015 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Janet Jones to approve the July, 2015 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

Stephen Rachal and Jerry Rachal advised that they were property owners near Marco and discussed with the Board their concern over the condition of the ditch that runs their property and the trees and debris that had been removed from the ditch but left on the ground. They expressed their belief that the debris is not within the Levee Board's right of way, but instead is located on their property. Further discussion followed regarding what could be done to clean the ditch and improve drainage. The Board inquired as to whether the debris removed from the ditch could be buried on their property and they advised it could not. The board advised that the ditch would be inspected to determine whether or not spraying the ditch was feasible or if there were other remedies available. Additionally, the Board advised that the debris that had already been cleaned from the ditch and left on the edge would be removed as soon as possible.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn advised that his crew was working in the Campti area cutting grass on the federal levees. They are also grading and cleaning up the cow rut, etc., all in preparation for the levee inspection by the Corps of Engineers which is expected to begin on August 24. Dunn advised that his crew was currently working the levee on the Miller property and would be moving over to the Campti side by Friday. Mr. Dunn advised that he believed his crew would be pretty close to having everything completed by the time of the Corps' inspection.

Mr. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, reported that he would get the name of the Kansas City Southern Railway contact person and provide that to Corkern so that Corkern could contact KCS to see

if they had any interest in sharing the expense of making the closure gates across the KCS Railroad operational or replacing same.

Mr. Sticker further advised that he had not had a chance to get back on Channel L-20 and discuss same with the Corps of Engineers. He indicated that before the next meeting he would get in touch with the Corps of Engineers and obtain from them some further explanation as to what the Levee Board could do to improve the drainage in that ditch.

Mr. Sticker also advised the Board that construction on the Cloutierville floodgates should begin within 30 days. The contractor has ordered material and expects to mobilize and begin construction.

Mr. Sticker also advised that Highway 486 (Campti Cutoff) and Highway 84 gap closures are still in place. He discussed with the Board the possibility of the Board purchasing and putting in small pipes and flapgates at four locations so that in the event of another high water incident, they would not have to start from scratch, but would be able to effect closure much more quickly and easily. Following further discussion, the Board approved further investigation by Mr. Sticker with respect to the purchase of pipes.

There was additional discussion regarding the Powhatan Levee and Mr. Sticker inquired as to whether the Board would like him to investigate this levee further and report back at the next meeting. The Board responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Karlton Methvin gave an update on the meetings with FEMA and efforts being made to obtain reimbursement for expenses incurred in fighting the Red River flood.

Mr. Methvin further advised that he had talked with the individual the Board had contracted with to trap beavers and was advised that the individual had trapped 65 beavers in several different locations and 24 nutria. He has sent a bill to the Board in the amount of \$2,700.00. In addition, the individual opened up 12 dams that had been built by the beavers. This individual has now picked up all of his traps and his contract is complete. Following further discussion the Board authorized the payment of the invoice.

Methvin also advised the Board that the new truck had been received and was now being used by the crew.

A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Doris Rogé to declare the 1997 Ford F-250 Pickup Truck surplus and to authorize its sale at the public auction to be held in Winnfield on September 11, 2015. Following public comments, the Motion passed unanimously.

Ronald Corkern advised the work that has been done and is being done by Tina Coffey in an effort to obtain reimbursement from FEMA for expenses incurred in fighting the flood. A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Janet Jones authorizing a contract with Tina Coffey to provide liaison, accumulate documentation, and all file with the State and/or FEMA all documents necessary to obtain reimbursement for flood expenses. Following public comments, this Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved on the 8th day of September, 2015, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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