

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
September 10, 2013
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 September 10, 2013, 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
Doris Rogé, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member

Absent were:

Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member

Also present were:

Billy Dunn, Foreman
Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Doug #, DOTD
Allen Shephard, Edko, Inc.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order by the President, Karlton Methvin.

The minutes of the August, 2013 meeting were read and discussed. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr., and seconded by Mark Swafford, to approve the August, 2013 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The August, 2013 Financial Statement was reviewed and discussed. A Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Rayburn Smith to approve the August, 2013 Financial Statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr. And seconded by Mark Swafford to amend the agenda to discuss the lower Cane River flood gates and to authorize Lodridge Welding to fabricate the flood gate. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance superintendent's report was given by Billy Dunn. He advised that they were still cutting grass on the Federal levees. He also advised that he had been contacted by Attorney Louis Wellan in Alexandria regarding ditches on the Williams property. At least a portion of this ditch is under the Levee Board's jurisdiction. Mr. Wellan was requesting that the ditch be cleaned out and that all of the brush and trees removed from the ditch be pushed to an old pile that was pushed up about three years ago. Mr. Dunn advised the Board that the ditch in question could use some attention but it is not impeding the water flow and the ditch is actually in the Federal Tree Program (WRP). He also advised the group that it would be a very long push to try to move all of the debris to the pile of brush that had been stacked up three years ago. Since they cannot bury anything within 300' of the levee, it would be much easier if the Board decided to clean the ditch for them to simply push the tress and debris into a pile near the ditch. Mr. Dunn advised that Mr. Wellan also had another ditch he was wanting to be cleaned out that was further south. Mr. Dunn has also inspected this ditch and again there is no hindrance to the drainage. It would be of some benefit to the Levee Board if they cleaned one side of the ditch which would allow workers to travel down the ditch to the end.

The Board discussed cleaning these two ditches and it was decided not to take any action with respect to the ditches at the present time. Mr. Methvin indicated he would also take a look at the ditches as soon as he could get to it.

Mr. Dunn also advised the Board that the overhanging tree limbs adjacent to the State levee on the Dale Valley Place owned by Nathan Albritton needed to be cut. However, Mr. Albritton does not want us to bury or burn the debris on his property. If we don't cut the limbs it is going to reach the point where they cannot mow the grass on the levee. Corkern suggested that they cut those limbs that were overhanging onto the levee servitude and push them up into a pile on Mr. Albritton's property. Following further discussion the Board decided not to do anything with the limbs immediately, but to talk to Mr. Albritton about cutting the limbs and pushing the debris up into a pile on his property.

Mr. Dunn finally advised that they had completed their inspection of the State levees that day and had started inspecting the Federal levees. They expect to finish the inspection of the Federal levees the following day.

The DOTD report was given by Brad Sticker. Mr. Sticker advised that he had participated in the inspection of the Natchitoches, Cloutierville and Powhatan Federal levees. They had done a lot of work on the Powhatan levee and it was really in good shape. There were really no "unacceptable items" on the Powhatan levee. In fact, all of the levees were in good shape and our work crew was to be commended. He also stated that the Natchitoches levee looked real good except for the same old power poles that are within the right of way.

Mr. Sticker also advised that he had received Roger Collums Permit Request for a telephone line across the levee. He indicated that he would be near Mr. Collum's place the following day and would obtain the coordinates and complete the Permit Application inasmuch as application he had received was incomplete and not sufficient to be acted upon.

Sticker also advised that DOTD had completed the Cane River Dam inspection last month. Basically, their report will be same as last year's report. The dam is in relatively good shape.

Mr. Sticker also advised the Board that he was continuing to work on the emergency action plan as he could get to it.

The Board then discussed the lower Cane River flood gate repairs. Mr. Sticker advised that he had completed the revised set of plans. The Board's intention is to have Mr. Lodridge build the flood gate that is to be replaced and then our own crew will hang the gate in place. A Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Adolph Sklar, Jr. to authorize Lodridge welding to build the flood gate for the price previously quoted of \$8,062.62, plus an additional \$500.00 if necessary to cover the increased material cost since the bid was submitted. Following further discussion, this Motion passed unanimously.

Ronald Corkern advised the Board that he had received a call from Detective Greg Dunn with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Department regarding individual's rights to ride on top of a Federal or State levee. Detective Dunn had received a complaint from Louis Wellan and Mr. Wellan was wanting to have an individual arrested who apparently had a key to one of the gates

that allowed him to have access to the levee adjacent to Mr. Wellan's property. Corkern advised that he had again looked at the applicable law and determined that the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District only has a servitude extending from 10' beyond the toe of the levee on one side to 10' from the toe of the levee to the other side. The ownership of the property, itself, remains with the adjacent landowner subject to the Levee District's right to access and maintain the levee. Consequently, a landowner may put up a gate across the levee and prohibit individuals from accessing the levee at that point. The exception to this rule is in those areas where a developer has dedicated the levee to the public by making it a road to allow access to individual camps and/or homes. Corkern advised that he intended to write a letter to Detective Dunn setting forth what was discussed.

In other business, the auditor's report was reviewed and discussed. Corkern pointed out that there were no significant findings other than the one finding that is really a technicality in the sense that auditing rules require it to be reported, but even the auditor agrees that the cost of providing an independent audit outside of the annual State audit is not justified.

In other business, the Board discussed merit raises for each of the employees due October 1, 2013. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr. and seconded by Janet Jones to approve merit raises for each employee. This Motion passed unanimously.

Finally, Corkern advised that Board that he had met with Randy LaCaze and provided him with cost estimates for the necessary work to be done at the Cloutierville flood gates on Highway 495. Mr. LaCaze expects to have this submitted by next month's meeting.

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

Approved on the 8th day of October, 2013, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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