

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
September 8, 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 September 8, 2015, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Doris Rogé, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Janet Jones, Secretary
Terry Sklar, Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Billy Dunn, Foreman

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 August, 2015 meeting were read and discussed. Following public comments, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Billy Giddens, to approve the August, 2015 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The August, 2015 financial statement was not available. The August check register was available and made available to Board members. Following public comment, a Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. to approve the payments and receipts reflected in the August check register. This Motion passed unanimously.

The maintenance report was given by Maintenance Superintendent, Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn reported on the inspection of the federal levees by the Corps of Engineers. The Corps thought our levees looked good. There were some things they were really pleased with, and some things they thought needed work on. Our employees are currently working on repairing the state levees for inspection. Mr. Dunn advised that they had pretty much ignored the state levees in order to get the federal levees for inspection. The State is expected to inspect the state levees during the month of October.

Mr. Dunn also advised that the state levee near Powhatan had experienced a slide. The same thing happened a couple of years ago and repairs were made by Bobby Outlaw. This time our employees fixed the slide in a manner in which it is expected that it will hold.

Mr. Dunn also advised that they needed to disc the top of the state levees and then shape them up. The state levees do not have any rock on them, and it is impossible to shape them without first discing the top. There was discussion regarding the width of the crown on the state levees and the fact that a small disc (6') would be needed. Anything larger would dump the dirt over the side. Karlton Methvin advised that they should spray the top of the levees first and kill the grass. Mr. Methvin informed Mr. Dunn that he would locate a 6' disc.

Mr. Dunn also advised the Board that the two old gates taken from the Highway 495 crossing had been stored at the shop. Mr. Sticker advised that they were hopeful they would be able to use these gates in place of the aluminum gates on the cross bayou structure.

Finally, Mr. Dunn advised the Board that he would like to take his annual leave from September 14 through September 28. Keith Antee will also be off during one of those weeks. Andy will be in charge during the period of Mr. Dunn's absence. During this period of time the crew will probably be bushhogging the federal levees because the grass is still growing.

Mr. Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, reported that the pipes for the Highway 495 crossing are in. He also reported that there will be a Change Order due to the fact that when they pulled the head wall off, the sides caved in. The contractor is exploring three options for making these repairs, but it is most likely that they will put the head wall back just like it was because

they configuration worked for many years. Mr. Sticker estimated the additional cost will probably be in the neighborhood of \$100,000, and, of course, the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District will owe 10% of whatever the increased cost is. Mr. Sticker also advised that cast iron gates will be put on this structure and not steel gates as was requested by the contract. Again, DOTD determined that the cast iron gates that were there had worked for 60 years and thus they did not want to change this aspect of the structure.

Sticker also advised that DOTD will be surveying the Powhatan levee. The levee in this area has degraded over time. They will be looking at what they need to do to tie in the southern end of the levee.

Karlton Methvin led a discussion regarding rental/lease/purchase of a smaller dozer. The big dozer that they NLDD owns cannot be used most of the time because of its size. A discussion followed as to whether we should trade in our large dozer for a smaller dozer that is more functional. Mr. Methvin requested Mr. Dunn to explore the cost of a smaller dozer less our trade-in versus a lease/purchase of a smaller dozer and report to the Board at the next meeting.

Ronald Corkern discussed with the Board a visit from Roger Collum. Mr. Collum complained that a portion of the fence near his home was torn down in order for employees to gain access to the drain pipes in that area, and that the fence had never been rebuilt. Mr. Dunn advised that they had additional work to do on the gates and consequently they do not want to rebuild the fence until the work was completed. Corkern also advised the Board that during the last Legislative session a Bill authorizing an increase in Levee Board per diem had been passed. However, the formula for determining the amount of the increase is complicated and Corkern advised he would seek an interpretation from our Legislative Auditor and report at the next meeting. Corkern also reported on the recent audit, the final version of which has not been received. The auditor did mention a couple of issues with respect to our travel policy, and Corkern discussed these issues in detail.

Corkern also advised that the individual who had damaged the levee near Cloutierville by driving his vehicle down the side of the levee had been repaired, and the individual responsible had paid \$400 which Billy Dunn had estimated would be the cost of repairs.

In other business, the Board discussed a 4% merit raise for employees beginning October 1, 2015. A motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by Rayburn Smith to approve the 4% merit raise for all employees. Following public comment, the Motion passed unanimously.

Finally, the Board discussed the performance evaluation for each employee. A Motion was made by Doris Rogé and seconded by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. to approve the Performance Evaluation Planning Session for each employee. Following Public Comment, this Motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved on the 13th day of October, 2015, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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