



SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, August 15, 2013

West Monroe Convention Center, 901 Ridge Ave, West Monroe, LA 71292

CALL TO ORDER: The August 15, 2013 meeting of the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District Commission was called to order by President Jackie Perritt at 2:00 p.m. **Members present** were Jackie Perritt, Billy Perritt, Ben Lowery, Lynn Treadway, Rick Hohlt, Samuel P. Little, Mack Calhoun, Dan Morgan, Willie Doherty, Carol DeVillie, Ted McKinney, Terry Emory, and Anne Marie Anderson. **Members not in attendance** were Steve Lemmons, Jack Pace, Chris Smith, and Charles Hughes. It was determined that a **quorum existed**. Others in attendance were Art Murphy, Susan Robbins (LRWA), Sherrel Johnson (UCWCB/Ark.), Robert Reynolds (UCWCB/Ark.), Preston Spires (UCWCB), Richard Durrett (Waggoner Eng.), Courtney Hall (Adm. LPPJ), Renee Smith (City of W. Monroe), and Ben McGee (USGS/La., Ex-Officio member of Sparta Commission). The **Invocation** was given by Willie Doherty, and the **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Dan Morgan. (**Attachment 1**—Sign-in sheets)

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Approval of the January 17, 2013 Minutes was added to the agenda in addition to approval of Notes from April 18, 2013. (January 17 Minutes not approved at April 18, 2013 meeting due to lack of quorum)

Motion: Dan Morgan moved to approve the amended Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ted McKinney and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES AND NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Minutes of the January 17, 2013 meeting and notes of the April 18, 2013 meeting of the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District Commission had been emailed to all members of the Commission. J. Perritt asked for any discussion of the minutes. There was none. **Motion:** Dan Morgan moved to **adopt the Minutes** of the January 17, 2013 meeting and the Notes of the April 18, 2013 meeting. Anne Marie Anderson seconded and the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Billy Perritt reported the current total Liabilities and Assets of the Commission as \$55,185.38 and stated that contributions of approximately \$31,200 have been received since the first of the year. He read a list of those who had made contributions and asked commissioners to check with the cities/parishes they represent and encourage them to make their contributions if they were not on the list.

The P&L Statement showed a net income of \$5,010.04 since the first of the year.

Motion: Rick Hohlt moved for approval of the **Treasurer's Report**. Dan Morgan seconded and the motion passed. (**Attachment 2**—Sparta Balance Sheet 8-15-13 and Sparta P&L YTD 2013)

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

State Water Resources Commission Meeting—June 5, 2013 -- Ted McKinney

McKinney reported that there was not a lot of activity at the June meeting of the LWRC. In a presentation of major issues, Matt Reonas (Educ. & Marketing Rep., DNR) stated that the state was looking at taking over wells. Reonas is developing educational billboards, etc. and says that he plans to come up and visit with members of the Sparta Commission.

The State Water Plan completed in March 2012 was presented to the state legislature, and an Interim Plan has just come out in which the Sparta received a major mention along with the West Monroe water recycling project. (For more information go to DNR.la.gov and search for the Interim Report to the Legislature, select #3, Water Resources Update 2013.) There will be 5-7 regional advisory councils established to deal with aquifer issues all over the state. It is expected that the Capital Area and Sparta Commissions will take the lead. One of the critical issues is a lack of information and data. The USGS has entered into a three year partnership with the state to make measurements in a substantial increase in wells. The total oil well count is down from its peak.

Mark Davis discussed issues between the state of Oklahoma and Terrant County, Texas. The courts have ruled for Oklahoma, stating that a state owns all the water in the state.

In a report on the Capital Area aquifer situation, Tony Duplechin stated that salt water intrusion is getting very serious, and there has been a major effort to get industry to move away from the aquifer and use the Mississippi River. Usage of the aquifer seems to be stable now.

A resolution was passed by the Water Resources Commission that requested “funding from the RESTORE Act or other sources for the development of a comprehensive statewide water resources management plan that will provide a sound basis for supplying Louisiana’s future water needs...conserve our natural resources, protect the environment, and rebuild our coastal ecosystems...”

(Attachment 3— Resolution of the Louisiana Water Resources Commission 6-5-13)

The first State Water Conference will be held in Baton Rouge on Thursday, October 17, 2013.

Annual Report—Ted McKinney and Bennie Lowery

HB 156 was passed and signed by the legislature. It states that the lack of compliance in making an annual report by a Board or Commission could result in dissolution of the Board or Commission. The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District Commission is in compliance.

Public Relations/ Executive Committee Meeting Re: Sparta Website—Rick Hohlt

The committee met to discuss problems with the website. An upgrade with Newcomer Morris Agency would have been very expensive and would not have sufficiently met our needs. A new contract with Bell Design has been entered into. The redesign of the website is 95% complete and will be launched soon. The web address will be the same: spartaaquifer.com. More pictures and videos will be posted, and payments and donations will be able to be made online. The cost will be \$4600. \$4500 has been approved by the executive Board.

Marketing and Sparta Foundation—Newsletter—Rick Hohlt

180 copies of the **newsletter** have been printed, and 110 have been mailed to stakeholders (governor, legislators, DNR, Sen. Landrieu, Sen. Vitter, and Louisiana’s Congressional Representatives). Hohlt highlighted an article of interest concerning Southwestern Energy’s failure to register a drilling rig supply well.

Reporting on the **Sparta Shoot**, June 1, 2013, Hohlt stated that it was a great shoot, a great lunch, and everyone left with a door prize. Profit from the Shoot was in the range of \$8-9K. (**Attachment 4—**Newsletter, July 2013)

Meeting with Senator Mary Landrieu on August 5—Rick Hohlt

Sparta stakeholders met with Senator Mary Landrieu at her request. She seemed very aware of many of the issues. Her main question was: Why can’t we get *critical designation* so we can get Federal dollars. It is difficult to get funding even if there is a *critical designation*.

Commissioner Hohlt acted as host and moderator, and three presentations were made:

Ben McGee—Historical information

Terry Emory—Recycling for Graphics Packaging

Ruston Mayor Dan Hollingsworth—Lincoln-Union Initiative for drawing water from Lake D’Arbonne for the cities of Ruston and Farmerville.

The meeting was covered by Jillian Corder from Channel 8 (KNOE), Nick Laughton from Channel 10 (KTVE), and Scott Boatwright from the *Ruston Daily Leader*. (**Attachment 5—**List of attendees at meeting)

Additional Presentation—Hohlt also reported that he, Richard Durrett, Ben McGee, and Lindsay Gouedy attended and served as a panel on water issues for a meeting of the Lincoln Parish Tea Party, which had approximately 60 people in attendance.

Groundwater Management Districts Association Membership—Ted McKinney/Bennie Lowery

Lowery reported that, after Tony Duplechin made the pitch for us to join the GMDA at our last meeting, he went on their website. The cost/benefit relation is complicated, so he was unable to make a recommendation at this point. He will try to get a better feel for the information before the next meeting. McKinney talked to Duplechin about our applying as an individual for \$25 at this point until we can get a better feel for what the real benefits of membership might be.

There was also a discussion about joining the Ouachita River Valley Association (ORVA) for \$250. Sheryl Johnson suggested we have Mike Dumas attend our next meeting to discuss the benefits of ORVA membership.

OTHER REPORTS:

Conservation Educator's Report –

In the absence of Educator Lindsay Gouedy, Rick Hohlt reported on recent events and activities: Webster Parish WaterFest, Sparta Shoot Fundraiser, Meeting with Senator Landrieu, and a presentation to the Farmerville Lions Club. Upcoming events include the Union/Bienville WaterFest (10/3-4) and the Lincoln Parish WaterFest (10/10-11). (**Attachment 6**—Educator's Report)

Update on West Monroe Graphics Packaging Water Usage and Sources—Terry Emory

The water recycling plant has been running great for the last year. The major problems they have right now are not enough inflow from the city of West Monroe and too much evaporation due to drought conditions. They had been pumping an average of 5 million gal./day, but are now only able to pump 4 million gal./day. There is an effort to add inflow from other, smaller water systems in the area.

Ben McGee (USGS-LA) stated that there is still a hope they will be able to send Graphic Packaging 7-8 million gal./day, which should result in a decrease in salt water intrusion. Water levels are already trending up around the papermill.

The recycling plant has had more than 500 visitors and has won numerous awards, the most recent being the *Water Conservation and Re-Use Award* from the 2013 Louisiana Rural Water Association.

Update from Union County, Arkansas—Sherrel Johnson

Johnson discussed a field trip to Arkansas by MIT student Robert B. Sowby as part of his Master's Thesis research that resulted in an article in the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) of the Society of Civil Engineers newsletter *Currents*. Sowby related the saga of the decline in the Sparta aquifer water levels in the area of Union County, Arkansas that began in 1940 and the efforts at recovery that resulted in the development of the UCWCB. He noted the successes of the UCWCB in reducing demands on the aquifer by its citizenry and industries. (Commissioners had received the EWRI article and other related information via email.)

Johnson and McGee discussed an agreement between the states of Arkansas and Louisiana to share the responsibilities and costs involved in monitoring several wells near the Ark./La. Border.

Johnson introduced Preston Spires, the Technical Manager at the ElDorado Chemical Company, which is expanding. The company's management is putting \$600,000 into the ElDorado facility as well as building a new ammonia plant nearby. They will need to double their water usage, which is currently 300,000 gal/min. Robert Reynolds stated that this is proof that industry will come into an area with a "critical designation" if an effort is made to help them meet their water needs without over dependence on an aquifer.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Status of Commissioner Reappointments/New Appointments**

The appointments of Anne Marie Anderson, W. Lynn Treadway and Carol DeVille have been confirmed by the Governor's Office. The appointment of Charles Hughes is still pending.

The appointment process for those whose terms of appointment end in October 2013 is moving forward.

Next meeting: October 17, 2013, 2 p.m., in Winn Parish. (Note: Date may have to be adjusted to allow Commissioners to attend the statewide Water Conference in Baton Rouge, which is tentatively scheduled for the same date.)

Motion: There being no further business, Mack Calhoun moved that the meeting be adjourned. Billy Perritt seconded, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Jackie Perritt, Chair

Carol DeVille, Secretary

Note: Attachments are filed with the minutes in the Sparta Commission Office.

COMMISSION MEMBERS (status as of August 15, 2013:

Billy Perritt (Bienville)	Dr. Ben Lowery (Claiborne)	W. Lynn Treadway (Jackson)	Rick Hohlt (Lincoln)
Hon. Samuel Little (Morehouse)	Mack Calhoun (Ouachita)	Dan Morgan (Union)	Steve Lemmons (Webster)
Willie G. Doherty (Winn)	Jack Pace (Rotating-Natchitoches)	Chris Smith (Arcadia)	Carol DeVille (Homer)
TBA (Jonesboro)	TBA (Minden)	Ted McKinney (Ruston)	Terry Emory (W. Monroe)
Ann Marie Anderson (Agriculture)	Charles Hughes (n-Wood Products)	Jackie Perritt (Other Industries)	

Ex Officio Members: Dr. Gary Kennedy (La Tech University); Ben McGee (USGS); Gary Hanson (LSUS); ... (La Rural Water Assoc.)

Note: Some terms of members ended Oct. 14. Status of new members (n= "nominated"; TBA= "to be arranged") was the understanding when this agenda was approved.