

SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 8, 2007

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on February 8, 2007 at 3:05 P.M in the Police Jury Conference Room, Third Floor Lincoln Parish Courthouse Ruston, Louisiana.

Commission Members Present: Sellers Aycock, John Van Bennett, Herbert Byars, Gary Carlisle, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Edward Dayton, Don Essmeier, Samuel P. Little, Olevia McDonald, Dan Morgan, Jackie Perritt, Bobby E. Price, George W. Rolfe, Jr., Alice Stewart, and Dennis E. Woodward.

Commission Members Absent: Kim Brantley, George H. Jacob and Mack Calhoun

The meeting was officially called to order by Chairman Gene Coleman.

The invocation was given by Olevia McDonald.

Agenda Approval

It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Samuel Little to approve the agenda with a modification which consisted of moving Elzey Simmons' presentation to immediately following the minutes instead of after the committee reports. The motion was approved unanimously. (See Attachment I)

Minutes

It was moved by John Van Bennett and seconded by Jackie Perritt that the minutes be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation

Elzey Simmons, Regional Trailblazer Coordinator, provided the group with information on the purpose and working of Trailblazer. Mr. Simmons also provided a history of Trailblazer and their Sparta efforts beginning in August 1997 and working relationship with the Sparta Ground Water Commission. It was the proposal developed by Trailblazer that was used to secure the funding for the Sparta Study.

Information on educational aids and services for all ages were shown. Examples of water saving kits were shown to the commissioners.

Treasurer Report

A Treasurer report was given by Dennis Woodward. A copy of the financial statement presented to commission is attached. (See Attachment II)

It was moved by Bobby Price and seconded by Todd Culpepper to accept the treasurer report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance

The finance committee report was given by Dennis Woodward. The committee recommended that Gary Carlisle prepare the annual report for the year ending 12/31/2006 as required by the Legislative Auditor's office. See Attachment III for the full committee report.

It was moved by Sam Little and seconded by Ed Dayton to approve the actions and recommendations of the finance committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Relations

Jackie Perritt stated that the public relations committee did not meet.

Legislative

John Van Bennett stated that the Legislative committee met on February 6, 2007 at the Union Parish Courthouse Annex. Their discussion centered on approaching the Louisiana legislators and requesting assistance in funding the various projects and proposals that the Sparta Commission is considering. The committee will move forward once the Commission has decided which proposal(s) to pursue.

Long Term Planning

Alice Stewart submitted a copy of the committee's report. She discussed providing input into the process of selecting regional water boards. (See Attachment IV)

It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Herb Byars to receive the committee's report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Proposals

The commission considered several proposals:

1. USGS Proposals
 - a. Ground water quality testing.
 - b. Real-time monitoring

Ben McGee with USGS informed the group of the cost and benefits of conducting both of these projects. After discussion by the commission, it was moved by Gary Carlisle and seconded by Bobby Price to fund the ground water quality testing of 20 Sparta wells which the Commission has done for several years. The motion was approved unanimously. The cost of this project is \$30,000/ year.

The Commission also expressed interest in the 'real-time monitoring' project if funds become available. Ben agreed to seek matching funds opportunity from USGS.

2. LSU AgCenter Proposal

The Commission reviewed the proposal from the LSU AgCenter to fund a position for a full time person for 3 years whose responsibility would be solely Sparta Education. Dr. Allen Nipper gave a brief synopsis of the project. The Commission agreed that the position is needed and agreed to seek funding through the legislative process. The legislative committee will lead this effort.

It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Jackie Perritt to pursue this project. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. LSU Draft Proposal for Modeling Sparta Aquifer

After discussion by Bobby Price, Olevia McDonald, and others on the commission, it was decided to ask Dr. Carlson to come and present this proposal at a future Sparta Commission meeting.

Public Comment

Senator Bob Kostelka pledged his support and help to the commission in any way. He spoke briefly of the funding secured from the state to conduct trials for the West Monroe/ Graphic Packaging endeavor as well as trying to secure help from the state in funding a full scale project once the trials are over.

Members of the audience introduced themselves and some made brief statements. Tony Duplechin with the Department of Natural Resources Ground Water Division told the group about the wellhead protection program. He gave a schedule of when DEQ would be in some of the affected parishes over the next several years.

Jim Pesnell with Entergy suggested that the commission may want to look at becoming a 501C3 entity. Todd Culpepper agreed to investigate this opportunity.

Other Business

Jackie Perritt asked each commissioner to take an active role in educating the public about the Sparta.

The next meeting will be held in West Monroe, Louisiana on March 8, 2007 at 3:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM by the Chairperson.

Gene Coleman, Chairman

Olevia McDonald, Secretary