

SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 8, 2007

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on March 8, 2007 at 3:15 P.M in the Ouachita Room of the West Monroe Convention Center at 901 Ridge Avenue, West Monroe, LA 71292.

Commission Members Present: Sellers Aycock, Herbert Byars, Mack Calhoun, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Edward Dayton, Samuel P. Little, Olevia McDonald, Jackie Perritt, George W. Rolfe, Jr., Alice Stewart, and Dennis E. Woodward.

Commission Members Absent: John Van Bennett, Kim Brantley, Gary Carlisle, Don Essmeier, George H. Jacob, Dan Morgan, and Bobby E. Price.

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

The invocation was given by Jackie Perritt.

Agenda Approval

It was moved by Herb Byars and seconded by Jackie Perritt to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously. (See Attachment I)

Welcome – Legislators

Gene Coleman extended a welcome to all legislators who were present during the meeting and offered an opportunity for comments. The following legislators were present:

Rep. Charles McDonald – District 14 - Rep. McDonald stated that this was his first Sparta meeting. He pledged to continue to help with the efforts of funding and looking for alternate sources of water, i.e. lakes, surface water, as well as necessary studies.

Senator Bob Kostelka – District 35 – Senator Kostelka talked briefly about the City of West Monroe/Graphic Packaging joint endeavor and finding ways to fund the full scale project.

Rep. Mike Walsworth – District 15 – Rep. Walsworth talked about the importance of educating the general public on water conservation. He also thanked the Sparta Commissioners for their continued efforts.

Minutes

It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Herb Byars that the minutes be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

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 Jackie Perritt and seconded by Mack Calhoun to accept the treasurer report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

The following committees made reports:

Long Term Planning

Alice Stewart submitted a copy of the committee's report. The committee met on March 2, 2007 at 1PM in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Lincoln Parish Courthouse. (See **Attachment III**)

It was moved by Herb Byars and seconded by Todd Culpepper to approve the recommendations of the committee's report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Relations

Jackie Perritt stated that the public relations committee met by email. See **Attachment IV** for the committee report.

One of the items in the committee report dealt with a grant request (\$68,850.00) by Trailblazer to help support the Sparta effort. Dennis Woodward provided a brief overview. See **Attachment V**.

It was moved by Mack Calhoun and seconded by Sam Little to accept the committee's report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation

Terry Emory and John Stamberg provided an update on the City of West Monroe / Graphic Packaging project for water reuse.

Terry provided handouts of what the equipment looks like and provided a schedule of action dates as well as completion dates.

John Stamberg discussed the overall water quality of the Sparta and provided historical and graphic data on the Aquifer.

Members of the Commission and the audience received copies of both presentations. A copy of the presentations will be made part of the Sparta Archives at LA Tech library.

It was moved by Sam Little and seconded by Jackie Perritt to allow Kevin E. Crosby with Lazenby & Associates, Inc. to make a presentation to the commission. It was approved unanimously.

Kevin Crosby informed the group of a project to study the sewer system for all of the west side of Ouachita Parish. This project would look at effectiveness as well as the advantages of a regional treatment plant compared to small community or rural systems.

It was moved by Herb Byars and seconded by Alice Stewart that the Sparta Commissioners would submit a letter of support for this endeavor. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

During this period Tony Duplechin brought the group up-to -date on the Clean Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program. There were ~ 3600 ground water wells affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and work is on-going in making repairs and assessing contamination.

Tony informed the group that there are entities who are not reporting non-domestic water well data. They are mostly public supply. Overall about 5% of units required to report are not reporting. The DNR Ground Water Division has no enforcement rights therefore there is no penalty for not reporting. It was suggested to the legislators who were present that providing this authority should be addressed.

As a general comment, Tony asked if the minutes of the meetings and the meeting notices could be posted to the Sparta web site.

The commission will work toward getting this information to the web site. Dr. Alice Stewart agreed to lead this effort.

It was moved by Mack Calhoun and seconded by Alice Stewart to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM by the Chairperson.

Gene Coleman, Chairman

Olevia McDonald, Secretary