



SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 14, 2007

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on June 14, 2007 at 3:00 P.M in the Bienville Parish Court House, 100 Courthouse Dr., Arcadia, Louisiana 71001.

Commission Members Present: Herbert Byars, Mack Calhoun, Gary Carlisle, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Edward Dayton, Don Essmeier, Samuel P. Little, Billy Don Perritt, Jackie Perritt, Alice Stewart, and Dennis E. Woodward.

Commission Members Absent: Sellers Aycock, John Van Bennett, Kim L. Brantley, Olevia McDonald, Dan Morgan, Bobby E. Price, and George W. Rolfe, Jr.

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

The invocation was given by Herb Byars.

Agenda Approval

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

Welcome – Legislators

There were no legislators present.

Minutes

It was moved by Sam Little and seconded by Billy Perritt that the minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting 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 Billy Perritt and seconded by Jackie Perritt to accept the Treasurer report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

The following committees made reports:

Long Term Planning. Deferring long term planning to a round table discussion at the end of this meeting, Alice Stewart presented no separate long term planning report.

Public Relations and Education

Jackie Perritt stated that Entergy contributed \$7500 for a Trailblazer-conducted SAVE OUR SPARTA (SOS) Education Initiative. The Sparta Commission had requested \$68,000 for Sparta Awareness activities in each parish.

Dennis Woodward reported that Trailblazer had applied for an additional \$16,500 from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the SOS initiative. He presented a draft resolution urging NCRS to approve funding. **(See Attachment III)** Referring to the resolution's wording "the Sparta Aquifer as the major source of water... for agriculture.", Sam Little stated that the term "agriculture" is too broad. After a discussion, Mr. Little recommended substituting the words "poultry and livestock." Mack Calhoun moved to adopt the resolution with the rewording. Todd Culpepper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Legislative

Billy Perritt read an email correspondence to Sparta area legislators, requesting funding for Sparta endorsed projects. **(See Attachment IV)**.

Gene Coleman reported that Representative Walsworth introduced a bill that would offer tax incentives for equipment instrumental in decreasing use of Sparta water. He also reported that he had learned that, the Sparta being bi-state, federal representatives will help with Sparta projects in collaboration with state representatives.

Other Business

Mr Hohlt, of the Ruston Leader reported that the West Monroe-Graphic Packaging demonstration project is progressing on time and with more promise than expected. Completion of data collection in late fall will set the stage for applying for funds for the full project. Mr. Hohlt also reported on Sparta-sparing surface water projects, including Squire Creek and La Tech's plans to build a pond and move La Tech off Sparta water. He suggested that education is working and the public and legislators are responding.

Tony Duplechin (DNR-Off. of Conservation, Groundwater Resources Div.) reported that the Walsworth bill had probably not progressed in the time necessary for success in this session. He said House Concurrent Act #79 (the Commissioner of Conservation to request water loss audits of water systems) has progressed, and rural water systems will be informed. He reported that the Commissioner continues to work on the makeup of regional boards, and a report will be made at the next Groundwater Resources Commission meeting, which will be held in Aug. or Sept. He recommended writing the Commissioner to ask support of the Sparta Commission's requests to legislators for funding of programs that the Sparta Commission endorses.

Presentation

Bill Perritt introduced Don Dial, director of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission. The five parish "capital area" pumps from ten aquifers, all subject to salt water encroachment. The commission is self-supporting by a pumpage fee assessed on large users. For years it has been monitoring pumpage from 60-70 public water suppliers and industries. As groundwater overuse is a continuing concern, solutions continue to be

studied. Commission authority includes requiring well registration, permits, and reporting and plugging of abandoned wells (with state agencies); specifying well spacing to control use in threatened areas; enforcement; and entering into contracts. Successful projects include a connector well that allows water from one sand to recharge another and Exxon's drawing river water to replace some of its aquifer use. Responding to a comparison with the Sparta Commission, Mr. Dial cited advantages of a commission authorized to act and fund its actions over an advisory board, which is dependent yearly upon the legislature.

Commissioner Comments

Mack Calhoun spoke of West Ouachita efforts to build a lake capable of supplying 9 Mgd of potable water to reduce Sparta dependence, and the need for support by legislators.

Alice Stewart asked if injection wells, mentioned at the May meeting, might be further considered. Dennis Woodward suggested that representatives from Lane Christensen, who spoke on the topic May 8 in Ruston might be consulted. Tony Duplechin recommended consulting Karen Irion, DHH chief engineer, because DHH had imposed restrictive conditions for such projects in the past.

Public Comments

Rick Hohlt stated that he echoed Mack Calhoun's comments and pledged the Ruston Leader's assistance with education. He said that educating Rep. Alexander had been instrumental in securing funds for the D'Arbonne study. He briefly told of deliberation of Union Parish and Lincoln Parish representatives on the D'Arbonne project.

There was a discussion about the need for water conservation lesson plans in all Sparta area school systems, the success of such programs in Webster and Claiborne, and the role for a desired Sparta educator in implementing an area-wide program.

The Ruston Leader was praised for its persevering and effective coverage of the Sparta.

It was moved by Sam Little and seconded by Jackie Perritt that the next Sparta meeting will be held in the Courthouse Annex in Farmerville on Thursday July 12, 2007, that Mack Calhoun will invite a speaker to the July meeting, and that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM by the Chairperson.

Gene Coleman, Chairman

Alice Stewart

Alice Stewart, Assistant Secretary