



SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting February 7, 2008

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on February 7, 2008 at 3:00 PM in the Lincoln Parish Library, 910 N. Trenton Street, Ruston, LA 71270.

Commission Members Present: Herb Byars, Gene Coleman, Edward Dayton, Dennis Downs, Olevia McDonald, Billy Don Perritt, Jackie Perritt, George W. Rolfe, Jr., Alice Stewart, Leslie Thompson, Dennis E. Woodward, Todd Culpepper, Dan Morgan, Van Bennett, and Willie G. Doherty.

*Representing the City of Ruston, but not yet confirmed, was Ted W. McKinney.

Commission Members Absent: Mack Calhoun, Samuel P. Little, and Gary Carlisle.

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

Dan Morgan led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the invocation was given by Olevia McDonald.

Agenda Approval:

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

Program (Part I):

Sherrill Johnson with the Union County Water Conservation District Board gave a presentation and asked for a letter of support from the Sparta Groundwater Commission of Louisiana to Arkansas Congressman Mike Ross requesting federal funding for the "Sparta Aquifer Recovery Study".

- Billy Perritt made the motion that we approve the drafted letter of support (with a revision of paragraph 3 of page 2 to be specific as to the areas in Louisiana where the water levels are rising). Leslie Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. (See Attachment II)
- Dan Morgan made the motion that the Legislative/Governmental Committee work with Arkansas and any other entity in these efforts. Motion was seconded by Dennis Woodward and approved unanimously by the board.

Welcome – Legislators, Others:

A welcome was extended to all legislators present as well as to other guests.

- State Representative Hollis Downs stated that the "West Monroe Project" testing period is proving satisfactory and is scheduled to be fully implemented in the near future. He also mentioned that Governor Bobby Jindal had been in the area recently and had met with West Monroe Mayor, Dave Norris, Senator Bob Kostelka, Senator Mike Walsworth, and Representative Jim Fannin. Hollis stated that the governor is willing to support the State's part to commit financially this year. Hollis also said that the D'Arbonne project is an ongoing study.
- Jonathan Johnson, with Congressman Rodney Alexander's office, also commented favorably on the West Monroe project and also mentioned "budget earmarks". Jonathan reported that Congressman Alexander is now high in seniority in Washington.
- Gene then asked if any police jurors or other elected officials present cared to make comment.

Minutes:

It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by Edward Dayton that the minutes of the December 13, 2007 meeting be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report

The treasurer's report was given by Dennis Woodward. A copy of the financial statement presented to the commission is attached. (See Attachment III) It was moved by Willie Doherty and seconded by Olevia McDonald to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Dennis Woodward mentioned that letters of request for funding had gone out and we were receiving good donations. Jim Pesnell with Entergy had said that Entergy preferred the Commission to apply again for a grant which could be used for supplies, travel, etc. The deadline for application is in March.

Motion was made by Dan Morgan and seconded by Alice Stewart that we authorize Todd Culpepper and Leslie Thompson to apply for the grant of behalf of the Sparta Commission. Board approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

The following committees made reports:

Public Relation/Education

Jackie Perritt and Dennis Woodward reviewed committee activities. (See Attachment IV). Dennis Woodward stated that the City of Ruston had also voted to make a contribution for the production of the educational DVDs.

Program (Part II):

Richard Aillet, with the Water Utilities Department for the City of Ruston, gave a presentation on Ruston's Water Initiatives.

- Nine wells in Ruston (alternate wells running)
- Conservation Efforts by Mayor Hollingsworth (target 5th & 6th graders)
- Maintenance of Water Wells (efficient, leaks checked, identify water & sewer right-of-ways, everything mapped)
- Water Rates Study (residential, non-residential, outside agencies)
- Water Quality (good water)

Gene Coleman recognized new commission members: Willie Doherty representing Winn Parish and Ted McKinney (not yet confirmed) will represent the City of Ruston.

General Business

Sparta Educator: Gene Coleman mentioned that we now have the needed funding to cover the Commission's portion of the educator's salary.

Herb Byars made the motion and seconded by Alice Stewart to authorize a search committee to enter into a cooperative endeavor with the LSU Extension office to develop a job description and contractual arrangement. Motion was approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Dan Morgan and seconded by Van Bennett that George Rolf and Billy Perritt be on this Search Committee with Gene Coleman as ex-officio member. Motion was approved unanimously.

New Committee Members for 2008:

- Finance Committee: Dennis Woodward, Chair
 - Willie Doherty, Herb Byars, Gary Carlisle, Olevia McDonald
- Legislative/Governmental Committee: Mack Calhoun, Chair
 - Van Bennett, Leslie Thompson, Billy Perritt, Edward Dayton
- Public Relations Committee: Todd Culpepper, Chair
 - Alice Stewart, Dennis Downs, Ted McKinney, Olevia McDonald
- Long-term Planning Committee: Dan Morgan, Chair
 - Jackie Perritt, Van Bennett, Alice Stewart, Willie Doherty
- Parliamentarian: Mayor Leslie Thompson

Motion made by Todd Culpepper and seconded by Dennis Woodward to approve committees as presented. Approval of motion was unanimous.

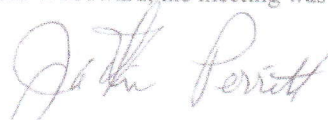
Tony Duplechin commented that his department is continuing to work with USGS Ben McGee on funding for the real-time water well monitors.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2008 at 3:00 PM in West Monroe, LA.

After a motion by Billy Perritt and a second by Dennis Woodward, the meeting was adjourned.



Gene Coleman, Chairman



Jackie Perritt, Secretary