



## SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Minutes of Meeting April 10, 2008

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on April 10, 2008 at 3:00 PM in the Ouachita Room of the West Monroe Convention Center, 901 Ridge Avenue, West Monroe, LA.

**Commission Members Present:** Van Bennett, Herb Byars, Mack Calhoun, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Edward Dayton, Willie Doherty, Olevia McDonald, Dan Morgan, Billy Don Perritt, Jackie Perritt, George Rolfe, Alice Stewart, and Dennis Woodward.

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

**Commission Members Absent:** Gary Carlisle, Dennis Downs, Samuel Little and Leslie Thompson.

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

The invocation was given by Olevia McDonald, and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dennis Woodward.

#### **Agenda Approval:**

It was noted that the agenda should read that the June 12, 2008 meeting is to be hosted by Winn Parish and that Olevia McDonald would represent Tony Duplechin's part requesting support for House Bill #376 on the agenda. It was moved by Van Bennett and seconded by Jackie Perritt to approve the agenda with these two changes. The motion was approved unanimously. (See **Attachment I**)

**Welcome by Mayor Dave Norris, City of West Monroe:** Mayor Norris welcomed the Sparta Groundwater Commission Members to the city of West Monroe and complimented the Commission on its work. Mayor Norris gave a brief update of the West Monroe/Graphics Packaging Project. He spoke of the urgency of the project and his previous meeting with Governor Jindal, Senators Kostelka and Walsworth, Rep. Fannin, and Secretary Moret with Louisiana Department Economic Development, and others. Mayor Norris requested a letter of support from the Sparta Commission be sent to Governor Jindal, Secretary Moret, Senator Kostelka, and Representative Fannin for continued monetary support. Mayor Norris also commented that similar projects in other areas might solve the whole problem.

#### **Welcome – Legislators, Others:**

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

- Jonathan Johnson, with Congressman Rodney Alexander's office, also commented favorably on the West Monroe project.
- Pam Little, wife of newly elected State Representative Sam Little, stated she was there to take notes for Sam.
- Gene then asked if any police jurors or other elected officials present cared to make comment.

#### **Minutes:**

It was moved by Billy Don Perritt and seconded by Dan Morgan that the minutes of the February 7, 2008 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 II**) It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Todd Culpepper to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Dennis also commented that a check had been received from Farm Bureau that was not included in financial report.
- Dennis copied the Commission on a letter received from the Secretary of State's Records Management Officer stating that a Records Management Officer liaison had to be designated for FY 2008 to be in compliance with L.R.S. 44.411.
  - Chairman Gene Coleman designated Billy Perritt as Records Officer liaison.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Legislative Committee: Mack Calhoun, chairman of the Legislative Committee, read a resolution in support of Representative Rick Gallot's efforts to secure permanent funding for the Sparta Commission (**Attachment III**). Motion was made by Mack Calhoun and seconded by Dennis Woodward that we support this resolution. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.
- Personnel Committee: A "Draft" Agreement (for the purpose of sharing the cost of a special groundwater extension agent) between the LSU Extension Department and the Sparta Commission was presented by the Personnel Committee. After a brief discussion, on motion by Herb Byars and seconded by Dennis Woodward, the Commission approved the "Draft" Agreement and further authorized Chairman Gene Coleman to execute all documentation necessary to implement the Agreement in its final form. It was noted some details were omitted from the document such as the starting date, the total cost, and other data that can only be determined when the final document is prepared and a potential agent has been determined. This information will be presented to the Commission prior to the formal execution of the Agreement.

### **General Business**

- The Commission voted to empower the Personnel Committee to continue to represent the commission in the advertising, interviewing & negotiations needed to help select a candidate for the Sparta/Extension Service Employee position and to present a candidate, along with the job description and other proposed details of employment agreement, for final approval by the commission as soon as possible. Motion was made by Olevia McDonald and seconded by Van Bennett. Motion carried unanimously.
- Olevia McDonald (speaking on behalf of Tony Duplechin) made a motion that was seconded by Dennis Woodward that the commission support Representative Dove's House Bill No. 376. Motion passed unanimously.
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Winn Parish with plans to invite Lincoln/Union Group to present an update on the D'Arbonne project.

### **Program:**

Ben McGee, USGS –

- Spoke on pharmaceutical information regarding chemicals and personal care products that may be found in drinking water.
  - Ability to test for now.
  - Zero data for Sparta regarding chemicals – mostly found in surface water or shallow groundwater.
  - Not a lot known on the effect to the bodies in the confined areas of the Sparta – relatively protected.
  - Western part of the Sparta in the recharge area easier to contaminate.
- Recovery of Sparta Report – Latest Information
  - Go to [USGS.gov/report](http://USGS.gov/report)
  - Map of Arkansas USGS & Louisiana USGS 2001 – 2005

John Stamberg, Energy Ventures Analysis, Inc. - Gave an update of the Water Treatment System project for Graphic Packaging and the City of West Monroe.

### **Public Comments:**

- Jim Pesnell, Entergy, - Working with businesses
- Pam Little – Good to have educator on scene
- Brenda Jordan, LSU Extension, - Thanks
- Rick Holt, The Ruston Leader, - Update on educational DVDs - Project is 80% done on filming – Money has been raised – Will need help with distribution.

Ted McKinney asked about the ethics law –

- Gene Coleman – Report on ethics will be made at August meeting so if any changes are made during current session, we will have final status.
- Alice Stewart made an announcement about a documentary to be shown on PBS April 24.

After a motion by Dennis Woodward and a second by Dan Morgan, the meeting was adjourned.

Gene Coleman, Chairman

Jackie Perritt, Secretary