



## SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Minutes of Meeting June 12, 2008 3:00 P.M.

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on June 12, 2008 at 3:00 PM in the Downstairs Meeting Room of the Winn Parish Courthouse Building 119 W. Main Street, Winnfield, LA.

**Commission Members Present:** Herb Byars, Mack Calhoun, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Willie G. Doherty, Dennis, Downs, Olevia McDonald, Ted McKinney, Billy Don Perritt, Alice Stewart, Leslie Thompson, Dennis E. Woodward.

**Commission Members Absent:** Van Bennett, Gary Carlisle, Edward Dayton, Samuel P. Little, Dan Morgan, Jackie Perritt, George Rolfe.

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

The invocation was given by Olevia McDonald and Billy Perritt led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The chairman extended greetings to Legislators and Agency Officials. There were no Legislators present.

#### **Agenda Approval**

It was moved by Billy Perritt and seconded by Mack Calhoun to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Minutes**

It was moved by Billy Perritt and seconded by Dennis Woodward that the minutes of the April 10, 2008 meeting be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Treasurer Report**

The Treasurer report was given by Dennis Woodward. A copy of the financial statement was presented to Commission. It was moved by Todd Culpepper and seconded by Dennis Downs to accept the Treasurer report. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Committee Reports**

The following committees made reports:

##### Grants Committee

The DVD for educating the public on Sparta issues is completed. A generic copy of the DVD was provided to the State for their use. Rick Hohlt will show the DVD to the Commission later in the meeting.

##### Legislative Committee

Mack Calhoun informed the group that he met with the Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana, along with his special assistant, Mr. Luke J. Letlow. Mr. Calhoun said the Governor would like to meet with the Sparta Commissioners but his schedule did not allow him to meet today. Mr. Calhoun will continue discussion with the Governor's office and find a convenient time for the Sparta Commission and the Governor to meet. The Commissioners will be notified as soon as a date is scheduled.

Mr. Coleman read letters and resolutions from various mayors and parishes as well as responses from elected officials regarding the bill before the legislators requesting permanent funding for the Sparta Commission.

### Personnel Committee

Billy Perritt reported that the job description was completed and the position for a full time person to work on Sparta issues is being advertised.

### Public Relations

Todd Culpepper passed information that the committee is proposing to be included with a letter to the various entities and interested parties to provide and update the status of the Commission's activities; specifically the position to be filled by the Extension Service for full-time person to work on Sparta issues. Dr. Alice Stewart suggested including in the information how the Commission has been funded to-date in the correspondence.

After the presentation from the committees the Chairman asked for a motion to accept/approve the reports. It was moved by Leslie Thompson and seconded by Dennis Woodward to accept the committee reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **General Business**

Herb Byars expressed concern about salt water disposal wells and the amount that was being disposed in the Sibley area. Mr. Coleman had the same concern about area near Haynesville. Tony Duplechin, with DNR, Office of Groundwater, said that he would investigate and get back with the Commission or have Mr. Joe Ball, Director of Injection and Mining, Office of Conservation, get back with the Commission on this issue.

There was no other business.

The Chairman then asked for presentations.

Tony Duplechin with the Office of Conservation, Groundwater Division, said the five real-time water level wells monitors received funding approval for this fiscal year and the next fiscal year. He also said funding for the water quality testing (20 wells) throughout the Sparta was approved. The sampling will be done 2/ year by USGS. After reviewing the list of parameters to be tested during the sample, John Stamberg, P. E., recommended adding bromide to the chemical list.

Tony also discussed bills before the legislators that may be of interest to Sparta Commission. He mentioned two. 1) SB754. This bill, which deals with the Chicot Aquifer, passed both the House and Senate. 2) HB376. This bill has passed the House and the Senate environmental committees. The bill would give enforcement authority and penalties for not complying with groundwater regulations.

Barry Royals and Bill McDonald, with Waggoner Engineering, were the next presenters. Barry told the group about the Union/Lincoln Regional Water Supply Initiative. There are four members of this group – Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Union Parish Police Jury, Town of Farmerville, and Town of Ruston. The group was created in 2003 to look for alternative drinking water sources for the above entities. Funding was received in 2006 to conduct study of Lake D'Arbonne. The study included determining water quality as well as the water levels.

Rick Hohlt presented a ten minute Sparta Education/Conservation video produced under his leadership. Initiated by an Entergy grant, the video is the joint effort of the Sparta Commission's Grants Committee and Trailblazers. Sponsors are the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Gibsland Bank, and many Ruston area businesses, including Davison Trucking, Rotary International, Community Trust Bank, and the Ruston Daily Leader. The target audience is 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> graders. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources piggybacked on the project to produce a generic video for use statewide. The Sparta video will be distributed to area schools, libraries, and organizations with an interest in water conservation.

Public Comments followed:

Rick Hohlt commended the Governor for supporting the West Monroe project, and he suggested that letters of commendation be issued for relatively small aquifer-saving projects, including Louisiana Tech's surface water irrigation system and a Squire Creek reservoir to provide for watering of fairways.

Representatives of the D'Arbonne Water System asked about use of Sparta water for oil/gas well drilling. Mr. Duplechin said the withdrawals are limited only by the requirement that they be for beneficial use; there are no metering requirements. Drillers of new wells must notify the state within 60 days after drilling completion. Mr. Duplechin noted that public perception is important. He advised addressing specific concerns to Louisiana Office of Conservation – Groundwater Resources.

Dennis Woodward moved, Mack Calhoun seconded and all voted in favor of holding an August meeting in Bienville Parish.

There being no further business, Billy Perritt moved, Dennis Woodward seconded and all voted in favor of adjourning. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

\*Minutes recorded by Olevia McDonald and Dr. Alice Stewart.

Gene Coleman, Chairman

Jackie Perritt, Secretary