



## SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Minutes of Meeting August 14, 2008 3:00 P.M.

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on August 14, 2008 at 3:00 PM in Room 108 of the Bienville Parish Courthouse Building, 100 Courthouse Drive, Arcadia, LA.

**Commission Members Present:** Van Bennett, Herb Byars, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Willie G. Doherty, Dennis Downs, Olevia McDonald, Ted McKinney, Dan Morgan, Billy Don Perritt, Jackie Perritt, Alice Stewart, Dennis E. Woodward.

**Commission Members Absent:** Mack Calhoun, Gary Carlisle, Edward Dayton, Samuel P. Little, George Rolfe and Leslie Thompson.

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

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

#### Welcome and Comments

The chairman extended greetings to Legislators and Agency Officials. State Representative Jean Doerge thanked the Commission for their preservation efforts and mentioned the designated Capital Out-lay monies. Pam Little, State Representative Sam Little's wife, representing Rep. Little, stated that Sam was glad to see the progress on the Board and supported our educational efforts.

#### Agenda Approval

Gene Coleman asked for the agenda to be approved with one change having Representative Rick Gallot make his presentation on ethics first on program. Van Bennett made the motion with Todd Culpepper giving the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### Program

Representative Rick Gallot presented an update on ethics reform and responded to questions from the Commissioners. Representative Gallot gave his presentation from the following notes:  
Financial Disclosure: As the governing body of a political subdivision of the state which has the authority to expend, disburse, or invest \$10,000\*\* or more in a fiscal year, each member of the Board of Commissioners of the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District will be required to file Tier 2.1\* financial disclosure statements next year no later than May 15, 2009 (\*Unless such official is an elected or appointed official that is otherwise required to file under Tier 1 or 2).

Tier 2.1 financial disclosure requirements as enacted by Act 472 of the 2008 Regular Session:

- 1) Full name and mailing address of the individual. 2) Full name of the spouse and the spouse's occupation & principal business address. 3) Name of the employer, job title, and a brief job description of each full-time or part-time employment position held by the individual or spouse.
- 4) Name, address, brief description of, and nature of association with and the amount of interest in each business in which the individual or spouse is a director, officer, owner, partner, member, or trustee, and in which the individual or spouse, either individually or collectively, owns an interest which exceeds 10 percent of that business. 5) Name, address, brief description of, and nature of association with a nonprofit organization in which the individual or spouse is a director or officer.
- 6) Name, address, type, and **amount** of each source of **income** received by the individual or spouse, or by any business in which the individual or spouse, either individually or collectively, owns an interest which exceeds ten percent of that business, which is received **from (a) the state or any political subdivision** or (b) services performed for or in connection with a **defined gaming interest** (see R.S. 18:1505.2(L)(3)(a)). 7) A certification that such individual has filed his

federal and state income tax returns, or has filed for an extension of time for filing such tax return.  
8) One of the following: a) A certification that neither the individual nor any member of his immediate family had a personal or financial interest in any entity, contract, or business or a personal or financial relationship that in any way posed a conflict of interest which affected the impartial performance of the individual's duties as a member of the board or commission. b) A statement describing each conflict and any action the individual took to resolve or avoid the conflict.

\*\*According to the '07 financial statement filed with the auditor, the board of commissioners was responsible for \$48,563.70 last year.

**Notice of Delinquency and Penalties:**

Notice of Delinquency-If a person who is required to file fails to do so or there is an apparent error or incomplete form, the Board of Ethics will notify the person by certified mail and the person has 14 days from receipt of the notice to file or make the correction without any penalty being imposed. One hundred dollars (\$100) per day for late, incomplete, or inaccurate filings not corrected within the 14-day period.

For willfully or knowingly failing to file timely, omitting required information, or providing inaccurate information may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor, trial by a jury of 6: First Offense – Fine of \$1,000-\$5,000; Second Offense – Fine of \$1000-\$10,000.

Various comments were made by the Commissioners regarding Rep. Rick Gallot's presentation. Due to the resignation of the majority of the Ethics Committee there has been a delay in finalizing all the disclosure requirements and the actual disclosure form. More definite information will be made available at a later date.

**Funding Comments**

There were various comments regarding the lack of permanent funding for the Board to fund its activities on a sustained basis. Most of the comments supported the need for some method of permanent funding and the need of building an alliance with the legislators for funding support. The consensus of the Commissioners is there is a lack of support from the legislative body in our area at this time. There were several suggestions made as to possible funding methods but it was determined more study was to be made and support obtained prior to initiating any further activity.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Todd Culpepper and seconded by Dennis Woodward that the minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer Report**

The Treasurer's report was given by Dennis Woodward and a copy of the financial statement was presented to the Commission. It was moved by Dan Morgan and seconded by Billy Perritt to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

The following committees made reports:

**Grants Committee**

Dennis Woodard reported that the Sparta educational DVD had been completed and was ready for distribution. He presented one copy to each of the Board members present and announced that over 600 copies were being distributed to libraries, schools, police juries, larger towns, etc. as soon as possible with emphasis being made toward the parishes most dependent upon the Sparta Aquifer. He stated that there was approximately 500 additional copies of the DVD available to distribute to others and asked that he be notified of any needs or places that the DVD might be used in an educational manner.

**Legislative Committee**

Mack Calhoun being absent, Billy Perritt reported that several members of the Commission had the opportunity to meet with several legislators at various functions recently, but did not feel that we had their support for our request for permanent funding. It appeared they felt their efforts in other areas were adequate.

### Personnel Committee

Billy Perritt stated that the Sparta Educator position, to be jointly funded by the LSU Extension and the Sparta Commission, had been terminated due to budgetary cuts by the Extension Service. However, the Legislative Committee is now working with Trailblazers to jointly fund the Sparta Educator in another manner. More information will be provided as soon as details can be worked out with Trailblazers USDA. Dr. Nipper, regional director with LSU Extension Service, stated that it was strictly a budgetary cut beyond his control and their withdrawal was beyond his control. Dr. Nipper pledged the Extension Department's continued support for educating the public on the need of conserving the Sparta Aquifer.

Olevia McDonald made the motion to accept the reports and Dennis Woodard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **General Business**

Dennis Woodward passed out copies to the Commissioners of a letter from DNR regarding Ground water Resources Management Program, Draft Regulatory Amendment, LAC 43: VI. Subpart 1. Ground Water Management having a deadline of August 31, 2008 to respond. A motion was made by Alice Stewart and a second by Todd Culpepper that the Legislative Committee study and make recommendation of any needed action. Motion was approved unanimously.

Gene Coleman recommended meeting quarterly with the next meeting being in Union Parish on November 13, 2008 at the Courthouse Annex in Farmerville. Motion was made by Olevia McDonald and seconded by Dennis Woodard; motion was approved unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Dora Hatch, LSU Extension Service, said she had attended a meeting with US Senator Mary Landrieu today. Mrs. Landrieu was asked if some of the Shale revenue could be used to help fund the Sparta. She thought it was a good idea, but an issue to be handled by the state legislature.

Pam Little said "Don't give up."

Dr. Gary Kennedy with LA Tech said they had received a USDA grant and one of their initiatives was Sparta education. He said they are looking at businesses and public place (restrooms, etc.) to post information. They have the manpower and look forward to working with this group.

There being no further business, Willie Doherty moved, Olevia McDonald seconded and all voted in favor of adjourning. Meeting was adjourned.

Gene Coleman, Chairman

Jackie Perritt, Secretary