



## SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### **Minutes of Meeting November 13, 2008 3:00 P.M.**

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on November 13, 2008 at 3:00 PM in the Police Jury Meeting Room of the Union Parish Courthouse Annex Building, 303 East Water Street, Farmerville, LA.

**Commission Members Present:** Alice Stewart, Ted McKinney, Dennis Woodward, Dan Morgan, George Rolfe, Todd Culpepper, Willie Doherty, Mack Calhoun, Billy Perritt, Olevia McDonald, Gene Coleman, Jackie Perritt, and newly nominated member from Bossier Parish, Wanda Bennett.

**Commission Members Absent:** Gary Carlisle, Edward Dayton, Samuel P. Little, Leslie Thompson, Van Bennett, Dennis Downs, Herb Byars, and Edward Dayton.

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

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

#### **Agenda Approval**

Gene Coleman asked for the agenda to be approved, and Alice Stewart asked for it to be amended showing a request for mileage expenses to the Baton Rouge meetings are to be paid by the Commission. Alice Stewart made the motion with Dennis Woodward giving the second. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Welcome and Comments**

The chairman extended greetings to Legislators and Agency Officials. Tiffany Clason with Senator Vitter's office related that the Federal side was being proactive with the water requests (West Monroe project & funding for rural water suppliers). Farmerville's mayor elect, Stein Baughman, said he was looking forward to working with the Sparta Commission. Also recognized was Police Juror Charles Sawyer, who is also a board member with Trailblazers, and Police Juror Jerry Rugg, who is active with the Lincoln/Union Water Initiative. Gene Coleman also recognized Rhonda Martin. Rhonda was instrumental in the success of the Sparta project in the El Dorado, Arkansas area.

#### **Minutes**

Motion was made by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Dan Morgan that the minutes of the August 14, 2008 meeting be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Treasurer Report**

The Treasurer's report was presented to the Commission by Dennis Woodward (See Attachment I). 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 distribution was being made.

- Legislative Committee
  - Olevia McDonald reported that she had met with Graphic Packaging and Smurfit-Stone and will meet again soon (hopefully before Thanksgiving or either the first week of December) regarding the language to be used requesting legislative funding for the desired educational position.
  - Mack Calhoun met with the governor. Governor Bobby Jindal has hired an Engineering Firm out of Denver to come to Louisiana to advise as to the best location for the new lake to be built. Mack is hoping for Ouachita Parish to be the choice. Mack also related that reprocessed sewer water is being used at the paper mill.
- Alice Stewart made the motion to accept the reports and Billy Perritt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **General Business**

- Election of Officers: Billy Perritt made a motion to keep in place the same 2008 officers for 2009. Dan Morgan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Jackie Perritt introduced Wanda Bennett, a Bossier Parish Police Juror. Wanda has been nominated to represent Bossier Parish on the Sparta Commission.
- 2009 Budget Consideration: Dennis Woodward presented the proposed budget for 2009 (See Attachment II). Dennis made a motion to accept the budget and Todd Culpepper made the second. Motion carried unanimously.
- Louisiana Groundwater Commission Report: Dr. Alice Stewart passed out copies and gave the report of the October 13, 2008 meeting of the LA Groundwater Commission. Many comments were also made by Gary Snellgrove, DNR-OC-EnvDiv Director, who was also on program at the October 13 meeting. New commission members were sworn in including Gene Coleman representing The Sparta Groundwater Commission on the LA Groundwater Commission. There are nineteen members. The last previous meeting of this Commission was in 2006. Their next scheduled meeting is December 18, 2008.
  - DNR teamed with Rick Holdt in a state-wide education effort.
  - Public Relations has a video and are looking at producing PSA.
  - Dennis Woodward had a question about the “Regional Body” idea.
  - Richard Durrett commented that if you split the Sparta, you will dilute the Sparta.
  - Gene Coleman stated that Sparta information was public information.
  - Richard Durrett made reference to The Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixon, Inc. ‘Sparta Groundwater Study’ is at: [http://spartaaquifer.com/docs/mmlh\\_sparta\\_study.pdf](http://spartaaquifer.com/docs/mmlh_sparta_study.pdf)
- Gene advised that we needed to elect a representative from the Sparta to serve in the advisory position replacing him on the Louisiana Ground Water Management Advisory Taskforce as he could not serve both positions.
  - Alice Stewart nominated Olevia McDonald and Todd Culpepper seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- Plans for January Meeting: Gene Coleman stated that State Representative Sam Little (who is also a Sparta member) asked for a date that would fit with his calendar. Gene said the third Thursday of the month in lieu of the second Thursday would better fit Rep. Little’s calendar.
  - Motion was made by Todd Culpepper and seconded by Dennis Woodward that we hold meetings on the third Thursday of the regularly scheduled month. Motion carried unanimously.
  - Next meeting will be Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 3 p.m. in the Jackson Parish Community Center, 182 Industrial Drive, Jonesboro, Louisiana.
- Dr. Alice Stewart made a motion that members traveling to Baton Rouge to attend the Groundwater meetings be reimbursed for their mileage at the state rate. Billy Perritt seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Program:**

Bill Hobgood -ORVA

Dr. Alice Stewart introduced Bill Hobgood, Executive Director, Ouachita River Valley Association to the Commissioners. Mr. Hobgood gave a PowerPoint presentation on water supply issues. ORVA has been in operation for well over 100 years and is a non-profit organization consisting of 100 members engaged in the development of projects that have been proven to be economically and environmentally justified that enhance the welfare of the people in the Ouachita River Basin in Arkansas and Louisiana (twenty counties in Arkansas and fifteen parishes in Louisiana).

Mr. Hobgood stated that they visit Washington twice a year to stay competitive for Federal dollars. Mr. Hobgood encouraged the Sparta Commission and/or Sparta members to join the Ouachita River Valley Association. Chairman Gene Coleman referred this to the Legislative Committee to make a recommendation to the Commission.

Discussion on Impact of Groundwater use for Oil and Gas Rig Supply Drilling and Fracturing:

- Ben Magee stated that he had received calls regarding groundwater usage – some declines in area. Some people do not have water wells recovering after the fracturing of wells.
- Ted McKinney stated that the Fayetteville Shale in Arkansas had caused an environmental issue – storing wastewater – by-products will be an issue.
- Gary Snellgrove stated that the least amount of water is used with the vertical drilling. The Haynesville Shale is mostly by horizontal drilling which requires approximately four times the water used in vertical drilling. Most of the horizontal drilling is in the area supplied by the Wilcox aquifer rather than the Sparta aquifer.
- Wanda Bennett, Bossier Parish, said the Haynesville Shale is a blessing, but the aquifer needs protection.
- Gary Snellgrove suggested using alternative water sources – industry research.
- George Rolfe said that with the injection wells there are lots of unknowns.
- Gene Coleman said that Representatives Sam Little, Fannin, and others are obtaining a line item in the budget of \$6-8 million for rural infrastructure related to water usage.

There was a discussion among the various members concerning the potential changes by the Louisiana Groundwater Commission which would create regional representation versus the present representation, which relates to a specific aquifer. There were different views expressed, both pro and con, but there was no definitive position conveyed to Mr. Coleman. This matter will continue to be studied to determine what the consensus of the Sparta Commission should be.

**Public Comments**

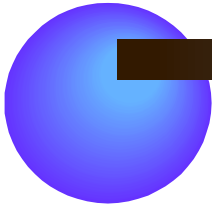
Charles Sawyer, Police Juror, thought we should leave the Sparta Commission as is.

Rick Holdt said we still had 6 or 700 educational DVDs remaining. He also commented on revisiting statistics where Sparta was designated “Area of Concern” to now being “Critical”.

There being no further business, Mack Calhoun moved; Billy Perritt seconded; and all voted in favor of adjourning. Meeting was adjourned.

SS: Gene Coleman, Chairman

SS: Jackie Perritt, Secretary



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**Sparta Groundwater Conservation District**

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
November 13, 2008

BANK BALANCE 06/12/08 \$ 65,021.60

INCOME:

Interest 08/31/08 \$ 100.04

Interest 09/30/08 \$ 97.33

Interest 10/31/08 \$ 98.49

Graphic Packaging International 10/09/08 \$ 2,000.00

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 2,295.86

DISBURSEMENTS:

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$ 0.00

BANK BALANCE 06/12/08 \$ 67,317.46

Attachment I