



SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting January 15, 2009 3:00 P.M.

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on January 15, 2009 at 3:00 PM in the Jackson Parish Community Center, 182 Industrial Drive, Jonesboro, LA.

Commission Members Present: Wanda Bennett, Mack Calhoun, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Edward Dayton, Willie Doherty, Sam Little, Olevia McDonald, Ted McKinney, Billy Perritt, Jackie Perritt, George Rolfe, Alice Stewart, Dennis Woodward, and newly nominated Steve Lemmons.

Commission Members Absent: Van Bennett, Gary Carlisle, Dan Morgan, and Leslie Thompson.

The meeting was officially called to order by Chairman Gene Coleman at 3:03 p.m.

The invocation was given by Ted McKinney and Todd Culpepper led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Approval

- Gene Coleman asked for the agenda to be approved, and Alice Stewart asked for it to be amended showing 1) Introduction of new member; 2) Parish Ordinances regarding water & drilling concerns; 3) Possible Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Union County Conservation Board; and 4) Address Commission nominations and appointments. Alice Stewart made the motion with Sam Little 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 supportive of water requests to alleviate stress on aquifer. Jonathan Johnson with Congressman Rodney Alexander's office said that Rep. Alexander will serve on the new Subcommittee on Energy & Water. Tiffany related that criteria and formula used for Stimulus package was discussed. The West Monroe wastewater recycling plant was the top priority.

Minutes

- Motion was made by Mack Calhoun and seconded by Todd Culpepper that the minutes of the November 13, 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) in the amount of \$67,492.92 with an additional \$1,500 from Bossier Parish to yet be deposited. It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by George Rolfe to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved unanimously. Billy Perritt asked if there was any debt or obligation owed by the Commission. Dennis said there was none owed. Dennis Woodward said he would file required tax reports for the Commission as he did last year.

Committee Reports

- Legislative Committee Chairman Mack Calhoun recommended that the Sparta Commission adopt the resolution authorizing the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District Commission's

membership in (ORVA) the Ouachita River Valley Association at an annual membership fee of \$200 (Attachment II). Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mack Calhoun and seconded by Dennis Woodward. Motion carried unanimously.

General Business

- Gene Coleman introduced Steve Lemmons, newly appointed Commission member by Webster Parish Police Jury, due to the resignation of Herb Byars. Steve presented copies of Webster Parish Groundwater Ordinance No. 988 (Attachment III) providing for protection against public water supply contamination to Commission members. Wanda Bennett also commented on the Bossier Parish Ordinance relating to the same issues. She said it was part of the job of the Sparta Commission to stay on top of the water issues.
- Alice Stewart made the motion to appoint a committee to study the feasibility of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Union County Arkansas to jointly work to help secure Federal help and other matters of mutual interest. Sam Little seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Gene Coleman appointed a committee consisting of Ted McKinney (Chair), Alice Stewart, Steve Lemmons, Edward Dayton, and Sam Little.
- Gene Coleman related that the Commission has ten members whose appointment will expire in October 2009. Letters need to be sent out by July 2009 in order for membership to be reconfirmed or replacements appointed by October or the Commission may not have a quorum beyond that time. Members whose term will expire are: Van Bennett, Gary Carlisle, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Willie Doherty, Samuel Little, Billy Perritt, George Rolfe, Alice Stewart and Dennis Woodward. Assistant Secretary, Olevia McDonald said she would send out notification letters. New members Wanda Bennett and Ted McKinney have been confirmed.

Program:

- Rick Hohlt reported on the LDNR (Louisiana Department Natural Resources) meetings held in December in both Choudrant (Squire Creek) and Monroe.
 - Governor Jindal said that he wanted our Groundwater Commission to be the best in the nation.
 - We previously had one representative from north Louisiana on the LA Groundwater Commission, but now have four, including Gene Coleman representing the Sparta Commission and Micky Mays representing the Police Jury Association. (Others are Elliot D. Colvin of Rayville representing the Louisiana Farm Bureau and William R. Downs of Shreveport, an expert in Ground Water Resource Management.)
 - On program also was Mayor Hollingsworth with the Lincoln/Union project.
 - James Davison and LA Tech have both built reservoirs at their facilities to help conserve groundwater and there are no state incentives in place to help promote these projects.
 - Ben McGee gave current information bdmcgee@usgs.com.
 - At the Saturday meeting, Robert Reynolds, president of Union County Water Conservation Board, presented with others Sherrell Johnson, Cindy Woolsey, Rhonda Martin, Terry Emory groundwater conservation accomplishments in Union County.
 - Request made for Critical designation in 2003. We need to gather information and make formal request to DNR.
 - Congressman Alexander said we need to have critical designation to make request for federal funds.

Gene Coleman spoke of the salt water intrusion in the Sparta. Willie Doherty spoke of his local water company having to spend \$150,000 to make the Sparta water potable for their community. Doherty said their water quality is not good. Gene Coleman also mentioned that the governor has an engineering firm selecting potential lake sites.

Next meeting is scheduled to meet in the Claiborne Parish Police Jury Building on March 19, 2009.

Public Comments

- Rick Hohlt said he had asked Commissioner Welsh what is a critical area designation. He replied “When the wells run dry”.
- Tony Duplechin said they were working with Ben McGee and USGS with five real-time wells. Monitors and equipment are all in and on line.
- Ben McGee: Salt water intrusion is very, very serious in areas.
- Pam Little: Reviewed the educational DVD. Said it is a valuable tool for the schools.
- Rep. Sam Little: Said he took knowledge received from working on this board to legislative meetings in Baton Rouge. He said there is no such thing as a local bill – affects whole state. He also spoke of out-of-state people coming to Louisiana and utilizing our resources with no regard for preservation.
- Dr. Gary Kennedy, with LA Tech, said they are targeting businesses with Sparta conservation projects using the grant money recently received. He said kids were already being reached in the class rooms.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Gene Coleman, Chairman

Jackie Perritt, Secretary