



SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

**March 26, 2009
3:00 P.M.**

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on March 26, 2009 at 3:00 PM in the Claiborne Parish Police Jury Meeting Room 501 W. Main Street, Homer, LA 71040

Commission Members Present: Mack Calhoun, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Edward Dayton, Steve Lemmons, Samuel P. Little, Olevia McDonald, Ted W. McKinney, Billy Don Perritt, Jackie Perritt, George W. Rolfe, Jr., Alice Stewart, and Dennis Woodward.

Commission Members Absent: John Van Bennett, Wanda Bennett, Gary Carlisle, Willie G. Doherty, Dennis Downs, Dan Morgan, and Leslie Thompson.

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

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

Agenda Approval

Gene Coleman asked for the agenda to be approved. It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Todd Culpepper. The motion was approved unanimously.

Welcome and Comments

The chairman extended greetings to Legislators and Agency Officials. Dwayne Woodward of the Claiborne Parish Police Jury extended welcome to the commission and expressed appreciation for the efforts being made. Also recognized was Jonathan Johnson with Congressman Rodney Alexander's office.

Minutes

Motion was made by Alice Stewart and seconded by Ted McKinney that the minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer's report was presented to the Commission by Dennis Woodward. The treasurer reported contributions from Lincoln and Bossier Parish and interest of \$60.00. (See Attachment I) He also stated that he filed the financial statements with the Legislative Auditor's office. It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Ed Dayton to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports

The chairman went around the room requesting comments from commission members present who attended the Ground Water Resources Commission meeting in Minden on March 5, 2009. G. Rolfe stated that the folk in Baton Rouge realized how far the journey is from Baton Rouge to Minden. Felt that it was an excellent meeting.

Steve Lemmons commented that it was a very good meeting.

Dennis Woodward said that he appreciated Secretary Angelle's support and enthusiasm and commitment to move the meetings around the state instead of always in Baton Rouge. He felt Ben McGee's presentation was very good and informative for the group.

Olevia McDonald agreed with statements from previous commissioners

Ted McKinney agreed with previous statements and felt McGee's presentation was very good.

Alice Stewart expressed appreciation to Rick Hohlt. She felt earlier meeting in Ruston with the DNR secretary and staff was the spark for State GW Commission to move meeting around the state. Alice also passed questions submitted to State Groundwater Resources Commission to each Sparta Ground Water Commissioner.

General Business:

'Critical area' designation issues

Olevia told the group that the study plan prepared by Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix, & Hixson was being followed without critical designation. Todd Culpepper added that Representative Jim Fannin was moving forward with plans for a lake in the Jonesboro/Hodge area. Lake commission in place and money allocated up to \$15 million. Mack Calhoun commented that he felt good about the W. Monroe project. Billy Perritt commented that "without a plan, is that (the specific works in progress) going to be sufficient for what we want to achieve? Right now, we've got piecemeal stuff going on in different locations, but it's not part of a coordinated plan to give you the final end result that you want."

The chairman recommended delaying decision until Mr. Doherty was present since he requested this agenda item. It was moved by Billy Perritt and seconded by Mack Calhoun. The motion was approved unanimously.

Letter to Dr. Reneau to consider appointing Dr. Kennedy to serve on Commission as ex officio member representing La Tech University

It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by Dennis Woodward to submit letter to Dr. Reneau requesting appointing Dr. Kennedy to serve as ex officio member on Sparta Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

Cooperative Endeavors

Ted McKinney Chairman of Cooperative Endeavors Committee discussed collaborative agreement request with Union County Arkansas. The committee recommended to delay agreement with Arkansas and to move forward with agreement with La Tech University. It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Jackie Perritt to follow the recommendation of the committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Kennedy reported on the grant project that will help with conservation and education. Stickers have been made "Every Drop Counts" and will be placed in public places throughout La Tech Campus and businesses in Ruston. The small sticker will be placed on mirrors in bathrooms; the larger ones will be placed on doors. Lindsey Gaudy an AgBusiness major at La Tech will intern this summer with the Sparta project. Lindsey said that she was looking forward to the project and an opportunity to help with the Sparta effort.

Ted McKinney stated that he was very positive that Tech was willing to house (set up domicile) at La Tech. He also briefly discussed the legal problems per Andy Shelee, with using 'teleconference' for Sparta meetings or committee meetings. There is a conflict with Louisiana's 'open meeting law'.

Letter of Support for Union County Water Conservation Board

Mack Calhoun made a motion to support Union County Water Conservation Board's request for funding of the Sparta Recovery study. The motion was seconded by Ted McKinney. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Coleman talked of using some of Arkansas' Grant writing skills to help secure money for Sparta efforts. He also included La Tech and Dr. Kennedy as valuable resources in helping the commission with Sparta issues.

During the discussions of resources, Alice Stewart asked Tony Duplechin if DNR could pick up cost for Arkansas recovery wells that are in Louisiana. It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by Steve Lemmons to ask DNR to fund the sampling and evaluation of these wells. The motion was approved unanimously.

Resolution requesting Commissioner of Conservation and the LGWRC to develop a plan for Louisiana Sparta Recovery

It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Alice Stewart to prepare and send a resolution to the Commissioner of Conservation and the Louisiana Ground Water Resource Commission requesting them to develop a plan for Louisiana Sparta Recovery. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reactivation of the Long Term Planning Committee

The commission agreed that it was a good idea to reactivate the long term planning committee. The following commission members were selected to serve:

Alice Stewart – Chair
Ted McKinney
Todd Culpepper
Steve Lemmons
George Rolfe
Dennis Woodward

Rep. Sam Little told the commissioners he did not know how the Sparta group was pulled into the ‘ethics’ requirements. He apologized because he said he was told last year that this group would not be required to supply information and had passed that information on to the Sparta members.

A copy of the forms to be filled out along with instructions was handed out to each Sparta Commissioner.

The next meeting of the Sparta Commission is scheduled for May 21, 2009 in Webster Parish.

During public comments Tony Duplechin told the group that on March 8, 2009, Gov. Bobby Jindal had proclaimed March 8-14, 2009 Ground Water Awareness Week. Tony conducted awareness workshops at the YMCA in Baton Rouge and visited the 4-H Camp in Pollock. He told the group that the GW Resources Website had been overhauled and was a ‘little easier’ to work with. Five (5) water wells will continue to be funded by DNR; 20 wells for various constituents will also continue to be funded.

Dennis Woodward offered a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ed Dayton. The meeting adjourned at

SS: Gene Coleman, Chairman

SS: Olevia D. McDonald, Assist. Secretary