



SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

**August 13, 2009 Continued on Sept. 17, 2009
3:00 P.M.**

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on August 13, 2009 at 3:00 PM in Lomax Hall on Louisiana Tech University campus Ruston, Louisiana 71272.

Commission Members Present: John Van Bennett, Mack Calhoun, Gene Coleman, Todd Culpepper, Willie Doherty, Olevia McDonald, Ted W. McKinney, Billy Don Perritt, Jackie Perritt, George W. Rolfe, Jr., Alice Stewart, and Dennis Woodward. **Ex-Officio Members:** Gary A. Kennedy

Commission Members Absent: Wanda Bennett, Gary Carlisle, Edward Dayton, Steve Lemmons, Samuel P. Little, Dan Morgan, and Leslie Thompson.

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

The invocation was given by Olevia McDonald..

Agenda Approval

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

Welcome and Comments

A thank you was extended to Dr. Kennedy for making the facility available to the commission for this meeting.

Lindsay gave the group a brief report of activities. She made a presentation at a meeting of Louisiana Universities and attended a grant writing workshop

The commission members were introduced to Dr. Bill Branch.

Bennie R. Lowery was introduced as the Claiborne Parish nominee to replace Gene Coleman and Phillip Lane to represent Caddo Parish as the rotating seat replacing Wanda Bennett.

Minutes

The minutes were not available. Dennis Woodward moved to table the minutes approval. The motion was seconded by Alice Stewart. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer's report was presented to the Commission by Dennis Woodward. See Attached. It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by Mack Calhoun to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Other Reports

The chairman of the long term planning committee reported that the committee met on Monday August 10, 2009 at 1 PM. The following items were recommended and acted upon by the commission:

1. **Revise Sparta's Mission Statement**
It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by Mack Calhoun to approve the proposed mission statement. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Hire Bill Branch as Sparta Executive Director
The commissioners discussed funding of position by contributions of entity. Discussions of other funding sources included a suggestion from Rick Hohlt to ask the State Ground Water Commission for contribution. Grants were also suggested as well as forming 501.3.c status to help secure funding. It was moved by Mack Calhoun and seconded by Dennis Woodward to hire Dr. Branch. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Authorize check signing authority
It was moved by Billy Perritt and seconded by Ted McKinney that money can be dispersed as needed until such time as reappointment is made by the Governor's office by any two of the following:
Dennis Woodward
Olevia McDonald
Gene Coleman
Jackie Perritt
The motion passed unanimously.
4. Pay expenses for Dr. Branch to attend specific meetings associated with ORVA and the Corps of Engineers with a 'not to exceed' limit of \$1000.00.
It was moved by Billy Perritt and seconded by Mack Calhoun to pay expenses for Dr. Branch. The motion passed unanimously.

Willie Doherty addressed the group and talked of the problems Winn parish is having with water quality and the added cost associated with treating the water to drinking water quality. He stated that it is critical to improve the aquifer.

The meeting was open for public comments.

It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Jackie Perritt to recess the meeting until September 17, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

September 17, 2009

On September 17, 2009 at 3:15 P.M. the Sparta Ground Water Commission reconvened at the Lincoln Parish Library 910 N Trenton Ruston, LA 71270. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gene Coleman. It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Jackie Perritt to reconvene the August 13, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Members present: Wanda Bennett, Willie Doherty, Steve Lemmons, Mack Calhoun, Leslie Thompson, Ed Dayton, Gene Coleman, Olevia McDonald, Jackie Perritt, Billy Perritt, Alice Stewart, George Rolfe, Ted McKinney, and Dennis Woodward. Ex Officio member present: Dr. Kennedy.

Members absent: Samuel Little, Van Bennett, Todd Culpepper, Dan Morgan, and Gary Carlisle.

The invocation was given by Olevia McDonald and Wanda Bennett led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval to add items to August 13, 2009 Agenda

It was moved by Dennis Woodward and seconded by Ted McKinney to add agenda items (see attachment III). The motion passed unanimously.

Welcome – Legislators

The chairman extended a welcome to Legislators (or their representatives) and public officials who were present at the meeting.

Mayor Dan Hollingsworth talked to the group about supporting, in resolution form, a request to the state ground water commission to support: 1. Sparta Recycle Project at West Monroe and 2. Lake D'Arbonne

Initiative Project. The mayor stressed the importance of ‘one voice’ when it comes to Sparta issues. He felt it was imperative to talk to school age children concerning water issues.

The chairman asked for a change in the agenda to add action on the resolution proposed by Mayor Hollingsworth. It was moved by Dennis Woodworth and seconded by Ted McKinney to make the change in the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill Sims of the Bienville Parish Police Jury made an offer of support and help to the Sparta effort.

Sherrel Johnson extended a ‘thank you’ to the Sparta Ground Water Commission for the resolution to the State GW Commission requesting funds to pay for monitoring wells in Union, Claiborne, and Morehouse parishes that are part of the Union County monitoring of recovery wells in the Sparta. The State GW Commission committed \$32,000.00. Sherrel also mentioned the visit by Lindsay Gouedy to her office. She said she was grateful for the partnership with LA Sparta group.

Roy Glover with the Lincoln Parish Police Jury did not make comments.

Jonathan Johnson who represents Congressman Alexander’s office reaffirmed the Congressman’s support.

Minutes

It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by Billy Perritt to approve the minutes from June 18, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report

The treasurer report was made by Dennis Woodward. (See Attachment IV) He reported that the total of \$72,784.47 did not include checks to Dr. Bill Branch. It was moved by Mack Calhoun and seconded by Leslie Thompson to approve treasurer report. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Reports

1. Dr. Bill Branch made a report of various activities and events attended on behalf of Sparta Ground Water Commission – See Attachment V
2. Lindsay Gouedy reported on activities, meeting, and functions she attended. Lindsay developed a power point presentation on the Sparta Aquifer. She has made presentations at the Ruston Farmers’ Market and conducted mini workshop at the Idea Place at Louisiana Tech talking about water conservation with small children. She also visited Sherrel Johnson in Union County Arkansas to discuss conservation and other developments implemented
3. Long term Planning Committee recommended acceptance of a request from Lindsay Gouedy to continue to serve the Sparta Ground Water Commission for \$2500.00 per month plus expenses. The Long Term Planning Committee would make a list of duties and responsibilities. It was moved by Leslie Thompson and seconded by Dennis Woodward to accept the report of the committee. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Tonya Acuff and Jacob Brister for the US Corps of Engineers expressed continued interest in Sparta by the Corps.
5. Mack Calhoun reported from the meeting held in August by the Corps of Engineers. He said that Mr. Coleman made an excellent presentation about the Sparta. Mr. Calhoun also talked about the West Monroe Project progress.
6. Tiffany Claison from Senator Vitter’s office apologized for being late and expressed the Senator’s continued support.
7. Willie Doherty talked to the group about Port du Luce a reservoir potential for Winn Parish. It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by Jackie Perritt to submit a resolution for support of this project. The motion passed unanimously.

General Business

In response to the employment request by Lindsay Gouedy, it was moved by Mack Calhoun and seconded by George Rolfe to hire Lindsay. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Coleman appointed a nomination committee who consisted of: Ed Dayton, Billy Perritt, Van Bennett, Willie Doherty, and Steve Lemmons. It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by Ted McKinney to approve this nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

The chairman made a request to add Ben McGee as an ex officio member of the Sparta Commission. It was moved by Ted McKinney and seconded by Steve Lemmons to add Ben as ex officio member. The motion passed unanimously.

The chairman made a request to add Gary Hanson as an ex officio member of the Sparta Commission. Gary introduced himself and shared a little of his 'bio' with the group. It was moved by Billy Perritt and seconded by Jackie Perritt to add Gary as ex officio member. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2009 3 P.M. in West Monroe.

Upon a motion by George Rolfe and a second by Mack Calhoun, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M. the motion passes unanimously.

A donation of \$100.00 was made by Ms. Elizabeth A. English.

Gene Coleman, Chairman

Olevia McDonald, Assist. Secretary