



SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

October 13, 2009
3:00 P.M.

The Sparta Groundwater Conservation District met on October 13, 2009 at 3:00 PM in Ouachita Room of the West Monroe Convention Center in West Monroe, LA 71292.

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

Commission Members Absent: Gary Carlisle, Steve Lemmons, Dan Morgan, Leslie Thompson, Dennis Woodward.

The meeting was officially called to order at 3:07 PM by Chairman Gene Coleman.

The invocation was given by Olevia McDonald. Ted McKinney led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval

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

Welcome and Comments

It was agreed to extend thank you to those who served on Sparta Commission and whose terms will expired on October 15, 2009 and will not continue to serve.

Minutes

The chairman called for approval of the August 13 – September 17 meeting. It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by Jackie Perritt to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report

Dennis Woodward was not present at the meeting but sent the treasurer report by the assistant secretary. It was moved by Billy Perritt and seconded by Todd Culpepper to approve the treasurer report. The Union Parish Farm Bureau gave a check in the amount of \$500.00 to the Sparta Commission. Van Bennett brought the check to the meeting.

Olevia McDonald told the group that Dennis Woodward would be leaving the area to take a position in Rapids Parish. He extended his best wishes to the Commission and his regret of being absent today due to a conflict with the Lincoln Parish Police Jury meeting. It was agreed by members present to send a note to Dennis in appreciation of the service he rendered to the Commission.

Other Reports

1. Dr. Bill Branch made a combined report of various activities and events attended on behalf of Sparta Ground Water Commission by himself and Lindsay Gouedy. See Attached
2. Nomination Committee Report - The following officers are nominated:
Chairman – Todd Culpepper
Vice Chairman – Mack Calhoun
Secretary – Alice Stewart
Assistant Secretary – Olevia McDonald

Treasurer – Billy Perritt

It was moved by Willie Doherty and seconded by Van Bennett that the officers nominated by the committee would serve. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Long term Planning Committee

The group was asked to approve up to \$750.00 for office and educational supplies to be used by Dr. Branch and Lindsay as needed. It was moved by Alice Stewart and seconded by George Rolfe to approve this action. The motion passed unanimously.

Alice Stewart, Chair of the long term planning committee, presented , on behalf of the committee, a year end report summarizing the purpose and work of the Sparta ground water commission. See Attachment. She also suggested updating the Sparta Commission Goals and Objectives which include;

- (1) Study, (2) Educate, (3) Advocate, (4) Represent Sparta Concerns and Opportunities and (5) Seek Funding.

It was moved by Ted McKinney and seconded by Ed Dayton to accept these goals and objectives as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

General Business

1. The group discussed the establishment of 501c.3 organization for the purpose of receiving donations and gifts for Sparta Ground Water use. A Sparta Foundation was recommended. A committee consisting of Todd Culpepper, Rich Hohlt, Bill Branch, was formed to pursue this endeavor.
2. Bill Chaumont, Source Water Protection Specialist, with Louisiana Rural Water Association was recommended to serve as an ex-officio member by Chairman Coleman. It was moved by Ted McKinney and seconded by Rep. Sam Little to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Lindsay informed the group of an opportunity to setup a website and billboard for Sparta. The set-up (one time) fee is \$1875.00 with a \$35.00 monthly hosting fee and \$35.00 per year domain fee. This work would be done by Newcomer Morris & Young, Inc. of Monroe. The billboard space is being donated by Lamar Signs. Chairman Coleman appointed a committee consisting of Jackie Perritt, Chair, with Rick Hohlt, Mack Calhoun, Ben McGee, Todd Culpepper, Lindsay Gouedy, and Olevia McDonald to work through plans for web-site and bill board. It was moved by Billy Perritt and seconded by Ted McKinney to approve this committee. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Sparta Water Withdrawal – There was a discussion on withdrawal from the Sparta Aquifer. Notification is not solving the problem. Something to consider the entire aquifer and not just “area of concern’ has to be considered. What is the best vehicle for correcting this issue? – Regulations, laws, State Ground Water Commission? Chairman Coleman appointed a committee to bring guidance and recommendation. The committee consists of Billy Perritt, Sam Little, Alice Stewart, Olevia McDonald, Rick Gallot, and Dr. Bill Branch (ex-officio). Rep. Little talked about the difficulty in getting fee for water passed in the legislature.
5. Approval of 2010 Budget Proposal. It was moved by Todd Culpepper and seconded by Van Bennett to approve the proposed 2010 Budget. The motion passed unanimously.

**SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION 2010
BUDGET PROPOSAL**

TOTAL REVENUE	\$66,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$66,000.00
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE 01/01/2010	\$72,691.24
END YEAR FUND BALANCE 12/31/2010	\$72,691.24

In other actions, Billy Perritt moved to approve 2009 amended budget. The motion was seconded by Alice Stewart and passed unanimously.

6. Willie Doherty talked briefly about the Oxbox Water System problems and brought along copy of a report submitted by Mike Gonzales for the group to read.

Public Comments

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2010 in Bienville Parish.

Upon a motion by Mack Calhoun and a second by Todd Culpepper, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

SS: Mack Calhoun, Vice Chairman

SS: Olevia McDonald, Assist. Secretary