



SPARTA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 2:00 P.M.

Winn Parish Police Jury
Winnfield, LA

MINUTES/ MEETING NOTES

CALL TO ORDER: The July 13 meeting of the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District Commission was called to order by Mr. Nick Cox at 2:00 PM at the Winn Parish Police Jury Office in Winnfield, LA, in Winn Parish. Members present and not present can be found on the attendance list. It was determined that there was a quorum. (Sign-in sheets are available upon request)).

The **Invocation** was given by Mr. Ben Bridges. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Reggie Skains.

Additions to the agenda: Mike Carpenter made a motion to add to the agenda signatory to the Sparta Foundation. Mr. Jack Clampit seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Welcome and Comments: Mr. Cox, welcomed special guests including legislative representatives, agency, and other elected officials. Guest sign in sheets are available upon request.

Motion: It was moved by Reggie Skains and seconded by Ben Bridges that the Minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Chairman Nick Cox presented the treasurers report in Mr. Jeselink's absence. The current bank balance being \$100,518.19 will see a increase once EDA reimbursement from EDA is approved for 2021 and Q1 and Q2 2022 expenses. Detailed financial statement was submitted for review to the commissioners and the floor was opened for questions and discussion. It was moved by Jack Clampit and seconded by Reggie Skains to approve the treasurers report. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports:

Sparta Foundation – Executive Director, Jimmy Hand, discussed Give-4-Good fundraiser from May 2022 and encouraged the commissioners to contribute for next years Give-4-Good. Mr. Hand proposed setting up a booth at the 'Louisiana Legends Festival' to share information about the Sparta Aquifer to the public. The event will take place in Homer, LA on October 22. A motion was made by Reggie Skains to allow expense up to \$1,000 from the Sparta Foundation account on promotional and information material for said event, and others in the future. Ben Bridges seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report: Executive Director, Lindsay Gouedy, provided her quarterly update. The Legislative Auditors Office published a Status Update to a report, *Regulation and Valuation of Surface Water*, which recommendations were published in 2020 in *Louisiana's Management of Water Resources Report*. Mrs. Gouedy shared the below information regarding the report:

- Current DNR's Surface Water Management Program is voluntary
- 2020-2021 DNR has 87 active CEAs (cooperative endeavor agreements)
- 1.54 trillion gallons of surface water withdrawal requested through the 87 CEAs

- DNR collected \$302,004 from 64.4% of the CEA 20-21, 35.6% of CEAs have in-lieu of cash agreements to provide economic impact reports valued at \$239,168
- Act 556 of 2014 capped state fair market value at \$0.15 per 1000 gallons based on what the Sabine River Authority charged at the time
 - SRA currently charges \$0.18 per 1000 gallons for Toledo Bend water for long-term industrial contracts
 - SRA charges \$1.80 per 1000 gallons for short-term contracts (possible include hydraulic fracturing water use.
 - Texas side of Toledo Bend charged \$4.50 per 1000 gallons for hydraulic fracturing water use
- DNR needs a more robust surface water regulatory process!
 - 10% of active CEAs in 2020-2021 contained errors in total volume of water requested
 - DNR has limited staff and funds to administer this program
 - Does not monitor compliance with all terms of the CEAs
 - DNR has authority to monitor companies' compliance but currently relies on self-reported information

Water related bills from the 2022 regular legislative session were discussed. Among them SB153, SB197(now Act No. 304), HB 686 (Act No. 490), HB652 (Act No. 711), and SB280 (Act No. 687) were discussed.

The Union County Water Conservation Board provided a written update which Mrs. Gouedy read to the commission.

Ben McGee provided an update in reference to the EDA's Sparta Project. Phase 1, USGS Data collection, is underway with an estimated breakdown of annual expected publications dates to take place in December of each respective year, beginning in 2022. Phases 2 and 3 are also underway with the formal contract in place with Burns and McDonnell. A kickoff meeting was held in late June with representatives of Burns and McDonnell Paul McCormick, Daniel Clement, and Madison Green. Project timeline, short/long-term goals, and desired functionality of model were topics discussed at the kickoff meeting.

General Business: Commissioner Appointment

Public Comment was extended to all in attendance.

Commissioner comments were offered to all commissioners in attendance.

Next meeting October 12, 2022, in Webster Parish, LA.

Meeting Adjourned just before 3:30 PM.



Nick Cox, President .

Regina Rowe, Secretary