

Fayette County

Groundwater Conservation District

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MINUTES

of the March 1, 2004 Board of Directors Meeting

Directors Present: William P. Kohlleppel, Rodney Willis, Martin Manuel, Clay Rightmer, Carl Wendler
Directors Absent: none
Others Present: District manager Linda Streicher, Assistant County Attorney Harold Streicher

The meeting was called to order by President Kohlleppel at 8:30 a.m. on March 1, 2004 at the District Office in Room 600 of the Fayette County Agricultural Building at 254 N. Jefferson in La Grange, Texas. A quorum to conduct business was declared to be present.

Two members of the public were present: Larry Shimek and Glynda Mercier.

Minutes from the previous meeting of February 2nd, 2004, which were mailed out to the directors in advance of the meeting, were approved with no corrections.

The financial statement was distributed for review, and all outstanding bills were listed to be paid. Mr. Rightmer moved to accept the financial statement and pay the bills that were presented, Mr. Wendler seconded the motion and it was approved. It was noted that the tax revenues received from the Fayette County Appraisal District were received at varying intervals, and Mrs. Streicher was asked to inquire about it.

The Board discussed the costs of leasing versus purchasing a copier. Mr. Wendler moved that the District purchase a copier from DeWitt, Poth & Sons, Mr. Manuel seconded the motion and it was approved. It was decided that the Board would not enter into a service agreement until after the warranty period is up.

The Board had written a letter to Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka requesting a commitment on the District's current office space. Judge Janecka had responded that can plan on using the office space for the foreseeable future. The Board decided to go forward with modernizing the electrical outlets first and then the plumbing for the proposed water testing lab.

Mrs. Streicher reported on questions from the last Board meeting, such as postage options, and prices of water level monitoring equipment. She also distributed a summary of the District's goals and current status. Mr. Rightmer requested that a review of the goals be added to the next agenda.

Local accounting firms were given until March 15th to submit bids for the District's 2003 financial audit. The Board will consider the bids and select an auditor at the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Streicher discussed the District s'new website and distributed a draft of a press release about the website to be distributed as soon as possible.

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts is proposing a new coalition for the purposes of hiring lobbyists to actively represent groundwater issues in the State Legislature. Copies of this proposal were distributed for review and consideration at the next meeting.

The following statement was received from LCRA, in response to Mrs. Streicher s'inquiry regarding rumors that had been reported by several Fayette County residents: There apparently has been some talk around Fayette County that LCRA is considering metering and controlling the pumping of water from private wells in the area. We want to make it absolutely clear that the rumor is false. LCRA does not have any legal authority under its enabling legislation to regulate the pumping of groundwater from private wells. LCRA cannot do what it does not have legal authority to do. We hope this statement clarifies any confusion or misunderstanding."

The Board deferred action on the District s'employee policy until the next meeting. Mr. Willis had made some notations on his draft copy, which he discussed.

Due to time constraints, the Board also deferred until the next meeting the agenda items related to setting the fine/penalty schedule and the proposed policy statement regarding rule exceptions.

Mr. Wendler announced that he will be making a presentation concerning the District to the Schulenburg Young Farmers at their next meeting on March 30th.

The Board then reviewed an application for exception to the District rule of minimum tract size, which was deferred at the last meeting, pending receipt of more information. Mr. Willis moved to grant the application. Mr. Rightmer seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mr. Rightmer and Mr. Manuel both regretfully announced that they will not be seeking re-election when their terms expire in November.

Items were identified for the next meeting s'agenda. The next meeting is set for Monday, April 5, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 600 of the Fayette County Agricultural Building. Mr. Wendler made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Manuel and approved.

Wm. Paul Kohlleppe, Jr., President

Martin Manuel, Secretary-Treasurer