

Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

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MINUTES of the February 6, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting

Directors Present: William P. Kohlleppe, Eddie Schneider, Carl Wendler, Lloyd Brunner, L.J. Calley
Directors Absent: none
Others Present: District manager Rodney Willis

The meeting was called to order by President Kohlleppe at 8:30 a.m. on February 6, 2006 at the District Office in Room 600 of the Fayette County Agricultural Building at 254 N. Jefferson Street in La Grange, Texas. A quorum to conduct business was declared to be present.

1. Public Comments: No members of the public were in attendance.
2. Minutes: Minutes from the previous meetings of January 6, 2006, which were mailed out to the directors in advance of the meeting, were approved with no corrections.
3. Financial Statement: The financial statement was distributed for review, and all outstanding bills were listed to be paid. Mr. Wendler moved to accept the financial statement and pay the bills that were presented. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mr. Willis reported that based on the financial statement and the revenue generated from the new tax period that the District's plan to invest contingency reserve could now be considered. Mr. Wendler moved that the previously approved plan to purchase a six month CD be implemented. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion.

4. District Manager's Report: Mr. Willis distributed the contact report, and reported that eight new well registrations had been made, no exceptions had been requested and no plugging reports submitted. The District's web site continues to be active with educational hits being a large factor. A draft of the Spring newsletter was handed out for review, covering the recycling and reuse of water. The Texas Association of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) has compiled a listing of relevant case-law updates which was handed out for Board member review. Upcoming seminars and association meetings were reviewed and Mr. Willis requested consensus that at least he attend the TAGD quarterly meeting in March at Pleasanton and the TWDB three day meeting on Aquifers of the Gulf Coast on Feb 15 - 17th.

Mr. Willis reported that the county is approaching a severe drought condition noted by the fact that the burn ban has been initiated in most of Texas. The District's requirement of residents to not fill tanks or vanity ponds with groundwater is supported strongly by the citizens, but many ranchers are having problems with cattle being stuck in the thick mud caused by the low level of tanks. Some residents with

what are called vanity ponds are reported to be using groundwater to keep them full. Surrounding counties have not seemed to have had the great influx of vanity ponds as we are experiencing and have not needed to be as concerned as we are. Mr. Willis was asked to make a more complete survey of the surrounding GMA's and GCD's and also get a hearing with Rep. Robby Cook on the subject.

5. Committee Report on Aquifer Study: A report from the Committee made up of Eddie Schneider, L.J. Calley, Linda Streicher and Rodney Willis – established at the last meeting to further study the Thornhill Aquifer report gave their summary. The conclusions of the committee were that three separate zones need to be established with separate Desired Future Conditions (DFC) that can better manage the county's seven aquifers over the next 50 years for both domestic and commercial needs. These DFCs need to take into account the water plans of our neighboring counties and the Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) established by the state. The committee also recommended that the Well Monitoring program needs to be established as this continues to be core data for aquifer information. With this data, along with further information from our registered wells and well monitoring system, we can then have much improved and specific GAMs run by the TWDB for each of our aquifers. Mr. Schneider reiterated that the monitoring system is essential and needs to be initiated ASAP on all aquifers. He also stressed that we needed to keep in close contact with our surrounding counties and GMAs to be sure that they will not be affecting us negatively.

6. General Manager's job expectations:

Mr. Wendler wanted to make sure that the negotiated salary and the hours of the new manager, Rodney Willis, taking the place of Ms. Streicher, was clearly understood. The hours are to be flexible, with a minimum of 15 hours per week. Some travel will be required, such as for investigations, meetings, and training. Mileage will be reimbursed based on current IRS allocations. These conditions were seconded by Mr. Brunner.

Mr. Willis outlined the following programs necessary for the upcoming year:

- To continue to support the ongoing activities of the District as already established
- Accomplish more field work and contact with county water suppliers, well drillers and installers
- Outline and initiate the well monitoring program
- Expand on the data from the Thornhill report along with the information from county well registrations and well monitoring into GIS model sets that can be used to better assure our water availability for at least the next 50 years.
- Much time will be needed to run the elections this fall for the three upcoming positions on the board.
- Find a suitable candidate for a more permanent long term General Manager
- Plus others

7. Permit moratorium: The Board felt that it was necessary to continue the moratorium on permitted wells, greater than 50 Acre Feet per year, for another six months. Motioned by Mr. Schneider and seconded by Mr. Brunner.

8. Bids on unsold properties: The Board considered the information sent to us by the Appraisal District on unsold properties and voted to reject the low values on all but one of the bids received. Motioned by Mr. Brunner and seconded by Mr. Calley.

9. Applications for exceptions: No request for exceptions had been received over the past month.

10. Management Objectives: Management objectives and goals were reviewed and accepted.

11. Next agenda items: Items were identified for the next meeting s 'agenda.

Mr. Wendler moved to close the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Brunner.

Wm. Paul Kohlleppel, Jr., President

Carl Wendler, Secretary-Treasurer