

Fayette County

Groundwater Conservation District

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MINUTES

of the June 7, 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 June 7, 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.

One member of the public was present: Candace Berger of Schulenburg.

Minutes from the previous meeting of May 10th, 2004, which were mailed out to the directors in advance of the meeting, were approved with no corrections. A minor correction was made to the minutes of April 5, 2004.

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. Willis seconded the motion and it was approved. Changes were suggested to the format of the monthly operating statement.

As Mrs. Berger was in attendance in support of her application for an exception to a District Rule, the Board took that agenda item out of order. After reviewing all applications and supporting documents, the Board granted the exception for Mrs. Berger to the District Rule concerning a well s' distance from the property line, and granted exceptions to the District Rule concerning minimum tract size for applicants Ellene Jones, Alfredo G. Manzano, and Robert V. Connors.

The Board approved for distribution the drafts of the District s'Summer newsletter and a newspaper article on groundwater waste.

Mrs. Streicher reported that the District has sent a comment letter to the Trans-Texas Corridor expressing concerns and objections about the I-35 corridor as well as the project in general. .

Since the District office has received several calls from people asking very specific questions but who would not give their names, Mr. Wendler moved that the District s'policy be that it will answer general questions only for, and not discuss business with, people who won t' identify themselves. Mr. Manuel seconded the motion and it was approved.

A trip to the Gonzales County Groundwater Conservation District was tentatively planned for the last week in June or first week in July. The purpose of the trip would be to study how they are collecting and using data, as well as to discuss general operational issues.

Mr. Streicher confirmed that, after reviewing the District Rules, the Board does have discretion in applying any fines or penalties. The fine/penalty schedule, which was set in the April 5th, 2004 meeting, was then accepted by the Board.

Two amendments to the District s' By-Laws were discussed. Mr. Manuel moved that the first amendment, concerning the District s' policy on granting tax exemptions, be changed to state that the Board will grant an exemption if the applicant for a tax exemption presents the District with letters from the County and the applicable school district granting the same exemption. Mr. Wendler seconded the motion and it was approved. Mr. Rightmer moved to accept the second amendment, which concerned the duties of the president of the Board, as presented. Mr. Manuel seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Board then worked on the draft of the 2005 budget. With a few changes to the budget, the District will be able to operate within the expected revenue, and without using any surplus from the prior year. It will not be necessary to raise the District s' tax rate for 2005. The final decision on the tax rate will be made after the public tax rate hearing is held.

The Board next reviewed the District s' goals and objectives. Mr. Rightmer suggested that the District reconsider some of its priorities. For example, the District could defer its plans for a water testing laboratory, to allow the District to focus on collecting and analyzing data. Mr. Rightmer thought that the District should start putting in place a drought contingency plan, and had several suggestions on implementing such a plan. The Board agreed to put this on the next agenda, and to do some initial research prior to the next meeting.

Items were identified for the next meeting s' agenda. The next meeting is set for Monday, July 12, 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