

Fayette County

Groundwater Conservation District

P.O. Box 625
254 N. Jefferson St., Room 600
La Grange, Texas 78945
Telephone: (979) 968-3135
Fax: (979) 968-3194

MINUTES

of the August 7, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting

Directors Present: Eddie Schneider, Lloyd Brunner, Carl Wendler, L.J. Calley, Leo Kainer
Directors Absent: none
Others Present: District General Manager Linda Streicher, Assistant County Attorney Harold Streicher

The meeting was called to order by President Schneider at 8:30 a.m. on August 7, 2006 at the District Office in Room 600 of the Fayette County Agricultural Building, 254 N. Jefferson Street in La Grange, Texas. A quorum to conduct business was declared to be present. No members of the public were present.

Minutes from the previous meeting of July 5, 2006 were presented. Mr. Wendler moved to accept the minutes as distributed, Mr. Calley seconded the motion and they were approved.

The financial statement was distributed, and all outstanding bills were listed to be paid. Mr. Brunner moved to accept the financial statement and pay the bills that were presented. Mr. Kainer seconded the motion and it was approved. One of the bills was for the conservation bookcovers which the District provides to Fayette County school districts each August. Mrs. Streicher anticipates receiving the Major Rivers classroom educational materials in August as well. The Board authorized her to purchase the materials for the take-home conservation kits that supplement the classroom materials.

Mrs. Streicher gave the District Manager's report to the Board. She noted the responses received from the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to the District's letter regarding the LCRA-SAWS project. She reported on the status of 3 water well permit applications that are being prepared for public hearings. Mrs. Streicher reported on the investigations into several water usage complaints that have been received by the District. She distributed a draft of the Fall newsletter and presented a proposal to switch from dial-up to high speed internet access, which the Board approved.

Mrs. Streicher suggested that, as an additional internal control, the Board could set a dollar limit on expenditures that should be brought to the Board as an agenda item. Mr. Wendler moved that expenditures under \$500 could be made by the General Manager without being an agenda item, provided that the expenditure was a budgeted item, and that the expenditure would not exceed the budgeted amount. Mr. Kainer seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mrs. Streicher gave an update on the District's search for a permanent general manager. The Texas Water Development Board will run the advertisement for this position in their monthly e-mail, which gets statewide distribution.

The Board received the certification of the 2006 appraisal roll from the Fayette County Appraisal District. The expected tax revenue is not sufficient to meet the District's approved budget for 2007. To meet the projected shortfall, Mr. Wendler moved to raise the District's tax rate from \$0.0055 (just over one half cent) per \$100 of value to \$0.0075 (three quarters of one cent). On a home valued at \$100,000, the taxes would increase by two dollars. Mr. Kainer seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Board then handled several agenda items relating to the election of three Directors at the upcoming November 2007 General Election. First, Mr. Brunner moved that the Board order an election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 for the purpose of electing directors in Precincts Two and Four, and one Director At Large, each for a full term of four years. Mr. Calley seconded the motion and it was approved. Anyone interested in filing an application for candidacy may apply at the District's Office during regular office hours, beginning Tuesday, August 8, 2006 and no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 29, 2006.

Since the precincts which are represented by the Directors of the District are coextensive with the precincts of Fayette County, it is required that the District make the same precinct changes that have been made by the Fayette County Commissioners Court. Therefore, Mr. Brunner moved to change the location for the District's election of voting precincts number 6 (Warrenton) and number 14 (Muldoon), and to consolidate voting precincts 17 (Praha) and 18 (Engle), now designated Fayette County Voting Precinct # 17 (Praha/Engle), located at the Praha Community Hall in Praha. These changes were also made by Fayette County on July 12, 2006. Mr. Calley seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Board then considered a contract for election services with the Fayette County Elections Administrator Dina Bell, as allowed by Texas law, for an estimated fee of \$2,500. The District's attorney is currently working with Ms. Bell and is drafting the contract. Mr. Wendler moved authorize the Board President to sign the contract with the Elections Administrator when it is ready, providing the amount is in the range of the estimated fee. Mr. Calley seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mr. Calley announced that he will seek re-election as Director of Precinct Two. However, Mr. Kainer and Mr. Wendler will not be running again for the Precinct Four and At Large positions, respectively.

Mr. Schneider discussed the county's severe, prolonged drought, and the heightened need for the District's planned aquifer monitoring network. He pointed out that there are still a few people pumping into ponds. Mr. Streicher gave his opinion to the Board on the District's rule making authority concerning pumping into ponds. Mr. Wendler pointed out that, while implementation of the monitoring network is one of the District's most important remaining goals, this District is much further along than many other districts. Mrs. Streicher will give an update on the aquifer monitoring network at the next Board meeting.

The Board discussed its current moratorium on the drilling of non-exempt water wells (e.g., public supply, commercial, industrial, and irrigation wells) that would be permitted to pump more than fifty acre-feet per year. The District has been in the process of reviewing its rules in light of the findings of the District's aquifer study. Changes to the rules have been suggested but are not finalized. Therefore, Mr. Calley moved that the District extend the moratorium on the drilling of non-exempt water wells that

apply for a permit to pump more than fifty acre-feet per year for another three months, effective August 15, 2006. Mr. Brunner seconded the motion and it was approved.

The rules revision committee was asked to finalize their work by the next meeting. They are currently reviewing rules concerning the implementation of Historic Use Permits. The Board acknowledged that the District will probably need to revise its rules regularly.

An application for an exception to the District rule concerning minimum tract size was received from Bob and Jean Amador for a 3.84 acre tract on Tietjen Road east of La Grange. Upon review by the Board, Mr. Wendler moved to grant the exception. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kainer and approved.

Items were identified for the next meeting s'agenda. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 600 of the Fayette County Agricultural Building.

Mr. Brunner moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Kainer, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Eddie L. Schneider, President

Carl Wendler, Secretary-Treasurer