

Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

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MINUTES of the November 8, 2004 Board of Directors Meeting

Directors Present: William P. Kohlleppel, Rodney Willis, Martin Manuel, Carl Wendler
Directors Absent: Clay Rightmer
Others Present: District Manager Linda Streicher

The meeting was called to order by President Kohlleppel at 8:30 a.m. on November 8, 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.

Members of the public that were present included Lloyd Brunner, Thomas Hudec, Bill Johnston, Eddie Schneider, Terry Stewart, Clovis Vaughn, and Mike Walker.

Minutes from the previous meeting of October 11, 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. Wendler moved to accept the financial statement and pay the bills that were presented, Mr. Manuel seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mrs. Streicher reported that the District has a tremendous response to the well registration reminders that were sent out with the tax statements. People are generally very supportive once they understand what the District is trying to accomplish with the well inventory.

Mrs. Streicher also reported that the interim report from the Senate Interim Subcommittee on the Lease of State Water Rights has been made available. Their recommendations to the legislature include the creation a statewide groundwater district for all areas not now included within a groundwater district. Regulations would be similar to those of a groundwater district; property owners could opt to belong to the statewide district or to create a local groundwater district. They also recommend that the Rule of Capture will be modified in some shape or form. Because of problems in some districts, there is some sentiment toward redefining historical use. The subcommittee also suggests the consolidation of groundwater districts to create single-aquifer districts, and giving regional water planning groups oversight of its member groundwater districts.

For the benefit of the newly elected board members, a general discussion of the requirements of the Open Meetings Act was held by the Board.

The draft of the policy for abandoned wells was reviewed. By state law, groundwater districts are required to enforce compliance with state requirements for capping or plugging abandoned or deteriorated water wells. Some suggestions were made, but the Board agreed to table the policy until the next meeting.

The Board reviewed the list of proposed amendments to the District Rules and instructed Mrs. Streicher to draft the language for each amendment. The Board will begin reviewing these drafts at the next meeting.

Mr. Wendler moved that the District adopt the same holiday schedule as Fayette County. Mr. Willis seconded the motion and it was approved. The 2005 holiday schedule for the District is as follows: Martin Luther King Birthday - Monday, January 17th, Texas Independence Day - Wednesday, March 2nd, Good Friday - Friday, March 25th, Memorial Day - Monday, May 30th, Independence Day - Monday, July 4th, Labor Day - Monday, September 5th, Veterans Day - Friday, November 11th, Thanksgiving - Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th, Christmas - Friday and Monday, December 23rd and 26th.

Mr. Wendler moved to approve the hiring of Victoria Collins on a contract basis to enter well logs into the District's database, at a cost of \$1 per log, with a progress review to be made at the end of December. Mr. Manuel seconded the motion and it was approved.

The District was asked to provide letters regarding the pollution prevention plans of two egg farm operations in Fayette County. Mr. Willis moved that Mrs. Streicher ask other members of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts about their experiences with concentrated animal feeding operations before sending the requested letters. Mr. Wendler seconded the motion and it was approved.

Items were identified for the next meeting's agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 600 of the Fayette County Agricultural Building. The first meeting in 2005 is tentatively scheduled for January 10th at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Wendler made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Willis and approved.

Wm. Paul Kohlleppe, Jr., President

Martin Manuel, Secretary-Treasurer