

Fayette County

Groundwater Conservation District

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MINUTES

of the May 10, 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, Assistant County Attorney Harold Streicher

The meeting was called to order by President Kohlleppel at 8:30 a.m. on May 10, 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 present were: Monte Gottier, LCRA Environmental Supervisor, Ken Taylor, Fayette Power Plant Manager, Marian Balke, LCRA Public Affairs, and Robert Chapin, hydrologist with Weston Solutions.

The representatives from LCRA gave the Board members a presentation on the groundwater monitoring network in place at the Fayette Power Plant. Additionally, they presented the district with historical water quality and water level readings, as well as data about their monitoring wells. The power plant is required to carefully and regularly monitor the water quality as a condition of their wastewater permit. The Board was impressed to learn that 100% of the plant's by-products are sold for reuse in, for example, road base and wall board, and as a concrete additive. Board members were invited to visit the plant in the near future to view the monitoring network in operation.

Minutes from the previous meeting of April 5th, 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. Manuel moved to accept the financial statement and pay the bills that were presented, Mr. Willis seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mr. Kohlleppel, Mr. Willis, and Mrs. Streicher recently visited with the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District to see how they were using the data they've collected in their decision making processes. They were discussed operational procedures, budget, and other common issues. It was a very helpful visit, and some Board members plan to visit the Gonzales County Groundwater Conservation District soon as well.

A draft of the District's Summer newsletter was distributed for review. Mrs. Streicher presented notes from discussions she had with members of the Texas Water Development Board on various aspects of a voluntary groundwater monitoring network, including equipment needed, number of wells and types of

wells to be included, and frequency of readings. Mrs. Streicher reported that the District sent Representative Robby Cook a letter outlining the serious issues facing groundwater districts, particularly single-county districts. The District also sent letters to all area attorneys, realtors, and title companies notifying them concerning the District Rules, how to get copies of the rules, and what the key points in the rules are. Letters were also sent to all area water suppliers, reminding them that they need to register their wells, and requesting any historical water level and water quality data they might have. The District has already received very useful historical data from the Fayette Water Supply Corporation.

The draft of the District s'employee policy manual was reviewed, and changes to the vacation and sick time policy were made. Mr. Wendler moved that the employee policy manual be adopted with the discussed changes. Mr. Manuel seconded the motion and it was approved.

The District discussed the application for a property tax exemption which was received from the Plum Lodge # 238, Order of the Sons of Hermann. Mr. Streicher gave a short presentation concerning provisions of the Texas Tax Code which allow for such applications under a relatively new law. The Board decided that, as its policy, the District would follow the decision of Fayette County, the largest taxing unit in the Fayette County Appraisal District. Mr. Manuel made a motion to that effect, which was seconded by Mr. Wendler and approved. Since the Commissioners Court considered and approved the same application at their meeting this morning, the Board then approved the application for the District.

The Board reviewed the District s'goals and objectives, determined that the District is making progress on all goals, and identified goals, such as public education, that need more emphasis. The Board will continue to review the progress at each Board meeting.

Items were identified for the next meeting s'agenda. The next meeting is set for Monday, June 7, 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. Willis and approved.

Wm. Paul Kohlleppe, Jr., President

Martin Manuel, Secretary-Treasurer