

Fayette County

Groundwater Conservation District

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MINUTES

of the August 13, 2004 Board of Directors Meeting (9:00 a.m.)

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

The meeting was called to order by President Kohlleppel at 9:00 a.m. on August 13, 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.

Three members of the public were present: H. N. Mercer, Ed Schneider, and Doug Thielemann.

Minutes from the previous meeting of July 6th, 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.

Mr. Doug Thielemann, CPA, representing Urban, Thielemann, Olive & Company, presented his firm's findings with respect to the District's 2003 financial audit. Their conclusion was that the District's financial affairs were all in order and that the District was operating in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. He also pointed out that there are some new tax laws and regulations that will apply to the District's next audit. Mr. Wendler moved to accept the report as presented, Mr. Manuel seconded the motion and it was approved.

Approximately 400 well registrations have been received to date. Since the end of the year 2004 is the deadline for registering wells at no charge, Mr. Rightmer moved that the District ask the Fayette County Appraisal District to include a brief reminder to that effect in their tax statement mailouts. Mr. Wendler seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mrs. Streicher reported that she has completed an initial analysis of the copies of well logs which the District obtained from the State of Texas. The analysis shows that there are nearly 7,000 wells reported in Fayette County over the years, and shows many more industrial and irrigation wells than the District expected to find. This data will be entered into a database for further study and reporting.

The Water Conservation Implementation Task Force, which was created by Senate Bill 1094 in the 78th Legislature, has submitted their draft Report to the Legislature and Best Management Practices Guide for public comments. The District is pleased to see that there is an emphasis on land stewardship as a conservation strategy.

The national environmental group Environmental Defense has issued a report on water marketing in Texas, in which they claim that the current framework for water marketing is "woefully inadequate." They've made a number of recommendations, many of which are in line with the thinking of the District's Board of Directors.

Larry Nickel, County Extension Agent, is putting together a manual for rural landowners, and has included information about the District, its mission, the well registration process, and a well registration form.

Mr. Kohlleppele recapped the District's recent meeting with Representative Robby Cook, for the benefit of the members of the public.

The Board then handled several agenda items relating to the election of two Directors at the November 2004 General Election. First, Mr. Manuel moved that the Board order an election to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2004 for the purpose of electing directors in Precincts One and Three, each for a full term of four years. Mr. Wendler seconded the motion and it was approved. Mr. Wendler moved to appoint as election judges and associate judges, for the voting precincts as well as the central counting station, the same qualified voters of Fayette County, Texas that were named by the Fayette County Commissioners Court for the November 2004 election. Mr. Rightmer seconded the motion and it was approved. Mr. Wendler moved that Fayette County Clerk Carolyn Kubos Roberts, be appointed as the counting station manager and Susan Cherry be appointed the tabulation supervisor for elections 2004-2005. Mr. Rightmer seconded the motion and it was approved.

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. Wendler moved to change the location for the District's election of voting precincts number 4 (Fayetteville), which change occurred in August of 1999, number 8 (Carmine), which change actually occurred in June of 2004, number 18 (Engle), which change was requested by the County on August 9, 2004, number 21 (Swiss Alp) and number 26 (Mullins Prairie), which change occurred in January of 2004, and to consolidate voting precincts 19 and 20, now designated Fayette County Voting Precinct # 20 (Hostyn), located at the Catholic Church Community Hall in Hostyn, which change occurred in April of 1999. Mr. Manuel seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Board then considered a contract for election services with the Fayette County Election Officer, Carolyn Kubos Roberts, in her capacity as Fayette County Clerk, as allowed by Texas law, for a fee of \$1,500. If the District were to conduct the election entirely on its own, the cost to the District would be significantly higher. Mr. Manuel moved to accept the contract with the Fayette County Clerk. Mr. Rightmer seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Board reviewed applications for an exception to the District rule concerning minimum tract size, which were received from Rev. Karl Johnson and Theresa Garlin. Mr. Wendler moved to grant the exceptions, Mr. Manuel seconded the motion and it was approved.

Items were identified for the next meeting s'agenda. The next meeting is set for Wednesday, September 8, 2004 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 600 of the Fayette County Agricultural Building. Mr. Manuel made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Wendler and approved.

Wm. Paul Kohlleppel, Jr., President

Martin Manuel, Secretary-Treasurer