

Fayette County

Groundwater Conservation District

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MINUTES

of the November 7, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting

Directors Present: Paul Kohlleppel, Rodney Willis, Carl Wendler, Lloyd Brunner, Eddie Schneider
Directors Absent: none
Others Present: District manager Linda Streicher

The meeting was called to order by President Kohlleppel at 8:30 a.m. on November 7, 2005 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.

No members of the public were present.

Minutes from the previous meetings of October 3, 2005 and November 1, 2005, 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. Schneider seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mrs. Streicher reported to the Board on the status of the water usage complaints currently under investigation. She distributed drafts of letters to be sent to the violators, as well as a draft of a newspaper article on the subject.

The Major Rivers educational materials for the fifth grade science classes has arrived. Mr. Wendler moved that the manager purchase the items for the student take-home kits to go along with the classroom materials, and begin meeting with the County's fifth grade science teachers to promote the program. Mr. Willis seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mr. Willis and Mrs. Streicher will be attending the first meeting of the Groundwater Management Area 15 in Wharton on Tuesday. Recent legislation requires that groundwater districts participate in joint planning within their groundwater management areas in order to determine agreed upon desired future conditions of the aquifers. Fayette County falls into two different groundwater management areas.

Mrs. Streicher reported that the District has received the report from Urban, Olive, Thielemann and Company on the District's 2004 financial audit. The report concludes that the District's financial affairs were all in order and that the District was operating in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Three bids were presented for the District s'2005 financial audit. The Board decided to defer this decision until the next meeting, to allow more time to review the bids.

Mr. Schneider moved to approve the Letter of Agreement with the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District, which pledges that the two Districts will meet at least annually to conduct joint groundwater management planning. Mr. Wendler seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Board then discussed the rules exception policy, attempting to clarify an area of confusion concerning the minimum tract size. Properties less than five acres, which were in existence prior to the District Rules taking effect on January 1, 2004, are grandfathered , and exceptions will be given to those who apply. However, properties which were or are subdivided into tracts of less than five acres after the Rules were in place will not be given exceptions to this rule. The five acre minimum tract size was adopted to protect existing wells from interference from new wells that are too close. The County already has several areas where this has become a serious problem, and the District wants to prevent any more instances.

In other business, the Board reviewed several bids for properties from the Sheriff s'Sale, which were received by the Fayette County and Lee County Appraisal Districts. Mr. Willis moved to accept the bids. Mr. Schneider seconded the motion and it was approved. The Board reviewed the new Fayette County Appraisal District s'contract for assessment and collection services for 2005-2006. Mr. Schneider moved that the District accept and sign the contract, Mr. Wendler seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mr. Wendler moved that the District adopt the same holiday schedule as Fayette County. Mr. Brunner seconded the motion and it was approved. The 2006 holiday schedule for the District is as follows: New Year s'Day Monday, January 2nd, Martin Luther King Birthday - Monday, January 16th, Texas Independence Day - Thursday, March 2nd, Good Friday - Friday, April 14th, Memorial Day - Monday, May 29th, Independence Day - Tuesday, July 4th, Labor Day - Monday, September 4th, Veterans Day - Friday, November 10th, Thanksgiving - Thursday and Friday, November 23rd and 24th, Christmas - Monday and Tuesday, December 25th and 26th.

An application for exception to the District Rule concerning minimum tract size was received from Lawrence Hatfield, Jr. for a property on Airport Road near La Grange. After review, Mr. Brunner moved to approve the exception, Mr. Schneider seconded the motion and it was approved.

Items were identified for the next meeting s'agenda. Mr. Brunner moved to change the next meeting date to Tuesday, December 6, 2005, at 8:30 a.m., to accommodate a scheduling conflict. Mr. Willis seconded the motion and it was approved.

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

Wm. Paul Kohlleppe, Jr., President

Carl Wendler, Secretary-Treasurer