

Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

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MINUTES of the March 6, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting

Directors Present: William P. Kohlleppel, Eddie Schneider, Carl Wendler, Lloyd Brunner, L.J. Calley
Directors Absent: none
Others Present: District manager Rodney Willis,

The meeting was called to order by President Kohlleppel at 8:30 a.m. on March 6, 2006 at the District Office in Room 600 of the Fayette County Agricultural Building at 254 N. Jefferson Street in La Grange, Texas. A quorum to conduct business was declared to be present.

1. Public Comments: No members of the public were in attendance.
2. Minutes: Minutes from the previous meetings of February 6, 2006, which were mailed out to the directors in advance of the meeting, were approved with no corrections.
3. Financial Statement: The financial statement was distributed for review, 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. Schneider seconded the motion and it was approved.

Mr. Willis reported that two checks were received from the appraisal district which put us on forecast for the year. With this receipt we could go ahead as planned an open the money market account as previously agreed. This was so moved by Mr. Wendler and seconded by Mr. Brunner.

4: District Manager s'Report: Mr. Willis distributed the contact report, and reported that one new well registrations had been made, no exceptions had been requested and no plugging reports submitted. The District s'web site continues to be more active than expected. The spring newsletter was approved for distribution by Mr. Wendler and seconded by Mr. Schneider. Mr. Kohlleppel confirmed that the report from the Thornhill Committee had been accepted as recommended and he complimented the committee for a job well done. Mr. Willis reported that he spent two days under training with the representative from TWDB measuring their monitor wells in the county. They gave us a list of additional candidate wells we could consider for our water level monitoring program and requested that we incorporate their wells in our planned program and keep them informed about the results and trends. It was agreed that the TWDB program could be incorporated into our program which we are presently initiating. The outcome of this recent TWDB survey indicated that the aquifers had showed a steady to slight decline in the northern half of the county and a somewhat lowering trend in the south. Mr. Kohlleppel reiterated that us getting our water level monitoring program was essential, and central to, the functioning of our District.

The State's population and water requirements are projected to double over the next fifty years and the information about where and how much water is available needs to be accurate and complete.

Upcoming seminars and association meetings were reviewed and Mr. Willis noted that he would attend the TAG quarterly meeting in Thursday and Friday of this week at Pleasanton. He also intends to attend the GMA 15 meeting in Wharton on the 14th. Mr. Calley is planning on attending the Groundwater Seminar in Austin on April.

Mr. Willis reported that the county and most of Texas continues in the direction of a severe drought as noted by the present Palmer Drought Index reading of -3.64 (severe drought) and the fact that the fire ban has been reinstated even after the scattered rains last week. Mr. Willis distributed the article on the impact of vanity ponds and it was approved for publishing with minor changes. Motioned by Mr. Calley and seconded by Mr. Brunner.

5. Report on the Water Level Monitoring program:

Mr. Willis reported on the investigation being conducted to identify candidate wells for our Water Level Monitoring program. A list of over 200 wells are presently being investigated, including both those given to us and those recommended by TWDB plus other candidates from our data base. These were distributed for review and example. The TWDB recommends that the wells be tested at least once per year during the winter months when water usage is the lowest. Other times during the year would also be okay, but the base line needs to be established during the winter. An unused well is the best type of well for this purpose, but irrigation wells are also good candidates as they are generally not used during the winter. Phase one of our program would target around 50 wells targeting four to five wells in each of our aquifers. This would be expanded over time. The more wells that we can handle the better. TWDB recommends that we use the steel tape method as apposed to the electric probe. There are also wireless monitors that can be placed in the wells that give real time data, but they are expensive and are normally only considered for critical situations. TWDB recommends that, when appropriate, that we give well owners the option of placing unused wells into our controlled monitoring program rather than capping or going through the State mandated requirement to fill them in or plug them. Springs in the county also provide extremely good information about aquifer conditions.

6. Geologist/Hydrologist R. Pickens

Mr. Willis gave a report on his discussions with Mr. Pickens to assist us in compiling and preparing our data for GAM runs to be run by TWDB on at least four of our aquifers to this August or September.

Mr. Pickens confirmed that with the Board's approval he would be available to help direct, investigate and compile the relevant and needed data on a per diem basis that would fit within our budget plan. The GAMs utilize the data collected in an area and are used to project the capability of the aquifers to provide the desired amounts of water projected. To date the State and other agencies have spent much time and effort to map and define the Trinity, Edwards and Ogallala aquifers. Information on the other aquifers in the State needs a lot more definition. This is especially true with the aquifers in our county where the information is at best limited. We are fortunate, however, to have as much oil well drilling and logs which can be translated for our data needs. Mr. Pickens has a long history in the oil industry and including hydrologic areas which would be valuable for us along with our well registration data, the Thornhill Report and the State GAMs. It is our intention to have the available information ready and prepared for the State to run specific GAMs on the county aquifers by September of this year.

A draft of a contract was handed out for review by the members and then given to council. All copies were returned to await council's report to be acted upon at the next meeting.

7. Applications for exceptions: No request for exceptions had been received over the past month.

8. Management Objectives: Management objectives and goals were reviewed and accepted.

9.. Next agenda items: Items were identified for the next meeting's agenda

10. Meeting recessed and reconvened at :

Mr. Wendler moved to recess the meeting and have it reconvened with Judge Janecka for the awards presentations. This was seconded by Mr. Brunner. The awards presentation was in honor of Linda Streicher who is retiring after accomplishing the goal of establishing the District with its rules and requirements for operation. This has been a huge task that the District is most grateful for Linda for her abilities and stalwart efforts to accomplish the job in the manner that she has. The awards presentations were also attended by past Director Clay Rightmer. In addition, Mr. Willis was also given a plaque thanking him for his participation and work on the Board.

At 1:00PM Mr. Calley moved that the meeting be adjourned and seconded by Mr. Brunner.

Wm. Paul Kohlleppel, Jr., President

Carl Wendler, Secretary-Treasurer