

**CREATION OF THE MATAGORDA COUNTY
CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. ONE**

On the 17th day of November, 1923, a petition from one hundred fourteen residents, free holders of real property and taxpayers in Matagorda County was submitted to the Matagorda County Commissioners Court requesting the establishment of Matagorda County Conservation and Reclamation District No. 1. The petition sought to establish a conservation and reclamation district covering Matagorda County Commissioners Precinct Nos. 1, 2, and 4. The petition further stated that drainage was a necessity, that the district would be a public utility, and that drainage of the proposed district's properties, and the protection that adequate drainage would provide was practicable and feasible and that a necessity existed to expedite the district for the following reasons:

“(a) The fact that logs, trees and other drift has formed in the channel of the Colorado River in said district so as to dam up and retard the flow of water; that during every rise in said River it overflows the country adjacent thereto and inundates a large territory of fertile lands on both sides of said River in said district, whereby great property damage is sustained, crops and livestock destroyed;

(b) It is a public utility because by the creation of such conservation and reclamation district an economical, practicable and feasible method of drainage will be secured, as well as the protection of crops and other properties within said district from overflows, adding much to the value of the lands and properties therein.

(c) The drainage of said district, as well as protection thereof from overflows, is feasible and practicable, for the reason that the cleaning out and deepening of the channel of said Colorado River will greatly increase its water carrying capacity, thereby giving a complete drainage system during ordinary freshets and heavy rains, and in conjunction with sufficient levees will also prevent the inundation of many acres of fertile lands during floods in said River.”

The petition was signed by the 114 resident freeholders in Pct. 1, 2, and 4 who are listed as follows:

W. D. Wilson	A. E. Stinnett	Wm. Cash
Wm. E. Ehler	Wm. Meschkat	J. F. Williams
R. J. Sisk	R. E. Britt	G. B. Culver
Wm. C. Foulke	D. E. Keller	Joe Mangum

W. A. Arnold	Harry Hawkins	F. L. Swinford
R. F. Anderson	H. H. Oertling	Amos Lee
W. F. Tetts	Geo. E. Williams	Geo. Leach
R. C. Millican	I. Ditch	P. B. Scogin
S. O. Eidman	A. Ditch	R. E. Mangum
Paris Smith	L. M. Read	J. W. Jones
R. O. Kiser	Geo. W. Reed	S. B. Lewis
J. Bachman	R. P. Walker	E. F. McDonald
W. H. Broughton	Wm. Walker	J. A. Rice
R. E. Lindsey	L. M. Matchett	W. T. Cox
Sam R. Sholars	J. J. Shiver	W. C. Lloyd
M. O. Savage	B. H. Helmecke	M. I. Fortenberry
T. S. Hightower	J. C. Price	F. B. Gillett
P. G. Secrest	C. M. Ratliff	W. W. Bradley
T. J. Clark	Vance Porter	G. L. Sewell
F. S. Taylor	S. W. Cates	J. D. Moore
C. W. Dickey	Kenneth Carter	Oscar Barber
J. D. Yancey	H. D. Wallace	L. P. Gilmore
J. S. Mayfield	H. T. Scott	W. T. Pollard
M. J. Murphy	U. F. Helmecke	Harris Milner
P. G. Huston	Joe Cummings	A.D. Hensley
C. Langham	H. C. Huck	F. Norton
J. D. Nance	W. B. Brooks	R. F. Faickney
O. R. Hagaman	Robt. Poage	F. Craft
P. Kogutt	L. C. Estlinbaum	C. W. Lee
J. M. Findley	Conrad R. Anderson	Wm. Belcher
J. R. Reynolds	C. T. Davis	J. A. McNeal
W. H. Poole	Joseph Peltier	Deckard E. Cates
A.B. Head	S. S. Taylor	E. B. Owens
M. I. Scott	A. H. Simon	C. R. Jones
A.R. Benge	N. T. Lowe	Nolan Ryman
H. F. Kuesel	Louis Chambless	P. Thompson
Frank M. Ottis	J. L. Hood	Chas. H. Sienour
H. Mallard	B. R. Arnold	Sam Hughes

The Matagorda County Commissioners Court was composed of the following individuals in November of 1923:

- W. E. McNabb - County Judge
- J. H. Pyle - Commissioner Pct. 1
- E. C. Baker - Commissioner Pct. 2

G. A. Salsbury - Commissioner Pct. 3
V. T. Harper - Commissioner Pct. 4.

Four publications of the Commissioners Court's notice of hearing of the petition were published in the Matagorda County Tribune and in the Palacios Beacon and on December 29, 1923, the Commissioners Court convened in special session and held a hearing concerning the establishment of the Matagorda County Conservation & Reclamation District No. 1.

The Matagorda County Commissioners Court, after the hearing, voted to establish the Matagorda County Conservation and Reclamation District No. One stating in its Order that:

"Therefore, this Court, on the hearing on said petition, and all the evidence submitted herein, finds from the evidence, and it is the judgment of the Court, that the drainage of such district is feasible and practicable; that it is needed; that the drainage would be conducive to the public health, and would be a public benefit and a public utility from a sanitary, agricultural standpoint, and otherwise; and that the organization of said conservation and reclamation district is in compliance with the provisions of the recent Act passed by the 38th Legislature of the State of Texas, at its second called session, releasing the State ad valorem taxes upon the inhabitants and property of said district, conditioned upon the organization thereof, and that such organization of such district will enable the inhabitants of said district to avail themselves of the benefits of said Act; and the said conservation and reclamation district is therefore hereby established, to be known as Matagorda County Conservation and Reclamation District No. One."

Since its inception, the Matagorda County Conservation and Reclamation District No. One has consisted of (3) individuals who are appointed by the Matagorda County Commissioners Court for terms of each Commissioner of two years.