

Matagorda County Conservation & Reclamation District No. One

Meeting Minutes 07-20-21

Attending Commissioners: Willie Younger, Gary Koeppen, Dwight Vavra

Item #1: Chairman Vavra opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

Item #2: The following guests were recognized:

*Allen Cumbie *Brian Meek *David Sheblak *James Kinard

Item #3: The minutes of the 06-09-21 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as read under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra.

Item #4: The recent Financial Report was reviewed and unanimously approved under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Willie younger.

Item #5: Under the Matagorda Ring Levee Report the following was discussed:

- The grass on the levee has grown high, but it is probably too wet to mow.
- Sprayco has seeded bare sections of the levee.
- The culvert which drains the Matagorda Heights neighborhood was thought to be clogged; but it was discovered that that a drain pipe running beneath the interior road at that locale was the cause of flooding beneath the raised homes; the issue was turned over to County Commissioner Kent Pollard to resolve.

Item #6: Under the River Levees Report the following was discussed:

- No new crossing applications have been received by Allen Cumbie.
- Cumbie verified that a crossing permit has been issued for a pipeline being laid north of Bay City.

Item #7: Under the Colorado River Study update the following was discussed:

- Eric Scheibe recently provided Chairman Vavra a virtual update and expects to expand this report in August.
- The main point of his report was that the USGS and the LCRA are both to install additional flood gauges along the river in Matagorda and Wharton Counties.

Item #8: Under the review of the Coastal Hazard Mitigation Study the following was reported:

- A series of meetings will be held to provide details and allow a discussion of perceived hazards.
- There appear to be two critical issues:
 1. Dredge fill at the mouth of the Colorado River near Matagorda, and
 2. Flood remedies in Wharton County.

Item #9: Tabled

Item #10: Regarding the Mercer Engineering Pump Station Project, Consultant David Sheblak, reported:

- The firm has completed drawings for the proposed project and presented them to the Board for review.
- He suggested that a call for bids could be advertised in August with the possibility of selecting a contractor in September.
- He noted that small excavations at the exterior foot of the levee will be required at each of the three pump stations.
- Negotiations to cement an agreement with McAda Drilling Fluids to supply pumps and operators, as needed, should proceed shortly.
- Citing the affects of coastal erosion and corrosion in the coastal environment, it was recommended that all exposed metal components be stainless steel. Sheblak did not foresee any problems in incorporating this design feature.

Item #11: Tabled.

Item #12: Regarding the request of QC Chemicals to TCEQ for a “Single Property” designation, the following was discussed and acted upon:

- In considering our pending approval, CRD Attorney, Allen Cumbie felt that it was inconclusive as to whether the District is considered to be a property owner or merely an easement holder.
- Either way, Cumbie felt that the CRD’s level of governmental immunity was sufficient.
- Approval for TCEQ to accept their request was unanimously granted under a motion made by Willie Younger and seconded by Dwight Vavra.

Item #13: Tabled.

Item #14: Dan Delich’s update on regulatory and legislative affairs was received via email.

Item #15: Allen Cumbie received, and printed the entire LSP for review by interested board members or the public.

Item #16: Regarding the hiring of Kinard backhoe to clear vegetation from selected segments of the river levees the following was discussed and considered:

- Cumbie has received an agreement from Kinard based on a standardized rate schedule.
- Vavra recommends that the clearing of the underbrush be the primary focus of this work.
- At the request of the Board, Kinard will grind up all vegetation removed and leave it in place on or near the levee.
- Cumbie asked Kinard if he carried commercial liability insurance and, if so, could he supply the Board a copy of his policy for attorney review.
- Cumbie also suggested that the CRD should be included as additional insurers on Kinard’s policy and certification of this provided to him.

- Property owned by the City of Bay City is the first section of river levee under consideration for clearing. Therefore, approval to enter it and complete such cleaning will be sought in the very near future.
- Contingent upon adding consulting fees, the contract with Kinard Backhoe was unanimously approved under a motion made by Dwight Vavra and seconded by Gary Koeppen.

Item #17: Tabled.

Item #18: Under a motion made by Willie Younger and seconded by Gary Koeppen, all bills received and reviewed were unanimously approved for payment.

Item #19: The next CRD meeting was set for 08-11-21.

Item #20: Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Willie Younger, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.