

# Matagorda County Conservation & Reclamation District Number One

## 11-10-21 Meeting Minutes

**Attending Commissioners:** Dwight Vavra, Gary Koeppen, Willie Younger

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

**Item #2:** The following guests were recognized:

\*Jonathon Vavra \*Allen Cumbie

**Item #3:** Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra the minutes of the 10-11-21 CRD meeting were unanimously approved as read.

**Item #4:** Under a motion made by Willie Younger and seconded by Gary Koeppen, the Investment Report for September 2021 was unanimously approved.

**Item #5:** Regarding the Matagorda Ring levee Update, the following was discussed:

- The levee was recently mowed.
- Efforts to contact the owner of the deer stand situated on the levee easement and request its removal will be made.
- An email from Ryan L. Schartzengraver with the USACE's 499 Program indicated that COE staff will be arriving in Matagorda on Friday 11-12-21 to inspect for erosion along the levee.
- The USACE also sent a letter to inquire if the levee was damaged by Hurricane Nicholas.
- Attorney Cumbie suggested that the CRD might qualify for assistance as a non-federal project.

**Item #6:** Regarding the River Levees update, Allen Cumbie noted that he had observed that clearing by Kinard Backhoe was underway adjacent to LeTulle park.

**Item #7:** Regarding the Letter of Engagement delivered by KL&M, their bid of \$5600 or less was unanimously accepted under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Willie Younger.

**Item #8:** Chairman Vavra indicated that the County's Hazard Mitigation Study will be released soon.

**Item #9:** Discussion on the TWDB's Flood Intended USE Plan grant program was tabled and the suggestion made that it be removed from December's agenda.

**Item #10:** Regarding the Mercer Engineering Pump Station Project, the following was discussed:

- The project requires GLO approval which is currently pending.
- Lacking a response from McAda Drilling regarding a contract to provide pumps and operators as needed, Chairman Vavra contacted Odessa Pumps regarding such a business arrangement.

**Item #11:** Discussion and possible action regarding River Levee Crossing applications was tabled.

**Item #12:** Under a motion made by Dwight Vavra and seconded by Gary Koeppen, the recent Investment Report was unanimously approved.

**Item #13:** Lobbyist Dan Delich provided the following update regarding levee-related activities at the federal level:

- Revised proposals on Risk Rating by the USACE produced bipartisan support to slow or halt new provisions; with letters sent to FEM asking that such actions occur; this matter should come to a head in January '22.
- Regarding reauthorization of the NIPA, it is hoped levee accreditation will be replaced with ties to established 100-year flood standards.
- Regarding the USACE's Levee Safety Program the following was revealed by Delich:
  - the COE would hope to include "social vulnerability" in their decision making;
  - this appears to be a money grab intended to boost staff salaries;
  - the question becomes "Why should the COE be involved in non-structural, non-performance issues occurring inside levees?"

**Item 14:** The Attorney's Report was tabled.

**Item #15:** Under Commissioners Comments the following was discussed:

- Younger reported that the County Insurance Pool is experiencing financial difficulties which will like result in measurably increasing contributions by each participating entity.
- Younger further noted that the fund managers indicated that 'shares' were primarily determined by the value of their asserts and the number of employees. He reported to the Pool Board that the CRD had neither and. Therefore, speculated that administrative liability was the sole benefit to the MCCR.D.
- Younger also reported that the website manager, Belinda Strotheide, has received all required 'approved' minutes.
- Allen Cumbie reported that regarding liability for Board decisions, the District is protected by Sovereign Immunity, plus contractors are required to provide proof of adequate insurance.

**Item #16:** Under a motion made by Willie Younger and seconded by Gary Koeppen, all bills received were unanimously approved for payment.

**Item #17:** The next CRD Board meeting was set for 12-15-21.

**Item #18:** Under a motion made by Willie Younger and seconded by Dwight Vavra, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.