

Matagorda County Conservation & Reclamation District Number One

Meeting Minutes 02-26-2025

Attending Commissioners: Gary Koeppen, Willie Younger, Dwight Vavra

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

Item #2: The following visitors were recognized:

*John Mercer *Jonathon Vavra *Allen Cumbie

Item #3: Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra, the minutes of the 01-08-25 CRD meeting were unanimously approved as read.

Item #4: Regarding the progress of levee clearing contractors, the following was discussed:

- Kinard Backhoe has not returned to complete contracted work due to other job obligations.
- Hickl has been working steadily at the AP Ranch near Buckeye and has satisfactorily removed much the undesired vegetation.

Item #5: Regarding an update on the levee crossing application from Shuford Properties the following was discussed and/or acted upon:

- Lisa Krobot, County Compliance Officer, indicated that the TCEQ has objected to the initial plans submitted by Shuford Properties.
- John Mercer (Mercer Engineering) has conferred with Shuford's engineers and recommends that the project be laid out with flagging so the impacts can be visualized more clearly.
- Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Willie Younger, approval for Allen Cumbie to draft and deliver a letter to Shuford Properties notifying them to lay out the intended route of the crossing was unanimously approved. Shuford is also to be directed to send the USACE a copy of their engineering drawings for their review and approval.

Item #6: Regarding the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and the Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Manual for the Ring Levee, the following was discussed:

- Chairman Vavra reported that he has been unable to reach the County Emergency Management Office to confer on the EAP probably because of the recent computer hack,
- The County Judge is the ultimate authority in deciding when levee flap gates should be closed or reopened.

- During the recent USACE inspection of the Ring Levee it was determined that sandbags stored at the Precinct Barn are still viable and ready to be utilized at Old Gulf Road when necessary.

Item #7: Regarding the survey and title search on Henry Danysh's property, the following was discussed:

- Cumbie discovered that G & W did the previous survey on said property.
- Cumbie indicated that he has contacted Bay City Abstract for clarification and verification on the Danysh easement.
- Construction of the proposed home appears to be on hold.

Item #8: Deficiencies verbally revealed immediately following the January '25 USACE inspection included the following:

- Small holes on the levee's surface.
- Broken flap gate.
- Damaged pipe at pump station pad.

Item #9: Discussion regarding the Wharton Levee Project was tabled.

Item #10: Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra, the recent Financial Report was unanimously approved as read.

Item #11: The update on the River Levees was tabled.

Item #12: Under a motion made by Willie Younger and seconded by Gary Koeppen, both the December and the Quarterly Investment Reports were unanimously approved as read.

Item #14: The report on the USACE Levee Safety Program was tabled.

Item #15: Under the Attorney's Report, the following was discussed:

- Cumbie reported that the HOA president for Bridge Harbor Subdivision has requested that the CRD make repairs and upgrades to the road leading from the Ring Levee to their respective abode
- Younger expressed concern that proceed with such requested work may set an unwelcomed precedent
- Belinda Strotheide, CRD's webmaster, is going out of business but indicates she will not end her contract with the CRD until year's end.

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

Item #17: Under Commissioners Comments the following was discussed:

- Vavra reported that a Mr. Hines has purchased property on Lewis Street and wants to build on it.
- It was suggested that the property be surveyed by Hines and marked with stakes so as to verify it does not encroach on the levee easement.

Item #18: The next CRD meeting was set for 03-12-2025.

Item #19: Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.