

Matagorda County Conservation & Reclamation District Number One

06-11-2025 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:

*Jonathan Vavra *Shaun Short *James Kinard *Allen Cumbie *Mike Estlinbaum

Item #3: Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra, the minutes of the 05-14-2025 CRD meeting were unanimously approved as read.

Item #4: Regarding river levee clearing work in progress, the following was discussed:

- Hickl has finished the McAda Ranch section.
- Kinard lacks about 1/3 of the Ashcraft property.; there are deep pits on either side of the levee: going south equipment must ride on top of the levee because of impounded rain water along the toe; experienced equipment break downs which slowed progress.

Item #5: Regarding the Shuford Property levee crossing application, Cumbie reported that the USACE is trying to sort out opposing 408 permit applications.

Item #6: Regarding the ongoing survey and title search on Bay Harbor, Cumbie reported the following:

- He is still actively involved in sorting this out.
- He offered the opinion that the CRD may be obligated to release a portion of its easement as it had done for neighboring property owners and, thereby, allow construction to proceed.

Item #7: Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Willie Younger, the recent Financial Report was unanimously approved as read.

Item #8: Regarding an update on the River Levees, the following was reported:

- Younger reported that the flooding issues in the River Oaks subdivision was discovered to be inadequately sized internal culverts and the problem appears to have been resolved.
- Parkers Cut (aka Tiger Island Cut) may soon be dredged and the earthen dam separating the Cut and the Colorado River removed.
- James McAda called Dwight Vara to report that he was well pleased with the levee clearing done on his riverside ranch

Item #9: Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra, the recent Investment Report was unanimously approved as read. Koeppen also commented that he felt that CRD funds in bank accounts should probably be invested.

Item #10: Regarding the possibility of renting pumps to be staged on the Matagorda Ring Levee during periods of internal flooding, the following was discussed:

- Shaun Short with Equipment Share (ES) noted:
 - because of the short lengths required the intake and output hoses will need to be fabricated.
 - ES will develop a formal proposal but his rough estimate is that the rental fee will be around +/- \$5000.
 - pump fuel levels can be monitored remotely.
- County Commissioner Mike Estlinbaum noted that the fuel cells would need to be refilled every 12 hours; he has the capacity to provide fuel and, if desired, the pumps could be staged in advance at the precinct barn in anticipation of the need to utilize them.
- Allen Cumbie inquired “Who will decide when ES needs to provide the pumps?”

Item #11: Regarding an update on the Levee Safety Program, Dan Delich reported the following via phone conferencing:

- Three main points describe the LSP’s current status:
 1. Attempts are being made to cut 16-17 million dollars that is earmarked for the development of standards and accountability from the 75 M budgeted.
 2. Demands are being made to comply with OMB rules which include stakeholder input.
 3. Pushing for the establishment of a Levee Owners Board and the delineation of FEMA and USACE management.

Item #12: Included in the Attorney’s Report is notice from Cumbie that Dane Simons and STEP have reached a court agreement, but he is unsure if Simons has capitulated.

Item #13: Under a motion made by Willie Younger and seconded by Dwight Vavra, all bills received were approved for payment.

Item #14: Comments from the CRD commissioners was tabled.

Item #15: The next meeting was set for July 9, 2025.

Item #16: Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra, the meeting was unanimously adjourned,