

# Matagorda County Conservation & Reclamation District Number One

## Meeting Minutes 09-10-25

**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:

\*Joe Sliva \* Jonathon Vavra

**Item #3:** Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra the minutes of the 08-13-2025 meeting ere unanimously approved as read.

**Item #4:** Regarding vegetation removal on the river levees, the following was discussed by Chairman Vavra:

- James Kinard of Kinard Backhoe experienced an equipment failure and is temporarily out of commission.
- Hickl has completed the first section of the Burkhart property. But the landowners have asked him to postpone further work until after hunting season.
- Vavra suggested that it may be time to rebid this levee clearing work.
- Vavra has checked with approved applicators about chemical control of vegetation. All contacted advised waiting until spring so as to achieve better results. However, Koeppen recommended that the Board put out a bid notice in the near future.

**Item #5:** Discussion pertaining to the Shuford Property crossing application was tabled.

**Item #6:** Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Willie Younger, the recent Financial Report was unanimously approved.

**Item #7:** Regarding the matter of securing a new webmaster to replace Belinda Strotheide, the following discussed:

- Ms. Strotheide has announced that she is retiring.
- Joe Sliva, a candidate for this position, introduced himself.
- Sliva reported that his fees were \$59/month for hosting the website or \$129 for hosting and required content editing or opt for a rate of \$90/hour for editing charged in 15 minute increments.
- He would bill CRD on a quarterly basis.
- He anticipated that new ADA requirements on websites may apply to governmental entities.

- Ask that if contracted he have only one point of contact. Vavra suggested this would likely be Allen Cumbie.
- A new password would be applied.
- Sliva would be offered direct contact with Ms. Strotheide to answer questions he might have.
- Under a motion made by Koeppen and seconded by Younger, approval to accept Sliva's contractual offer of the \$129/mo. option for his services was unanimously granted.

**Item #8:** The update on the River Levees was tabled.

**Item #9:** Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra, the recent Investment Report was unanimously approved.

**Item #10:** Regarding the acquisition of rental pumps for use at the Ring Levee, the following was discussed:

- Vavra reported that the City of Bay City rents pumps when needed.
- Vavra suggested that we might consider reserving rental pumps when a tropical storm enters the Gulf of Mexico.
- Vavra reminded everyone that the decision of when to install and use pumps at Matagorda is the County Judge's alone to make.
- Vavra suggested that the option to utilize pumps to remove internal flood water probably should be added to the County's Emergency Management Plan.

**Item #11:** Via a telephone conference, Dan Delich provided the following information regarding the Levee Safety Program:

- His main points included:
  1. Levee owners are now assured of the opportunity to provide input through an 11 member stakeholder's board that will include USACE representation.
  2. There is now a mandate to guard levee assets.
  3. The Board is authorized to testify before Congress.
  4. Transparency is to be a key component.
  5. There will be thorough review of program budgets.
- Under the Water resources Development Act
  - the GAO is to examine the USACE's spending and activities in 2024.
  - there is to be third party peer review as well
  - there are laws in place to protect the regulators
  - "Gold Standard Science" will be restored (e.g., transparency & reproducibility, etc.)

-A legislative rider has been introduced that would block computer based conclusions in risk analysis used to set NFIP rates.

**Item #12:** Under a motion made by Willie Younger and seconded by Gary Koeppen, all bills received were unanimously approved for payment.

**Item #13:** Approval of the proposed tax rate of 0.00693 was tabled.

**Item #14:** Under a motion made by Dwight Vavra and seconded by Gary Koeppen, the Resolution for Adoption of the Tax Rate of 0.00893 was unanimously approved and then signed for delivery to the County.

**Item #15:** Commissioners Comments was tabled.

**Item #16:** The next CRD meeting was set for 10-08-2025.

**Item #17:** Under a motion made by Dwight Vavra and seconded by Gary Koeppen, the meeting was unanimously adjourned>