

# Matagorda County Conservation & Reclamation District Number One

## 10-08-2025 Meeting Minutes

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

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

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

\*Mike Ferdinand \*Allen Cumbie \*Jonathon Vavra

Mike Ferdinand offered the following comments regarding his past firsthand experience in securing USACE pumps during a potential flood disaster:

- He was working with Mississippi's Office of Emergency Management during Hurricane Ike.
- This weather incident posed a 90% chance of a dam failure with the Slidell LA area at the greatest risk of downstream flooding.
- After close coordination between the states of MS and LA, FEMA was called upon to initiate contracts with the U.S. Army to supply 8" pumps to draw down the lake and thereby lessen the possibility of a dam breach.
- In summary, the process leading to the delivery and use of this equipment began with a request from the impacted county's judge to the MS State Office of Emergency Management to FEMA to the MS National Guard to USACE to set up and ultimately remove these pumps.
- A major problem encountered in utilizing these pumps was keeping them fueled.
- Ferdinand offered to assist the MCCRD in the event a similar need arose at Matagorda.

**Item #3:** Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Dwight Vavra, the minutes of the 09-10-2025 CRD meeting were unanimously approved.

**Item #4:** Regarding an update on the Colorado River Levees, the following was discussed:

- James Kinard, owner/operator of Kinard Backhoe, will be returning to clear the Ashcraft property now that his equipment breakdown has been fixed.
- Kinard has requested assistance from the CRD in contacting other landowners where future work is planned.
- Hickl has finished the Cornelius property and will soon be moving north of the River Oaks subdivision.

- Vavra suggested, and Koeppen and Younger concurred, that weakened sections or those which have been removed should be repaired or restored after they are cleared.
- Vavra, at the recommendation of vegetation control specialists, recommended that the Board consider springtime chemical control with periodic herbicide application after the initial treatment.

**Item #5:** Discussion regarding the Shuford Properties levee 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 as read.

**Item #7:** Under a motion made by Dwight Vavra and seconded by Gary Koeppen, the contract with KM&L to provide the CRD's annual audit for a fee of no more than \$6,300 was unanimously approved.

**Item #8:** The update on the Matagorda Ring Levee was tabled.

**Item #9:** Under a motion made by Willie Younger and seconded by Gary Koeppen, the Investment Report for September was unanimously approved as read.

**Item #10:** Discussion related to a contract with Equipment Share to supply pumps was tabled.

**Item #11:** Dan Delich's LSP report was brief and centered on news that GOP officials have nixed the proposal to establish a Levee Stakeholders Advisory Board.

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

**Item #13:** Under "Unfinished Business" the following was discussed:

- Koeppen reported that the Ring Levee needs to be mowed.
- Vavra reported that Sprayco appears to be under new management and this has created some confusion regarding responsibilities and contacts.
- Vavra suggested that it would be prudent for the CRD to re-bid all contract work.
- On the direction of the Board, Allen Cumbie will draft a contract for Joe Slivato serve as the District's new webmaster.

**Item #14:** Under Commissioners Comments, the following was discussed:

- Vavra reported he received a call from a Bay City Tribune reporter seeking insight on Texas Water Development Board grants; Cumbie strongly recommended against

making any negative remarks which might appear in print and create negative outcomes.

- Vavra suggested that it may be productive to resubmit an old grant application which was previously rejected.

**Item #15:** The next CRD BOARD meeting is set for 1:30 PM on 11-12-2025.

**Item #16:** Under a motion made by Gary Koeppen and seconded by Willie Younger, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.

\*end\*