

Mr. Coleman read letters and resolutions from various mayors and parishes as well as responses from elected officials regarding the bill before the legislators requesting permanent funding for the Sparta Commission.

#### Personnel Committee

Billy Perritt reported that the job description was completed and the position for a full time person to work on Sparta issues is being advertised.

#### Public Relations

Todd Culpepper passed information that the committee is proposing to be included with a letter to the various entities and interested parties to provide and update the status of the Commission's activities; specifically the position to be filled by the Extension Service for full-time person to work on Sparta issues. Dr. Alice Stewart suggested including in the information how the Commission has been funded to-date in the correspondence.

After the presentation from the committees the Chairman asked for a motion to accept/approve the reports. It was moved by Leslie Thompson and seconded by Dennis Woodward to accept the committee reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **General Business**

Herb Byars expressed concern about salt water disposal wells and the amount that was being disposed in the Sibley area. Mr. Coleman had the same concern about an area near Haynesville. Tony Duplechin, with DNR, Office of Groundwater, said that he would investigate and get back with the Commission or have Mr. Joe Ball, Director of Injection and Mining, Office of Conservation, get back with the Commission on this issue.

There was no other business.

The Chairman then asked for presentations.

Tony Duplechin with the Office of Conservation, Groundwater Division, said the five real-time water level wells monitors received funding approval for this fiscal year and the next fiscal year. He also said funding for the water quality testing (20 wells) throughout the Sparta was approved. The sampling will be done two times a year by USGS. After reviewing the list of parameters to be tested during the sample, John Stamberg, P. E., recommended adding bromide to the chemical list.

Tony also discussed bills before the legislators that may be of interest to Sparta Commission. He mentioned two. 1) SB754. This bill passed both the House and Senate; it addresses development of natural gas storage caverns in the Chicot Aquifer area. 2) HB376. This bill has passed the House and the Senate environmental committees. The bill would give enforcement authority and penalties for not complying with groundwater regulations.

Barry Royals and Bill McDonald, with Waggoner Engineering, were the next presenters. Barry told the group about the Union/Lincoln Regional Water Supply Initiative. There are four members of this group – Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Union Parish Police Jury, Town of Farmerville, and Town of Ruston. The group was created in 2003 to look for alternative drinking water sources for the above entities. Funding was received in 2006 to conduct a study of Lake D'Arbonne. The study included determining water quality as well as the water levels.

Rick Hohlt presented a ten minute Sparta Education/Conservation video produced under his leadership. Initiated by an Entergy grant, the video is the joint effort of the Sparta Commission's Grants Committee and Trailblazers. Sponsors are the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, Gibsland Bank, and many Ruston area businesses, including Davison Trucking, Rotary International, Community Trust Bank, and the Ruston Daily Leader. The target audience is 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> graders. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources piggybacked on the project to produce a generic video for use statewide. The Sparta video will be distributed to area schools, libraries, and organizations with an interest in water conservation.