

HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL  
AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 132

13 January 2010

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

The Board of Directors of Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 132 met in special session at the designated meeting place of the Board, the Harris County W.C.I.D. No. 132 Water Plant, 4107 Evening Trail, Spring, Texas 77388, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2010, at 10:00 a.m. The roll was called of the duly constituted officers and members of the Board, to-wit:

Thomas Mancini	President
T. Gary Toll	Vice President
William R. Papp	Secretary
Mary Bonetati	Assistant Secretary
Cindy Daniel	Director

All members of the Board were present, except Dir. Daniel, thus constituting a quorum. Also present were Carol Fraser, landscapist; Barbara Payne of Payne Communications, the District's media consultant, ("media consultant"); and Sherry Allard, recording secretary of the Board.

President Mancini called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 10:10 a.m., and the following business was transacted.

**DISCUSS LANDSCAPE GARDEN, APPROVE PROJECTS RELATED TO LANDSCAPE GARDEN AND AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

The President recognized Dir. Papp, who informed the Board that he had spoken with BF Services and is awaiting their response regarding mulching the trees at the garden. Ms. Fraser informed the Board that the response to the website's notice that Christmas trees would be taken at the garden after Christmas was very good. She was pleased that people were happy to participate in the tree drop-off.

She would like to see the mulch applied to the area where the new soil was placed, near the street. She then discussed two individuals that she would like to have authorized to assist her with physical work in the garden. Michel is a 14-year old, hard working youth with whom she has worked before, and she assured the Board that she would be present all the while he works in the garden. Sabino is a contractor that has worked with Ms. Payne previously and has her strong recommendation. He will be helping with much of the handwork and digging, Ms. Fraser noted. The granite sidewalk will be piled up and cleaned up under the trees, all to be done by hand, protecting the roots of the trees. Ms. Fraser would like the District to pay Sabino directly, she stated. She stated that she would like to have the work at the far end of the driveway done. She anticipates the work will require three (3) men for 3 days' time. Then people from the Texas Parks & Wildlife will come and do some work, Ms. Fraser stated. Jim is working currently on the rain garden, she added. Mulch and small shrubs will be on the other side of the driveway, Ms. Fraser stated.

She then discussed her recent visit to the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College in California, where she visited with Marty Eberhardt, Public Garden Manager, and took numerous photographs. She informed the Board that much of the garden is subsidized by three (3) MUDs, some of which have now withdrawn their financial support, noting that their water revenues have decreased since inception of the Water Conservation Garden. Dir. Papp expressed surprise that a MUD would withdraw support of a water conservation program due to dwindling revenues from water sales, rather than consider other revenue alternatives. Additional MUDs and colleges also support the garden with works and financial and plant donations, Ms. Fraser noted. There is a governing board for the Garden, and Ms. Eberhardt has 7 employees and numerous individuals working on the five-acre site. In order to get a better feel for how impacting the conservation aspect of the garden is, Ms. Fraser felt it would be advisable to speak with visitors or Volunteers at the garden, as her guide had little information in that regard.

Ms. Fraser then shared her photographs with the Board. There was a 'touch and smell' area of the garden for children, which plants had texture and scent; building a sedum wreath or vertical gardening was offered at Christmastime; a completely plastic area stressed recycling; the "maintenance matters" area had great information that could be used in the District's garden; the "backyard makeover" area had two yards juxtaposed to show a normal yard against one that uses less grass and indigenous plants, all requiring less water; curved walkways were utilized throughout the garden, aiding gathering and discussion, Ms. Fraser noted. One display was an artistic rendering of various water meter sizes and sprinkler heads; another area had boxes that, when opened, showed the infrastructure and piping required for the displayed plants; "watering wisdom" was an area where utilizing plants requiring similar amounts of water in groups was stressed; another area entitled "end of the pipeline" had an open-ended, large pipe displayed aesthetically with a small pond and beautiful plantings, showing what it takes to get the water from 'there' to 'here'. Barbara Payne thought the District might use slices of descending-sized pipes artistically to show the same idea. Another area of the garden showed the public how to plant the appropriately sized tree for any particular space, to avoid having to over-prune or remove years later. The "power of color" area was a beautiful display of varying colors and types of mulch, from brown wood bark to blue and purple-colored stones and rocks, showing them as important, as well as visually appealing, components of beautiful gardens. A display explaining the value of the soil quality showed how the soil should be prepared for the area according to the plantings selected; and another soil explained the 'science' of soil and the 'art of digging' the appropriately sized hole for each plant or tree.

Ms. Fraser explained to the Board that the gravity flow drip irrigation would not work on the system she is planning. But drip irrigation could be used elsewhere in the garden. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded by Dirs. Toll and Papp, respectively, the Board voted unanimously to approve expending up to \$2,000 for labor to Better Way Landscaping, Inc., as requested by Ms. Fraser. The Board thanked Ms. Fraser for the beautiful slide presentation.

**DISCUSS WEBSITE, CUSTOMER COMMUNICATION AND AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES RELATED THERETO**

The President then recognized Ms. Payne for her report. She showed the Board a sample brochure of the garden map to direct and inform visitors to the garden. Dir. Bonetati stated that she would like to see local high schools offer credit to students to come to the garden and participate. Also art or metal shop classes could compete for artistry to display in the garden, it was noted. Ms. Payne stated she was thinking about a competition among local schools for a "What is Mother Nature, what does she look like, and what does she do?" program. Ms. Payne did inform the Board that the printer reduced the price on 1,000 copies of the brochure. Dir. Papp motioned to approve expending \$589 to Precision Printing for 1,000 brochures. Dir. Toll seconded, after which the Board voted its unanimous consent.

Ms. Payne then discussed postcards announcing the January 27, 2010 meeting of the DbLive District customer pilot program. She stated they were just recently mailed out. Dir. Toll motioned to ratify Ms. Payne's mail-out of postcards, and related costs thereto, to potential participants of the sprinkler pilot program. Dir. Papp seconded the motion, which garnered unanimous support from the Board.

Ms. Payne was informed that the link to the big video on the District's web page was not working currently. She agreed to check into the matter. When the Board asked about using WiFi apparatus on site, Ms. Payne advised against it.

The Board then discussed replacement of existing plantings with non-invasive plants. The Board wanted to advocate to District customers the use of non-invasive plants throughout customers' personal landscaping plans and whenever existing plants are replaced. The Board wished to have materials available to show what plants are invasive and provide customers with a list of alternatives. They would like to maintain a space on the website about invasive plants, it was noted. The Board asked Ms. Fraser to contact the Attorney to formulate a policy on replacement of invasive plants to the extent that no invasive plants would be planted on District property and that replacement by the District of any existing customers' plants, when required, should be non-invasive.

Ms. Fraser then informed the Board that she had visited a mission near Tucson, Arizona during the Christmas holidays. In the process of excavating and refurbishing the mission, a very old cistern was found beneath the mission, she noted. A rainwater collection system was also found, she stated. Conservation of water was a necessity of life at that time, she noted.

There followed a brief discussion of the value of joining the AWWA organization. The organization will be holding a seminar in Corpus Christi, Texas in April 2010, it was noted. Ms. Payne explained that some of the seminars are designed for operators, rather than directors, and the Board could select which seminars they most wanted to hear. Ms. Allard was asked to change arrival and departure dates for the upcoming AWBD conference in Dallas, Texas.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS TO CONDUCT**, Dir. Papp motioned for adjournment at 12:00 p.m. Dir. Toll seconded the motion, which received the Board's unanimous consent.

PASSED AND APPROVED

February 15 2010  
Date

Bill Papp  
Bill Papp  
Secretary of the Board of Directors