

HC 132. Aug. min.

HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL
AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 132

3 February 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 3rd day of February 2010, at 10:00 a.m. The roll was called of the duly constituted officers and members of the Board, to-wit:

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| 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 with Head, Inc.; and Sherry Allard, recording secretary of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Vice President Toll and the following business was transacted.

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

The Vice President recognized Dir. Papp, who discussed with the Board applying to the Sustainable Site Program ("SSP") and converting the Water Conservation, Demonstration and Research Center ("Garden") to a Sustainable Site Garden. He noted that funding the program will be necessary to expedite the process. Ms. Fraser asserted that becoming a Sustainable Site will require that all plants in the Garden be a sustainable product. An important part of becoming a Sustainable Site would be an inventory by an arborist of all trees on site. After consideration, the Board approved having an arborist inventory the trees in the Garden. Ms. Frazer noted that all activities on the property would have to be documented, and tobacco is strictly prohibited. Ms. Fraser stated that her understanding of the SSP indicates that the District is a mix of two (2) types. Being accepted requires a 3-year commitment, she stressed. The pilot program application fee is \$500, she added. There will be quarterly reports, and the SSP representatives will visit the Garden, she noted. When Dir. Papp asked whether an engineer were needed to administer the SSP, Ms. Fraser suggested a woman named Lee Ann Pomfret, a former technical writer for Hewlett-Packard. Ms. Fraser stated that there is a book that details the specifications for an SSP, and the Board agreed to purchase several copies. It was agreed to place consideration of hiring an administrator for the SSP on the regular February Board meeting agenda. If the District's Garden is accepted, the acknowledgement should arrive by mid-March, Ms. Fraser stated. Dir. Toll motioned to make application to the SSP to participate in their pilot program. Dir. Bonetati seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Ms. Fraser stated that she felt the most important part of

the application would be the description of the project and what the District hopes to accomplish thereby. Ms. Fraser noted that as part of the SSP, the District might be asked to have a recycling unit on site. That is highly unlikely the Board felt, with the limited space.

Ms. Fraser then gave her final report as to the dropping-off of Christmas trees for the Merry Mulching project. There were at least 20 donors, she stated, and all were very pleased to participate. She stated that she had purchased some paw paw trees for \$40 from Livingston. The District agreed to give each donor a paw paw tree in appreciation for the mulch donation. She then updated the Board on some of the plantings in the Garden.

The District then discussed setting policy regarding types of plant material used when planting or replacing damaged planting within the District. She stated that she had spoken with the Attorney about the matter. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department ("TP&W") would like the District to use "native plants" only. That could prove restrictive, the Board thought. The Board expressed a preference that the policy provide for "noninvasive plants" or "alternatives to invasive plants." The policy decision was tabled.

Dir. Mancini arrived at this time and began chairing the meeting.

The President recognized Dir. Papp, who asked about making a budgetary commitment to the Garden for the year, and allowing Ms. Fraser to make certain purchases without clearing every detail with the Board. Dir. Papp motioned to authorize Ms. Fraser to expend up to \$50,000 for labor and materials for the Garden. Dir. Toll seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ms. Fraser continued her planting report. She stated that on the far side of the parking lot, there are divisions where various mulches will be viewed in alternating spaces: pine needles, pecan shells and hardwood. The area has been cleaned, leveled, and the wooden dividers are in place, she noted. In the other spaces, native shrubs will be planted. There will be a section for annual vines in the area at the end of the driveway, she added. Wildflowers will be placed past the mulches, she stated.

She then alerted the Board to a new variety of ants that have been found locally, the raspberry crazy ants, so named because of their frantic, jittery running around. They are particularly destructive to PVC piping, it was noted. Should such ants be identified, the Board was asked to contact Montgomery County Extension, 9020 FM 1484, Airport Rd., Conroe, Texas (936) 539-7822.

The Board then discussed making a policy for expressing its appreciation to donors of a significant value to the Garden. The Board indicated that \$500 is a significant amount of donation and would like the Attorney to formalize a policy honoring such donors. Dir. Toll moved to establish a policy honoring donors of \$500 or more (1) on signage, (2) in local newsletters and periodicals where the Garden is mentioned and (3) by invitation to events at the Garden. Dir. Bonetati seconded the motion, which received unanimous support from the Board.

The Board then discussed the area around the bench honoring former Dir. Roberts. Ms. Fraser would like to move the original Garden sign to the side of the building behind the bog Garden, to allow greater visibility into the Garden area. The treescape area will have picnic tables, Ms. Fraser stated. She would like to have the tables built out of lumber approved by the SSP, if accepted.

REPORT ON DBLIVE PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZE ACTION RELATED THERETO

Dir. Papp stated that Mr. Fairey had called him and said that Doug Goodwin sent a list of participants in the sprinkler pilot program to him and Mr. Ammel. Doug was told to visit with Attorney Ms. Parker and Mr. Ammel and get the customer evaluations and installations lined up. It would be a good idea to video some of the Wise Guys preparing systems for the sprinkler systems, he added. Pres. Mancini felt the Board should contact the remainder of the 50 largest water consumers within the District to attract more participants to the pilot program. The Board concurred. They could attend the meeting and be given a presentation, it was noted.

DISCUSS WEBSITE, CUSTOMER COMMUNICATION AND AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES RELATED THERETO

It was thought the Board should have business cards with the butterfly logo, considering their interaction with many directors at conferences and outside interest in the Garden. The Board agreed and is asking Ms. Payne to accomplish this.

The Board asked Ms Payne to mention significant donors in future newsletters and to also mention the raspberry crazy ants for residential awareness.

CITING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS TIME, Dir. Toll's motion to adjourn at 12:22 p.m., duly seconded by Dir. Bonetati, carried without dissent.

PASSED AND APPROVED

February 15, 2010
Date

Bill Papp
Bill Papp
Secretary of the Board of Directors