

Minutes for the Ellis Wellhead Protection Committee Meeting
February 17, 2010

Members Present: John Heinrichs, James Leiker, Allen Roth, -Bill Wilson,
Jude Scheck

Non-voting member: Karen Purvis- Recording Secretary- Ellis County Ex-
Officio, Dustin Fross- FHSU Graduate Student, Tyler Saryerwinnie- WHP
Intern.

Guests- There were no guests present

John Heinrichs, chairman **called the meeting to order** at 7:04.

Minutes- It was moved by Jude and seconded by Allen to accept the
minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- The beginning balance was \$688.92. There was a
check for \$50.00 made out for the live remote at the rain barrel event earlier.
The ending balance was \$638.92.

Old Business

a. Events-

Water Forum- James reported to the committee that he and Karen
attended the water forum that was held on February 4th. It was a good
program. The emphasis on the speaker's presentations was on the
climate change and how that would affect water supply in the future.

Watershed Mobile Trailer- James stated that the mobile trailer was
unveiled on February 11th at the Fort Hays game. It will be available
to anybody in the watershed to check out. They will rent it out to
places outside the watershed for a fee. It is an 8' X 16' trailer that the
murals cover all aspects of the watershed. There was approximately
150 people go through it, and the people were impressed with the
project. Next year the WRAPS and FHSU will be submitting an EPA
environmental education grant to fill the WOW trailer with other
education materials/depictions. They are doing this so that when
people rent the trailer they are not just getting one education piece but
rather an entire water festival that may have 5-7 different educational
booths.

TMDL Hearing- James attended the first of two hearings for the TMDLs of the Big Creek watershed. He stated that Big Creek is considered impaired for sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, and E. coli from the point of leaving the wastewater plant to the point of junction with the Smoky Hill River. There are three factors that contribute to the impairment- in this order: 1) wastewater discharge entering Big Creek from the wastewater plant 2) City of Hays runoff, and 3) Ag producers runoff. Reports of the TMDL of the watershed are found at the following website: kdheks.gov/tmdl/. There is going to be a big push for stormwater planning for the city, county, and state.

Stormwater Planning Meeting- John reported on the stormwater planning meeting that he attended for the City of Hays. He was able to ask some questions. The city is considering a stormwater utility fee.

The committee asked what they could do to help with the issue. Allen made a motion to have the committee write a letter to the city offering the committees resources and knowledge of the stormwater issue. It was seconded by Bill seconded the motion. Motion carried. A letter will be drafted and will be presented at the next meeting offering our services.

- b. *Education* –It was suggested that the committee shift their work for their intern to focus more on stormwater issues. Our intern will also spend time on the Home & Garden Show.
- c. *Membership-* No report
- d. *Other- requested well information-* the committee looked over the file that was requested. John said that he took responsibility for sending the letter to KDHE. The committee supported the facts as reported in the letter, but the committee needs to go through the proper procedures to write this type of correspondence. We are to advise the governmental bodies of Ellis County and issue recommendations. The committee still disagrees with the County Commissions decision to grant the waiver.

New Business-

- a) *Events- Home & Garden Show-* The Home and Garden Show is scheduled for March 13 and March 14th. The chairman will notify the Hays Daily News that we will have our usual educational booth. We

will go with the pet waste project again. The intern is to work up some new handouts and contest information. He is to bring this to the next meeting. The next scheduled meeting is after the Home & Garden show so the committee has scheduled a special meeting for Wednesday, March 3rd at 7:00. This will be to discuss the Home and Garden Show only.

- b) Education- no report
- c) Legislative- *EPA ruling on Storm water quality for disturbances > 10 acres*. James went over points of the EPA fact sheet for guidelines for discharges from the construction and development industry. He will send the members a link of the document. It is a document put out by the EPA for new construction. If you disturb 30 or more acres, 20 or more acres, and 10 or more acres it specified what needed to be done. The regulation is projected to reduce the amount of sediment discharged from construction sites by about 4 billion pounds each year. This could be a big factor in the building of the sports complex, because it is disturbing much more than the 30 acres.
- d) Other- On February 24th there will be a meeting for the Lake Wilson allocation. Bill and James plan to attend this meeting. The next BAC meeting is on March 3rd. Karen stated that the state cut LEPP funds for the next state fiscal year. The Environmental Office will be impacted by this cut.

Date for next meeting- The special meeting for the Home and Garden Show planning will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd at 7:00 P.M. Room 222 in Tomanek Hall. The next regular meeting is scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of March (March 24th) instead of the third Wednesday because of spring break.

It was moved by Allen and seconded by Bill to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 8:29 P.M.

Submitted by Karen Purvis- Recording Secretary