

Coke County Commissioners Court meeting minutes told

The Coke County Commissioners Court met in regular session on June 9, 2020, at the Courthouse in Robert Lee. Those in attendance included County Judge Hal Spain, Commissioner Precinct 1 Donald Robertson, Commissioner Precinct 2 Paul Williams, Commissioner Precinct 3 Marshall Millican, Commissioner Precinct 4 Joe Sefcik, and County Deputy Clerk Jennifer Burdett.

The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag and prayer was offered by Judge Spain.

Judge Spain announced the presence of a quorum.

Commissioner Millican moved to approve the minutes from the June 2 meeting, as amended, along with the minutes from May 26. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson and the motion carried.

No action was taken on the Treasurer's Report.

The Extension Report was presented by Morgan Runyan.

Sheriff Wayne McCutchen presented the Sheriff's Report.

The Tax Collector's Report was presented by Randi Hardesty.

Jennifer Burdett presented the District/County Clerk's Report.

Judge Spain presented the Constable's Report.

There was no activity to report for the DR Report.

The Trapper's Report was presented by Judge Spain.

No action was taken on the burn ban. The burn ban is still in effect.

Commissioner Williams moved to accept the action concerning the resignation of the custodian, Gina Williams. Commissioner Sefcik seconded the motion and the motion

carried. Commissioner Williams moved to approve the action concerning the Emergency Disaster Declaration for Coke County. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Millican, carried.

Discussion was held to consider purchasing a light for the courthouse flag pole. No action was taken.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the order prohibiting certain fireworks in unincorporated areas of Coke County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson and the motion carried.

Consideration was given concerning a resolution for ordering materials and supplies by proxy. This item was passed until the next meeting.

Discussion was held concerning timely payment of office supplies by the auditor's office. No action was taken.

Commissioner Robertson reported on a gentleman that has moved his fence line on to the county's right of way and took suggestions on how to address the move.

Commissioner Sefcik moved to approve action on payment of bills. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Millican, carried.

Judge Spain adjourned the meeting at 9:59 am.

Following the meeting, a budget workshop was held. Judge Spain, Coke County Commissioners, and those in attendance visited with Tom Green County Auditor Nathan Craddock concerning tax rates and other upcoming budget issues.

Lesson plan challenge open to teachers

by Julie Tomascik

Texas Farm Bureau Editor

Although the coronavirus pandemic has altered some summer professional development events for educators, Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) wants to inspire teachers to bring agriculture to life in their classroom through interactive lessons.

"We wanted to find a way to still engage with teachers this summer and give them an opportunity to develop lessons that incorporate agriculture in the classroom," Jordan Walker, TFB director of Educational Outreach, said. "This is an unprecedented time, but we know teachers are still creating their lessons for next year, and we want to inspire them to find a way to involve agriculture."

TFB's Lesson Plan Challenge provides a unique opportunity to grow curriculum resources for Texas teachers who want to increase agricultural literacy and awareness across all grades and subject areas.

Certified kindergarten through 12th grade teachers can submit one completely developed lesson plan that clearly incorporates agriculture in the classroom. Teachers who teach any subject may participate, except for those teaching agricultural courses.

"Agriculture can fit into any subject and in any grade," Walker said. "We encourage all certified teachers to participate

in the challenge. Local farmers and ranchers or county Farm Bureau offices can also serve as a resource for more information about Texas agriculture."

To participate, completed lesson plans must include supporting materials and a citation sheet that includes all sources used.

Lessons will be judged in four categories, and judges will select a first and second place winner from each category.

Each teacher who submits a complete lesson plan will receive a classroom garden kit that will include a 32-cell starter tray, 32 soil pucks and 10 packs of seeds.

Each teacher will also receive either the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's book of the year and the educator's guide, for the younger grade levels, or a higher-level book for teachers of higher-level grades.

All first and second place winners will have their lesson

plans considered for inclusion as a curriculum resource on TFB's website.

Winners will receive one digital microscope for use in the classroom and \$300 to purchase classroom supplies. The first-place winners will also receive an all-expense paid trip to the 2021 National Ag in the Classroom Annual Conference.

"Encourage the teachers you know to find ways to bring agriculture to life in their classroom," Walker said.

"Farming and ranching has deep roots in our state, but many students are far removed from production agriculture. Our Lesson Plan Challenge can help inspire both teachers and students to expand their knowledge of agriculture and the challenges facing farmers and ranchers."

Lesson plan submissions are due online July 24.

For more information, the online application, categories and judging criteria, visit <https://texasfarmbureau.org/aitc>.

TPWD announces funding opportunity for streamside landowners

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is looking to expand public access to fishing and paddling on Texas rivers through leased access agreements with streamside landowners. Private streamside properties are essential to achieving this goal, and TPWD is requesting applications from

landowners for the River Access and Conservation Areas program.

"Texas has over 40,000 miles of free-flowing rivers and creeks, and with 95% of the land held in private ownership, it can be a real challenge finding safe legal access to these waters," said John Botros, TPWD River

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