



SOUTHEAST TEXAS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 1407
JASPER, TEXAS 75951

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SEC / TREAS

ROGER FUSSELL
OLEN BEAN
BOBBY ROGERS
SAM ASHWORTH
STEVEN BLACK
KEN JOBE
THOMAS HAWTHORNE
CODY JONES
GREG KELLEY
RICK RUSSELL
BILLY TED SMITH
ROBB STAR
M. CHARLES ZIMMERMAN

GENERAL MANAGER
GENERAL COUNSEL

JOHN M. MARTIN
JOHN D. STOVER

January 19, 2024

The Honorable Mark Allen
Jasper County Judge
121 North. Austin, Room 106
Jasper, TX 75951

The Honorable Wayne McDaniel
Hardin County Judge
300 West. Monroe
Kountze, TX 77625

The Honorable Ronnie Cochran
Newton County Judge
110 Court Street, Room 125
Newton, TX 75966

The Honorable Milton Powers
Tyler County Judge
110 W. Bluff
Woodville, TX 75979

RE: Appointment of new Presiding Officer/Board President

Honorable Judges:

I hope this letter finds each of you well. It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. On January 3, 2024 after a short battle with a very aggressive cancer, the District's Presiding Officer/Board President Roger Fussell passed away. Roger will be deeply missed, first and foremost as a friend and colleague, but also as one of the area's best water knowledge assets.

The legislation that created the District requires the Commissioners' Courts of the District to agree upon and jointly appoint the Presiding Officer/Board President. Since Roger was in the middle of a term, it will be necessary to appoint a new Presiding Officer/Board President to complete that term which runs through December 31, 2025.

The District's current Vice President, Olen Bean, has stepped up and guided the Board for our last two monthly board meetings and is prepared to continue doing so as long as needed. In my opinion he would make an excellent choice to fill the Presiding Officer/Board President position. As mentioned earlier, the Presiding Officer/Board President is to be appointed jointly by all four Commissioners' Courts, and represent the forestry, agricultural or landowner groundwater supply interests of all four counties. Olen certainly meets this requirement having retired after 30 years of service with the Texas Forest Service. Olen was born and raised in Newton County, he has been serving on the Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District Board for over 13 years representing Newton County, and has also served as either Emergency Management Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator for Jasper, Newton and Sabine Counties.

Olen has agreed to serve on the Board as its Presiding Officer/Board President if you choose to appoint him to this role.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me.

After taking action in your respective Commissioners' Courts, please let me know your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John M. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

John Martin
General Manager