

**STERLING COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

July 8, 2024

Members present: Jack Clark, Kade Hodges, Wes Glass, General Manager; Diana Thomas and Technician; Ashley Masters.

No visitors present.

The meeting was called to order at 1:39 P.M. by Jack Clark, Chairman of the Board.

Wes Glass moved to accept the minutes of the previous meetings. Kade Hodges seconded the motion and it carried.

District Manager, Diana Thomas, presented the regular bills to the Board. After reviewing the bills as presented, Kade Hodges moved to transfer \$15,000 from the MMDA to the checking account, and to pay all bills. Bills included standard monthly bills and a bulk rain gauge order to be mostly reimbursed. Wes Glass seconded, and the motion passed.

The Manager's report included: TAGD virtual Executive Committee meeting, three WTWMA in San Angelo, Senate WAR virtual hearing, TWDB at Dove Creek Springs, Region F and lunch meeting with Sen. Sparks staff in Big Spring, two TAGD HR Webinars, WTRGA virtual meeting, TAGD Legislative Committee virtual meeting, TAGD PFIA Training and TAGD Regular Business meeting in Round Rock, TAGD Executive Committee virtual meeting, and two TAGD Conference Planning Committee virtual meetings. Weather Mod is getting to a slow start due to quiet weather patterns from a neutral ENSO phase. There are now three salaried pilots. The WTWMA season has seen slim opportunities for seeding operations with one day in April and 6 days in May. Long-term forecasts are hot and dry with the potential of a record-breaking summer. The Sente WAR committee has kicked off interim hearings, though groundwater is not the focus yet. Staff met with the TWDB at Dove Creek Springs for a site visit for assessment of spring flow monitoring and completing a water quality analysis. A future visit to install flow transducers will occur in July. Region F discussed past plan infeasible strategies and current plan surface water strategies. Several WTRGA members met with Juan Delgado of Sen. Sparks Big Spring office as an introduction to GCDs in his senate district. The first HR webinar covered many laws and best practices for employers with more employees than one, but it was still a good guide for staff. Staff attended a second HR webinar discussing harassment and hostility. The WTRGA met to discuss the staffer lunch and possibly drafting a response to House interim charges. The TAGD Legislative Committee also met to discuss interim charges and to plan subcommittees. District manager Diana Thomas completed her bi-annual PFIA training requirement and attended the quarterly TAGD business meeting. Speakers covered topics from models to nitrates in groundwater, to carbon capture and storage. The TAGD Executive Committee held its first meeting with new director Adam Foster. Interim charges

were discussed as well as committees to watch. The TAGD executive committee met a second time to work through a procedural vote issue that occurred at the business meeting. The first TAGD Conference Planning meeting was attended by Ashley and covered the approval of keynote speakers, forum topics and speakers, and panelists. The second meeting was attended by Ashley and covered the finalizing of speakers, panelist and agenda.

Well Surveillance included three months of well water levels for 42 monitor wells throughout county, directors reviewed the individual wells and discussed the varied levels. The well camera was utilized for three wells in Irion County in May. Rain gauges were downloaded in May and presented to the Board.

A Notice of Intent to Drill was received for W. Glass for a livestock well and CK Parker Farms for a livestock well.

Water quality analysis was performed for B. Myrick and B. Thomas.

District general counsel is retiring at the end of 2024 and options for staying with the current firm or looking for new counsel were discussed. The good work and relationship with the current firm was highlighted as well as the desire to explore the potential competitiveness of other firms. Wes Glass moved to issue a request for qualifications for legal services for new general counsel for the District. A desired timeframe to allow for firm selection before the end of the year was discussed. Kade Hodges seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

After presentation of the permit application and review of the map attachments Kade Hodges moved to accept the application for a Water Supply Permit by Clayton Smith located at Section 130 Abstract 810 for 2 acre feet of water for domestic use a year. Wes Glass seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Diana Thomas presented the 2024 Q2 Investment Report. Kade Hodges moved to accept the quarterly investment report as presented. Wes Glass seconded, and the motion passed.

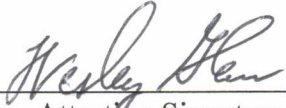
Kade Hodges moved to accept the most recent drought index. Wes Glass seconded, and the motion passed.

The Recycling Program Exemption was presented with no updates due to no change in the status of local recycling capabilities. Kade Hodges moved to accept the Recycling Program Exemption Declaration. Wes Glass seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Diana Thomas presented a satisfactory performance evaluation for technician Ashley Masters, highlighting a few areas where she is excelling. A table of accomplishments for both the technician and the general manager were also presented to the Board. Further action on the Personnel Evaluation was tabled for a future meeting to allow input from board members not in attendance today.

Current budget year-end projections were presented to the Board. Most budget categories will remain within budget limits, but insurance budget items will have to be increased in the next fiscal year and amended in the current year. Estimated taxable values were presented with both Tom Green and Sterling Counties estimating a loss in taxable value compared to last year.

There being no further business Wes Glass moved and Kade Hodges seconded to adjourn at 2:38 PM.



Attesting Signature


Presiding Officer

Date: 8/12/2024