

MINUTES OF
May 23, 2024
BOARD MEETING
CENTRAL TEXAS GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Board of Directors of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District held a Permit Hearing and Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 225 S. Pierce, Suite 104, Burnet, Texas.

Members Present: Ryan Rowney, President Ricky Bindseil, Vice-President
Homer Will, Director Paul King, Director

Members Absent: Kathy Griffis-Bailey

Staff and/or Consultants Present: Mitchell Sodek, General Manager Shrader Davis, Groundwater Technician Tracy Swantner, Office Manager Bill Dugat, District Legal Counsel
Dr. Neil Deeds, District Hydrogeologic Consultant, Intera, Inc.

Others Present: 10 Members of the Public

President Rowney declared a quorum present and called the Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

President Rowney then called for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags.

President Rowney then asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

President Rowney then called the Permit Hearing to order at 9:04 am. He asked for the General Manager's recommendation on Permit Application OP-10092401-B – City of Bertram. The permit Application has been determined to be administratively complete and is in accordance with District Rules.

General Manager Sodek presented details of the permit request. City of Bertram is requesting an increase to their permit of 103.07 acre feet. General Manager Sodek gave his recommendation to require a hydrogeologic investigation under Rule 3.63(a).

President Rowney then opened the hearing for public comment on the Permit Application.

Mike Guevara & David Knueper, representing the City of Bertram, stated they believed the District did not have the authority to require a hydrogeologic investigation under Rule 3.63(a) for this permit. They further discussed the City of Bertram's current and future plans, water usage, storage capacity, and impact of hydrogeologic investigation.

District Legal Counsel, Bill Dugat, stated that he believed Rule 3.63(a) was authorized to be used for any application where the Board determines that such report is warranted based on aquifer conditions, type of modification, status of adjacent wells, local water use trends, and other aquifer management considerations. Further adding that the under rule 3.22 considerations for granting or denying a permit application, the Board needs to consider whether the proposed use of water unreasonably affects surrounding landowners, and that a hydrogeologic investigation is needed to support those findings.

During the discussion General Manager Sodek stated the two wells have never pumped more than 400 acre feet. The permit amendment seeks adding another 103 acre feet and a dramatic increase of more than double the amount ever historically pumped to 895 acre feet, signifying a significant change to

the local water use trend. General Manager Sodek and Dr. Neil Deeds, District Hydrogeologic Consultant, expressed that the District does not know the physical limitations and capabilities of the wells and is requesting the evidence demonstrating their capabilities, and evidence of what effect there will be on the aquifer and surrounding wells from production of the fully permitted amount.

Two other members of the public also made comments. There was a discussion between the Board and the representatives from the City of Bertram.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Permit Application OP-10092401-B.

Paul King moved to:

Support General Manager Sodek's recommendation to require a Hydrogeologic Investigation under rule 3.63(a) citing the concerns and uncertainty for the status of adjacent and neighboring wells and to verify the water supply and further moves to work with the City of Bertram on cost-sharing the investigation through an Interlocal Agreement up to an amount to be determined after cost are known, and remands the application back to the General Manager.

Second was by Homer Will.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney adjourned the permit hearing and resumed the regular meeting at 10:10 a.m.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Emergency Operating Permit Issued by the General Manager for Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation. General Manager Sodek presented details of the emergency permit that was issued to operate well # 8740 from May 14, 2024 to May 17, 2024.

No action was taken.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on USDA-NRCS Cedar Removal Program-Bubba VanZandt. Bubba presented information on the cedar removal/erosion control program.

No action was taken.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Burnet County Runs on Water Campaign. General Manager Sodek presented the design of the 1st billboard, signage, and brochure. He then asked for the board's approval of the design for the 2nd billboard.

Ricky Bindseil moved to:

Allow General Manager Sodek to move forward with the design of the 2nd billboard.

Second was by Homer Will.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Hydros Database Work Order for Pump Installation. General Manager Sodek reviewed the work order details, including cost.

Paul King moved to:

Approve the Hydros Database Work Order.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Determination of Drought Stage. General Manager Sodek reviewed the Palmer Hydrological Drought Index and reported that it showed we were in the severe drought category for April. He then reviewed rainfall maps including rainfall for last 30 days, departure from normal, and year to date departure from average. General Manager Sodek and Neil Deeds then reviewed data from monitor wells and noted modest improvement. He recommended moving to Stage 3, with either reduction of mandatory reductions from 15% to 10% or removal of the mandatory reductions.

Paul King moved to:

Move to Stage 3 and reduce mandatory reductions to 10%.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Hail Insurance Claim for District Vehicle-2019 Chevy. General Manager Sodek discussed the recent hail claim, damages, and insurance payment. General Manager requested direction on whether to repair the damage or use funds toward new vehicle.

Ryan Rowney moved to:

Accept insurance check, retain 2019 Chevy with no repairs, and amend budget for next fiscal year for purchase of new vehicle.

Second was by Paul King.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on April 19, 2024.

Paul King moved to:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on April 19, 2024.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Expenditures for April 2024; Budget Line-Item Adjustments; and Review of 2023-2024 Budget. General Manager Sodek reviewed the reports and financial statements and there were no adjustments.

Ryan Rowney moved to approve expenditures for April 2024.

Second was by Paul King.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then called on the General Manager for the General Manager and/or Staff Report and Update.

a. Well Registrations & Permitting

He district has received less than 30 well applications per month on average.

b. GMA 8

General Manager Sodek discussed the May 15th GMA 8 Meeting.

c. Texas Water Trade- Net Zero Water

General Manager Sodek discussed reviewed information on his recent meeting with the CEO and discussed Texas Water Trade's toolkit and possible workshops for commercial developers.

d. District Newsletter

General Manager Sodek reviewed the District's 1st newsletter.

e. 4-H Water Ambassadors

General Manager Sodek and Groundwater Technician, Shrader Davis, will be meeting with the 4-H Water Ambassadors in June. There is also a new Water Ambassador from Burnet County.

President Rowney then called for Director Comments.

Paul King thanked Mitchell for his recommendation on the City of Bertram permit.

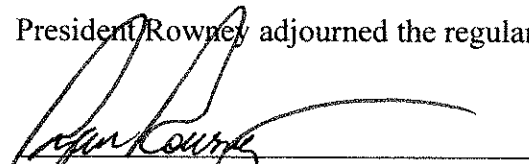
Ricky Bindseil gave an update on the BOPATE event- there were over 1000 tires, twenty-four 55 gallon drums of oil, and a trailer full of electronics collected.

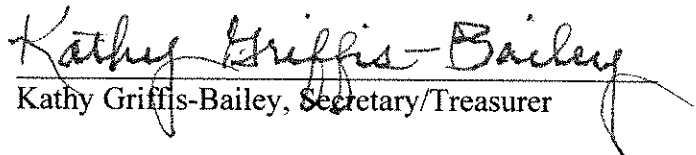
President Rowney then called for agenda items for the next Regular Board Meeting.
City of Bertram permit.

Directors may contact the General Manager or Board President prior to the deadline for posting notice of the next meeting if they have a suggested agenda item.

President Rowney then set the date for the next Regular Board Meeting for June 20th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 225 S. Pierce, Burnet, Texas.

President Rowney adjourned the regular meeting at 11:01 a.m.


Ryan Rowney, President


Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer