MINUTES OF

AUGUST 19, 2024 **BOARD MEETING**

CENTRAL TEXAS GROUNDWATER **CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District held a Show Cause Hearing, Permit Hearing, and Regular Board Meeting on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the District Office located at 225 S. Pierce, Suite 104, Burnet, Texas.

Members Present: Ryan Rowney, President Ricky Bindseil, Vice-President

Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer Homer Will, Director Paul King, Director

Staff and/or Consultants Present: Mitchell Sodek, General Manager Shrader Davis, Groundwater

Technician Tracy Swantner, Office Manager Bill Dugat, Legal Counsel

Others Present: 7 Members of the Public

President Rowney declared a quorum present and called the Meeting to order at 1:02 p.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 Show Cause Hearing to order at 1:04 p.m.

President Rowney stated that the well owners/permittees identified below have been noticed to appear before the Board and required to show cause why a suit should not be initiated against the person in a court of competent jurisdiction for failure to comply with the orders or Rules of the Board, the relevant statutes of the State, or failure to abide by the terms and provisions of a permit issued by the District or the operating authority of the District:

- a. OP-13042403 Aqua Texas-Rio Ancho
 b. OP-17072101 Giacomo Properties LLC
 d. OP-10101919 CSWR Texas Utility
 e. OP-10101918 CSWR Texas Utility

- c. OP-10102032 CSWR Texas Utility

General Manager Sodek informed the Board that all well owners/permittees had acknowledged receipt of their Agreed Order before the hearing and that orders had been signed by Giacomo Properties LLC and CSWR Texas Utility. Representatives with CSWR Texas Utility were present at the hearing and answered questions from the directors regarding the water systems. General Manager Sodek spoke to representatives of Aqua Texas prior to the hearing and Aqua Texas requested to pay the \$250 fine rather than sign the agreed orders.

Kathy Griffis-Bailey moved to:

Levy a \$250 fine for Aqua Texas and moves to approve and execute the agreed orders for Giacomo Properties LLC and the three CSWR Texas Utility permits effective August 19, 2024.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil. Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney adjourned the Show Cause Hearing at 1:16 p.m.

President Rowney then called the Permit Hearing to order at 1:16 p.m. He asked for the General Manager's recommendation on Permit Application OP-10101940-A - Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation. 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 amendment request. Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation is requesting to add 2 wells to the existing permit of 114.7 acft with no increase in permit volume. A hydrogeologic investigation was required, and Intera reviewed the study. It was found that only 42.54 acft was simulated in the investigation. A spacing variance application has been filed for each well. General Manager Sodek is recommending that the operating permit be amended to add well # 4 and well# 5, with special condition of an active withdrawal limitation of 42.54 acft from the permitted wells. The permittee may apply to amend this permit in the future, volume can be increased up to the permitted 114.7 acft per year, upon approval of an updated Hydrogeologic Investigation.

There was a discussion between Gregg Thompson, a representative from Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation, and the board of directors.

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

One member of the public asked if the property owners have the ability to drill a private well.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on the Request for Continuance and Permit Application.

Kathy Griffis Bailey moved to:

Accept the General Manager's recommendation regarding the permit, deny the Request for Continuance, and deny an extension of the Emergency Operating Permit.

Second was by Homer Will.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney adjourned the permit hearing and resumed the regular meeting at 1:50 p.m.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Emergency Operating Permit Request on August 15th.2024 for Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation.

Let the record reflect that this item was acted on during the permit hearing.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on a Rule Violation(s) for Failure to Obtain a Permit and Register a Well Prior to Drilling by Drilling Company J&J Water Wells for Well Owner Harvey Vaughn.

General Manager Sodek presented details of the violation, a second offense of a major violation within 3 years.

Ricky Binseil moved to:

Levy a penalty of \$1000 on J&J Water Wells for failure to obtain authorization prior to drilling a well. Second was by Homer Will.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget. General Manager Sodek reviewed the current and proposed budget and discussed potential increases

and decreases in the categories.

Ricky Bindseil moved to:

Adopt the FY 2024-205 proposed budget and include an adjustment to reserves, as needed.

Second was by Paul King.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on 2024 Proposed Tax Rate. General Manager Sodek informed the board that the no new revenue tax rate for 2024 was \$0.0053/\$100 of value for a total tax of \$751,145, being a \$17,997 increase. He informed the board that adopting a proposed tax rate above the no new revenue tax rate would require that a public hearing on tax increase be held.

Ryan Rowney moved to:

Approve a 2024 Proposed Tax Rate of \$0.0055/\$100 of value and to set a Public Hearing on Tax Rate Increase to be held on September 17th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Second was by Kathy Griffis-Bailey.

Vote on the motion carried as follows:

FOR the proposal: Paul King, Ricky Bindseil, Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Homer Will and Ryan Rowney

AGAINST the proposal: None PRESENT and not voting: None

ABSENT: None

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on FY 25 USGS Joint Funding Agreement for Spring Monitoring.

General Manager Sodek reviewed the contract to monitor Delaware Springs and the cost for the joint funding agreement.

Paul King moved to:

Approve the USGS Joint Funding Agreement for spring monitoring.

Second was by Homer Will.

Vote on the motion carries.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Determination of Drought Stage. General Manager Sodek reviewed the Palmer Hydrological Drought Index and noted that our area was in the Severe category for July. There has not been much recharge occurring, but outdoor watering is drastically lower due to the rainfall. He recommended no change to the Drought Stage.

No action was taken.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 23, 2024.

Paul King moved to:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 23, 2024.

Second was by Kathy Griffis-Bailey.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Expenditures for July 2024; Budget Line-Item Adjustments; and Review of 2023-2024 Budget.

General Manager Sodek reviewed the reports and financial statements and reported no line-item adjustments.

Ricky Bindseil moved to:

Approve expenditures for July 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
The District has seen an increase in well applications recently, approximately 30 in July.

b. Pump Installation Report Tool

The Staff held 2 workshops for drillers/pump installers in early August and will continue to work with the drillers & pump installers to assist them with using the online tool.

c. Burnet County Runs on Water Campaign

There was a 3rd billboard added at no charge in the Spicewood area, but in Travis County. The social media numbers are better than projected.

d. Election and Deadline to File

Deadline to file is today for PCT 1, PCT 3, and At-Large

e. Texas Groundwater Summit

The Summit begins tomorrow and the office will be closed so staff can attend.

f. City of Bertram Interlocal Agreement

The signed copy has been received from the City with non-substantial changes.

President Rowney then called for Director Comments.

There were no Director comments.

President Rowney then called for agenda items for the next Regular Board Meeting.

Tax Hearing

Proposed Budget

RFQ for Legal Counsel

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 September 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 225 S. Pierce, Burnet, Texas.

President Rowney adjourned the regular meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Ryan Rowney, President

Ricky Bindseil, Vice President