

**MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
BOARD MEETING
CENTRAL TEXAS GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District held a Spacing Variance Hearing, Public Hearing on Tax Increase, and Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 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, Secretary/Treasurer

Staff and/or Consultants Present: Mitchell Sodek, General Manager Shrader Davis, Groundwater Technician Tracy Swantner, Office Manager Bill Dugat, Legal Counsel

Others Present: 6 Members of the Public

President Rowney declared a quorum present and called the Meeting to order at 9:00 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 asked for the Presentation by LRE Water on 3D Trinity Model for the Central TX Area- Vince Clause. The Board was presented with the complete 3D model of the Trinity aquifer within Burnet County, Bell County, Williamson County, and Travis County.

President Rowney then called the Spacing Variance Hearing to order at 9:36 a.m. He asked for the General Manager's recommendation on the Spacing Variance Application that has been received from Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation. The Spacing Variance Application has been determined to be administratively complete and is in accordance with District Rules.

General Manager Sodek presented details of the Spacing Variance Application for Well # 8739 located at 310 Murphy Dr, Bertram, TX, which does not meet the District's requirements for spacing from the property line for a well that pumps between 17.36 gpm to less than 30 gpm. General Manager Sodek informed the board that proof of written notice to property owners within a half mile radius was received, and the applicant also posted signage. General Manager Sodek stated that he had not received any comments or objections from those who had received the written notice. He recommended approval of the Spacing Variance.

President Rowney then called for public comments. There was no public comment.

Paul King moved to:

Approve the Spacing Variance as recommended by the General Manager.

Second was by Homer Will

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney adjourned the Spacing Variance Hearing at 9:40 a.m.

President Rowney then called the Public Hearing on Tax Increase to order at 9:40 a.m.

General Manager Sodek reviewed the Board approved proposed tax rate of \$0.0055/\$100 of value, the no-new-revenue tax rate, and the voter approval tax rate. He stated that the proposed tax rate that would cause a tax increase required this hearing and that the Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase had been properly published and posted.

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

President Rowney adjourned the hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:44 a.m.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Responses to Request for Qualifications for Legal Counsel.

General Manger Sodek notified the Board that the District had received 3 responses: Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend P.C., Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP, and Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP. He recommended either interviewing the firms, or the General Manager can provide his ranking. The ranking was as follows: 1) Lloyd Gosselink, 2) Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta, 3) Norton Rose Fulbright. There was a discussion between the Board and General Manager Sodek regarding the firms and the process of selecting new legal counsel.

Ryan Rowney moved to:

Proceed with engaging Lloyd Gosselink and negotiate with them for an agreement on providing Legal Counsel.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the Regular Election scheduled to be held November 5, 2024.

Election officer, Tracy Swantner, certified that there were 3 unopposed candidates for the election scheduled to be held on November 5, 2024:

Director At-Large – Paul E. King, Jr.

Director Precinct One – Kathleen Griffis-Bailey

Director Precinct Three – Ceferino Reno Lamb

Since all three positions have unopposed candidates, the election should be cancelled.

President Rowney acknowledged receipt of the Certification.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Cancellation of the November 5, 2024, Regular Election.

Ricky Bindseil moved to:

Cancel the November 5, 2024 Election for the Director At-Large, Precinct One, and Precinct 3 positions.

Second was by Paul King.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on TML Cyber Liability and Data Breach Response Interlocal Agreement.

General Manager Sodek informed the Board that the District would be required to adopt the Interlocal Agreement with Texas Municipal League in order to continue the Cyber Security Coverage. He discussed the cost and coverage. There was a short discussion between the Board and Bill Dugat.

Ricky Bindseil moved to:

Approve and adopt the TML Cyber Liability and Data Breach Response Interlocal Agreement.
Second was by Homer Will.
Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Requests for Waiver of Penalty and Interest on Taxes – Highland Lakes Publishing, LP

Paul King moved to:
Approve the request for Waiver of Penalty and Interest on Taxes for Highland Lakes Publishing, LP.
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 presented and reviewed a FY 2024-2025 Proposed Budget that included removal of the election cost, income from reserves, a 6 percent wage increase for District Office Staff, and minor changes to balance the budget.

Paul King moved to:
Adopt the proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget as presented for adoption as the FY 2024-2025 Budget of the District.
Second was by Ricky Bindseil.
Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on 2024 Tax Rate.
General Manager Sodek informed the Board previously that the requirements for posting and publishing the tax rate notices and the requirement for a Public Hearing on Tax Rate Increase had been met and that the Board had previously approved a proposed 2024 tax rate of \$0.0055/\$100 value. He reviewed the tax rate worksheet, no-new-revenue rate, voter approval rate, and proposed tax rate. He presented the Board with an Order Setting the Tax Rate.

Ryan Rowney moved:
That the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.0055, which is effectively a 3.77 percent increase in the tax rate and to adopt the Order Setting the Tax Rate.
Second was by Homer Will.

Vote on the motion carried as follows:
FOR the proposal: Paul King, Ricky Bindseil, Homer Will and Ryan Rowney
AGAINST the proposal: None
PRESENT and not voting: None
ABSENT: Kathy Griffis-Bailey

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 remains in the Severe category. There has been an improvement in rainfall, but no substantial increases in the water levels in monitor wells have been seen. 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 August 19, 2024.

Paul King moved to:
Approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 19, 2024.
Second was by Ricky Bindseil.
Vote on the motion carried.

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

General Manager Sodek reviewed the reports and financial statements and reported the following line-item adjustments:

Move \$100 From Expenses-Administrative Operations-Public Notice and Publications to Expenses-Administrative Operations-Postage, Mailing Service

Move \$5,030 From Expenses-Payroll Expenses-Intern and/or PTE to Expenses-Payroll Expenses-Health Insurance

Move \$4,470 From Expenses-Payroll Expenses-Intern and/or PTE to Expenses-Payroll Expenses-Salary & Wages

Move \$13,000 From Expenses-Reserves-Database Application to Expenses-Payroll Expenses-Salary & Wages

Move \$4,364.67 From Expenses-Reserves-Water Study/Modeling/Consv Proj to Expenses-Payroll Expenses-Salary & Wages

Ricky Bindseil moved to:
Approve expenditures and line-item adjustments for August 2024.
Second was by Homer Will.
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 saw an increase in well applications in August, but is seeing a lesser amount of applications in September.
- b. Intra NE Trinity Sensitivity Study Update
Working with Intra to do an analysis of area from North of US Highway 183 to the County line. Reviewing sensitivity model runs to see what amount of growth can that area support. Anticipating completion next month.
- c. Rule Violation Penalties
The board levied 2 penalties at the last meeting. J&J Water Wells has paid the levied \$1000 penalty. The \$250 penalty levied to Aqua Texas has not yet been received.
- d. Well Inspections and Tags
Groundwater Technician, Shrader Davis, has begun inspecting newly drilled wells to confirm proper well completion and has found multiple violations. The District will begin installing stainless steel well tags to newly drilled wells later in the year. The tags have been ordered, but have not yet arrived.
- e. Texas Groundwater Summit
All District office staff attended in late August.

f. GMA 8

General Manager Sodek attended the meeting in early September. The Northern Trinity Groundwater Availability Model is close to being finalized. Intera was selected as the consultant for the explanatory report. The cost will be jointly shared with approximately 10 other groundwater districts.

President Rowney then called for Director Comments.

Ricky Bindseil stated that there will be a Household Hazardous Waste Event on October 19th, which the District sponsors. Mitchell notified the Board that the back page of the flyer with District information has been updated

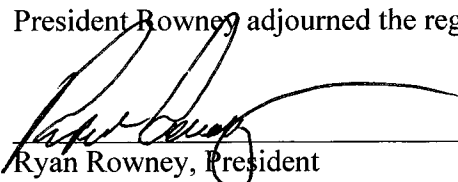
President Rowney then called for agenda items for the next Regular Board Meeting.

Aqua Texas Penalty.

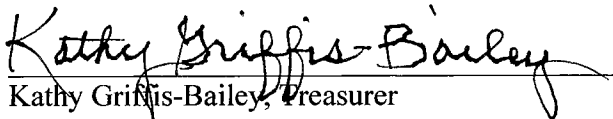
Directors may contact the General Manager or Board President prior to the deadline for posting notice of the next meeting if they have a suggested agenda item.

President Rowney then set the date for the next Regular Board Meeting for October 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 225 S. Pierce, Burnet, Texas.

President Rowney adjourned the regular meeting at 10:27 a.m.



Ryan Rowney, President



Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Treasurer