

**MINUTES OF  
NOVEMBER 20, 2024  
BOARD MEETING  
CENTRAL TEXAS GROUNDWATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District held a Permit Hearing, Show Cause Hearing, and Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 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 Ty Embrey, Legal Counsel Dr. Neil Deeds, District Hydrogeologic Consultant, Intera Inc.

**Others Present:** 15 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 called the Permit Hearing to order at 9:02 am. He asked for the General Managers 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 amendment application. The City of Bertram requested an increase to their permit by 103.073 acre feet, for a total annual volume of 895.65 acre feet. He read the General Manager's recommendations verbatim, including the requirement of a hydrologic test under district rule 3.63 ordered by the Board of Directors during the May 23, 2024 permit hearing, and due to the lack of available monitoring wells nearby, the investigation could not be satisfactorily conducted. He recommended approval of the permit amendment to add 103.073 acre feet, for a total of 895.65 acre feet. He then reviewed the map of groundwater rights.

There was a brief discussion between Director, Paul King and Mike Guevara, legal counsel for the City of Bertram.

President Rowney then asked for public comment, there was no public comment.

Paul King moved to:

Approve the permit application with amendment.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney adjourned the Permit Hearing at 9:10 am.

President Rowney then called the Show Cause Hearing to order at 9:11 am.

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:

- 1) OP-10101940-A Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation

General Manager Sodek informed the Board that the District was informed that the permittee was operating a well without an operating permit. The District was made aware of the violation because the District received a production report from the permittee. They were sent a letter to cease operation of the well, which they complied with, and they went through the process to permit the well. The well is currently permitted. The agreed order has been given to Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation with a penalty of \$83,250. General Manger Sodek recommended a penalty settlement of a lesser amount of \$1500 to \$2500.

There was a brief discussion between the Board and the General Manager.

Craig Bennett with Bullock, Bennett and Associates was present representing Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation. He informed the Board that there was confusion among the WSC's volunteer board regarding the permitting of the well. He advised that the WSC has done a lot of work to conserve water and improve their water system.

Paul King moved to:

Fine Whitewater Springs Water Supply Corporation \$2000 [via settlement agreement in the agreed order] for the violation of operating a well without a permit.

Second was by Homer Will.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney adjourned the Show Cause Hearing at 9:22 am. He then reconvened the regular meeting at 9:26 am.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action and Presentation of Burnet County Runs on Water Campaign – Brianna Fuller.

Brianna Fuller with The Texas Water Foundation presented the results of the Burent County Runs on Water campaign. There was an estimated 7.5 million impressions over 5 months, including 254,000 social media page engagements, over 2 million out of home ad impressions, and over 900,000 billboard impressions.

A member of the public thanked the District for the campaign and the newsletter.

No action was taken.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action and Presentation of NE Burnet County Trinity Aquifer Sensitivity Analysis by INTERA – Neil Deeds.

Dr. Neil Deeds presented the findings of a sensitivity analysis of modeling future predicted and randomized pumping in the Trinity aquifer primarily North of US Hwy 183 in Burnet County. The results of the modeling exercise showed that there was limited to no available drawdown remaining after 30 years of simulated pumping from the already approved plated subdivisions. He explained the assumptions of the model, some of which were conservative, and some were non-conservative. He

then showed results of additional random sized future developments and what their projected pumping would have on the aquifer. The conclusion was that the number of wells, regardless of lot size or makeup, was the primary factor in predicting drawdown. He concluded with recommendations for additional monitoring to test the results of the modeling.

General Manager Sodek added that these results were significant and should warrant discussion of creating a management zone for the area.

No action was taken.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Interlocal Agreement for Joint Funding GMA 8 Explanatory Report.

General Manager Sodek informed the Board that the GMA approved the contract with Intera to complete the explanatory report. The cost of approximately \$200,000 will be split as equally as possible between the 11 districts over 2 fiscal years.

Ricky Binseil moved to:

Enter into the interlocal agreement for Joint Funding GMA 8 Explanatory Report, not to exceed \$22,000.

Second was by Paul King.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on a Rule Violation(s) for Failure to Register Any New Well Prior to Drilling or Completion by Drilling Company L&L Drilling Co for Well Owner Robert Ebeling Jr Trust, well # 9622.

General Manager Sodek presented details of the violation. The driller completed a state driller report, which was found by the district. The landowner completed the application after the well was drilled, and the well is now registered. Director Paul King asked if this was the driller's first violation, General Manager Sodek advised that it was the first violation.

Ryan Rowney moved to:

Levy a fine of \$500 to L&L Drilling for the rule violation.

Second was by Paul King.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on a Rule Violation(s) for Failure to Obtain Written Authorization to Drill a Test Hole by Drilling Company Apex Drilling for Well Owner Valley View Series LLC, well # 9631.

General Manager Sodek presented details of the violation. The driller applied for one test hole, but also drilled a 2<sup>nd</sup> well. The driller failed to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> authorization. It is considered a minor violation, and the penalty is \$100 for the first violation.

Paul King moved to:

Levy a fine to Apex Drilling of \$100 for this minor violation.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Adoption of a District Prohibited Technology Policy.

General Manager Sodek explained that the District is required by state law to prohibit the use of TikTok on state issued devices. A policy and resolution were drafted.

Ricky Bindseil moved to:  
Adopt the District Prohibited Policy and Resolution.  
Second was by Paul King.  
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, which shows our area to be in extreme drought. There was practically zero rainfall for October.

No action was taken. A Drought Hearing will be held next month.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 15, 2024.

Ricky Bindseil moved to:  
Approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 15, 2024.  
Second was by Homer Will.  
Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Expenditures for October 2024; Budget Line-Item Adjustments; and Review of 2024-2025 Budget. General Manager Sodek reviewed the financial statements, and there were no adjustments

Paul King moved to:  
Approve expenditures for October 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 is receiving about 25 applications per month.
- b. Burnet County Bopate  
General Manager Sodek reviewed the report from the event.
- c. Well Inspections and Tags  
Tags have been received and will be attached to new wells.
- d. Clearwater Symposium  
General Manager Sodek and Shrader Davis attended the event, which had over 300 attendees.
- e. Hill County Alliance Leadership Program  
General Manager Sodek has been invited to be a part of the leadership program.

f. Website Update

Website is currently being updated and will have a new look.

President Rowney then called for Director Comments.

President Rowney presented Director, Homer Will, with a plaque recognizing his service during his 4-year term.

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

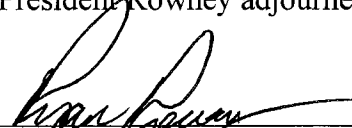
Drought Management Plan Hearing

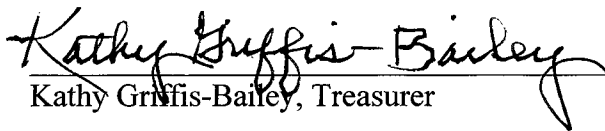
Swearing in Directors

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 December 20th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

President Rowney adjourned the regular meeting at 11:05 a.m.

  
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Ryan Rowney, President

  
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Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Treasurer