

**PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REGULAR MEETING

DISTRICT OFFICE - Windmill Room
201 W. Third Street, White Deer, Texas
November 21, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

Those Present Were:

Chancy Cruse	President
Devin Sinclair	Vice President
Lee Peterson	Secretary
Charles Bowers	Director
John R. Spearman Jr.	Director
Bill Breeding	Director
Wes Stockett	Director
Marcus Hardcastle	Director
David Hodges	Director
Britney Britten	General Manager
Ashley Ausbrooks	Hydrogeologist/PM
Jake Robinson	Meter Specialist/Field Tech
Rita Poor	Administration Assistant

Guests Present: None.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Chancy Cruse called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

None.

3. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Director Hardcastle motioned to approve the minutes from the September 2024 Regular Meeting minutes on September 17, 2024. Director Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXPENDITURES

a. September 2024

General Manager Britten informed the Board that the District ended the fiscal year 2023-2024 under budget.

Director Breeding motioned to approve the September 2024 expenditures, seconded by Director Stockett. The motion passed unanimously.

b. October 2024

Director Peterson motioned to approve the October 2024 expenditures, seconded by Director Breeding. The motion passed unanimously.

5. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON QUARTERLY PRODUCTION REPORTS AND OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION REPORTS FROM THE CITY OF AMARILLO, CONOCO PHILLIPS, CRMWA, THE CITY OF BORGER, THE CITY OF FRITCH, THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, THE CITY OF CLARENDON, BRICE-LESLEY, AND GREENBELT WATER AUTHORITY

Director Sinclair motioned to approve all Quarterly Production Reports and Out of District Transportation Reports, seconded by Director Hardcastle. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE AGREEMENT EXECUTION RESOLUTION WITH THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

General Manager Britten reminded the Board that they authorized her to apply for a new agricultural loan in the amount of \$1.5 million from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) during the July 2023 regular board meeting. Britten stated the loan process with TWDB involves more paperwork and is a longer process overall than in the past. TWDB recently approved the District for a loan in the amount of \$1 million with an interest rate currently set at 4.28%. Britten noted that this rate may change before closing in January 2025, and the District would loan out at a 1% higher rate to ag loan applicants than the fixed interest rate at closing.

Director Spearman motioned to adopt the agreement execution resolution as presented, seconded by Director Breeding. The motion passed unanimously.

7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DRAFT LOAN AGREEMENT FROM TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Britten informed the Board that this draft loan agreement is similar to past Ag Loan agreements with TWDB.

Director Spearman motioned to accept the draft loan agreement from TWDB, seconded by Director Stockett. The motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON WHEELER COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR CONTRACT FOR TAX ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION SERVICES

Britten stated that this is the same contract from 2021 that is readopted each year.

Director Stockett motioned to approve the contract for tax assessment and collection services with Wheeler County, seconded by Director Sinclair. The motion passed unanimously.

9. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON POTTER COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR CONTRACT FOR TAX ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION SERVICES

Director Hardcastle motioned to approve the contract for tax assessment and collection services with Potter County, seconded by Director Hodges. The motion passed unanimously.

10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ARMSTRONG COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Britten reminded the Board they previously nominated Clint Cornell and Lucas Minkley to the Armstrong Appraisal District Board of Directors during the August regular meeting. Another candidate, Hayden Hook, was nominated by Claude ISD to fill one of the two empty seats. She noted that the District has 14 votes to split however the Board chooses between the candidates.

Director Stockett motioned to divide the District's 14 votes for the Armstrong County Appraisal District Board of Directors evenly between Mr. Cornell and Mr. Minkley, seconded by Director Breeding. The motion passed unanimously.

11. CONSENT AGENDA – DRILLING PERMITS

The following items are a part of the Consent Agenda. All Well Permit requests have been thoroughly reviewed by the staff, are administratively complete and the General Manager and Permitting Administrator recommend issuance.

RECLASSIFY WELLS – NONE

DRILLING PERMITS FOR WELLS PUMPING LESS THAN 25,000 GALLONS A DAY -- NONE

DRILLING PERMITS FOR WELLS PUMPING MORE THAN 25,000 GALLONS A DAY OR MORE THAN 17.5 GPM-

Mike Britten – A 6” well to be drilled on 2062 acres by Matt Lichtie by 10.28.24, located in the NW4 of Section 158, Blk 7, I&GN Survey (being located approx. 3 mi N of I-40 on FM 294 to CR 5, then 1 mi W On CR 5 to CR Y, S side of CR 5, E side of CR Y) **CARSON COUNTY REPLACEMENT WELL**

Denny Hargrove – A 4” well to be drilled on 662 acres by Matt Lichtie Drilling by 9.18.24, located in the NW4 of Section 93, Blk C-6, GC&SF Survey (being located SE of Clarendon approx. 3 mi to FM 1260, S & then E on FM 1260 approx. 8 mi, N side of FM 1260, W side of CR 18) **DONLEY COUNTY**

Jeff Nunn – A 4” well to be drilled on 4,392.84 acres by 3T Drilling by 9.19.24. located in the SW4 of Section 5, Blk 25, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 4 ½ mi N of McLean on Hwy 273 to CR V, N side of CR V, W side of Hwy 27) **GRAY COUNTY WELL #1**

Jeff Nunn – A 4” well to be drilled on 4,392.84 acres by 3T Drilling by 9.19.24. Located in the SE4 of Section 5, Blk 25, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 5 mi N of Mclean on Hwy 273, N side of CR V, W side of Hwy 273) **GRAY COUNTY WELL #2**

Jesse Wieners – A 4” well to be drilled on 484.01 acres by First Priority Drilling by 10.3.24, located in the SW4 of Section 53, Blk 13, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 5 mi E of Shamrock on I-40, N side of I-40) **WHEELER COUNTY REPLACEMENT WELL**

Director Sinclair motioned to approve all drilling permits for wells pumping more than 17.5 gallons per minute, seconded by Director Hodges. The motion passed unanimously.

12. DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT RULES

None.

13. STAFF UPDATES

Britten announced that the District is looking to hire a new Public Relations/Education Director.

14. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DISTRICT’S PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AND END OF SEASON UPDATE FOR THE 2024 SEASON

-Presented by Corey Clay, District Meteorologist

District Meteorologist, Corey Clay presented an overview of the 2023 and 2024 precipitation enhancement seasons. Clay noted that Dr. Arquímedes Ruiz-Columbié typically gives an evaluation report to the Board, but was unable to earlier this year. He

said that he would give a brief overview of the information from that report for the 2023 season. Clay stated the District had 26 operational days in 2023 with seven of those being excellent performances, three with very good performances, and five with good performances. Clay noted that the 2023 season was not as busy due to prolonged operational suspensions following heavy flooding after large rainfall events in May 2023 in addition to many severe storm warnings. He stated the District's policy is not to seed clouds during severe warnings or when an abundance of rainfall is received. The 2023 season produced an average increase of 1.13 inches of rainfall or an average 5.7% precipitation mass increase for the District. During the 2024 season, the District had 32 operational days which is the highest number of operational days from 2011 to 2024. Clay stated that for the 2024 season the area was nearly on trend with the average for rainfall and discussed two operational events. He noted that the additional rainfall received this November has made the Panhandle region drought free.

15. MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. GMA 1 Update
- b. Legislative Update

Britten presented her report to the Board of Directors in the Board Packets, which included past and upcoming meetings, District public education events, District well and website statistics, and a weather update.

Britten noted that the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District recently secured a favorable outcome in an on-going lawsuit in federal court. This is a notable affirmation of the authority of groundwater conservation districts to regulate groundwater production and brings clarity to groundwater policy. The decision reinforces the statutory authority of GCDs to implement and enforce regulations needed to balance the conservation of local groundwater resources while allowing reasonable access to groundwater for economic benefits.

- A) Britten stated that she and Director Sinclair attended a GMA meeting on November 14th. The joint planning group has reviewed four of nine required factors so far and are currently working on model updates by TWDB. The model update contains some differences in assumptions and methodology which may have unforeseen impacts. The GMA is working with Intera, who will complete additional model runs to see how the update to the model may impact desired future conditions and each District's modeled available groundwater. The planning group expects to receive the results from Intera at the next meeting in January 2025.
- B) Britten stated the 89th legislative session begins in January. She noted various bills that have been submitted for the session which she will be watching closely as they pertain to interests of the District.

16. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SET FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next Regular Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON LISTED AGENDA ITEMS

None.

18. ADJOURN

Director Peterson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 a.m., seconded by Director Breeding. The motion passed unanimously.



Chaney Cruse

Lee Peterson