

**PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REGULAR MEETING
DISTRICT OFFICE - Windmill Room
201 W. Third Street, White Deer, Texas
September 17, 2024– 9:00 a.m.**

Those Present Were:

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

Guests Present: Benjamin Orr, City of Amarillo.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice President Sinclair called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

None.

3. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES FROM AUGUST 6, 2024

Director Peterson motioned to approve the minutes from the August 2024 Regular Meeting minutes on August 6, 2024. Director Breeding seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXPENDITURES

a) July 2024

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

b) August 2024

General Manager Britten noted that the District is tracking to be on budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. She noted that there are some additional expenses, which are related to one of the District airplanes, will warrant future discussions related to finding a replacement.

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

5. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ADOPTING THE PROPOSED 2024-2025 TAX RATE

Britten noted that the tax rate had been properly posted according to the tax code and there was no written public comment.

Director Peterson motioned to adopt the proposed tax rate of \$0.008163/\$100 valuation for the 2024-2025 tax year, seconded by Director Breeding. The motion passed unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION UNDER RULE 3.3 ON AN OVERDUE ENFORCEMENT PENALTY RESULTING FROM OVERPRODUCTION ON THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE VOLUME ON OPERATING PERMIT NUMBER 65123601

General Manager Britten notified the Board that she was able to make contact by phone with the Operator for Operating Permit number 65123601 and spoke to him regarding the overdue enforcement penalty and that he was informed that if further action were to be taken, he would be liable for any related attorney fees. She stated that the Operator said he would come by the District office to make payment arrangements but has not done so at this time.

The Board agreed that they recommend the District to seek legal counsel to take over the collection of the penalty fees for Operating Permit 65123601.

Director Stockett motioned to have the District Attorney send certified letters to both the landowner and operator with outstanding balances for Operating Permit 65123601, seconded by Director Spearman. The motion passed unanimously.

7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AUDIT CONTRACT WITH ARTURO ORTEGA CPA

General Manager Britten stated that Ortega has conducted financial audits for the District in the past and the audit usually occurs in December with the results presented to the Board in January.

Director Bowers motioned to approve the audit contract with Arturo Ortega CPA, seconded by Director Breeding. The motion passed unanimously.

8. 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 –

1. Frank Wiebe requests to reclassify well #1204153 located in the SW4 of Section 33, Blk HD, JC Barnett Survey in Donley County, from a 6” to a 4” well
2. Frank Wiebe requests to reclassify well #1204453 located on the SE4 of Section 32, Blk HD, JC Barnett Survey in Donley County from a 6” well to a 4” well
3. Frank Wiebe requests to reclassify well #1204151 located in the NW4 of Section 33, Blk HD, JC Barnett Survey in Donley County from a 6” well to a 4” well

Director Spearman motioned to approve all well reclassification requests, seconded by Director Stockett. The motion passed unanimously.

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-**

1. Frank Wiebe – A 4” well to be drilled on 305 acres by First Priority to be drilled by 9.4.24 located in the NE4 of Section 33, Blk HD, JC Barnett Survey (being located NE of Hedley on Hwy 208 approx. 2 mi to FM 2695, follow FM 2695 NE approx. 7 ½ mi, W side of FM 2695) **DONLEY COUNTY**
2. Frank Wiebe – A 4” well to be drilled on 305 acres by First Priority to be drilled by 8.14.24 located in the NW4 of Section 32, BLK HD, JC Barnett Survey (being located NE of Hedley on Hwy 203 approx 2 mi to FM 2695, follow FM 2695 NE approx. 6 ¼ mi, N side of FM 2695) **DONLEY COUNTY**
3. Energy Transfer – A 2” well to be drilled on 28.09 acres by 3T Drilling to be drilled by 9.4.24 located in the SW4 of Section 152, Blk 3, I&GN Survey (being located approx. 4 mi E of Pampa city limits on Hwy 60 to CR 3, N on CR 3 approx 1 mi, E side of CR 3) **GRAY COUNTY**

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

9. DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT RULES

General Manager Britten stated that attorney Monique Norman has drafted some rule changes regarding smaller acre tracts (less than 10 acres) to propose to the Rules Committee at a future meeting date. These changes would be in line with exemptions within Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. Britten recommended the Rules Committee meet before the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

The Directors asked Britten about a possible water quality issue within the District. Britten stated that the District reported a possible water quality contamination issue to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) who then issued the Operator a violation citation. The District is still waiting for the official written outcome from TCEQ, and she will update the Board when she receives the letter from TCEQ.

10. STAFF UPDATES

None.

11. MANAGER’S REPORT

- a) Summary of General Manager’s Meetings and Activities
- b) District’s Management Plan Update
- c) 89th Legislative Outlook

- A) General Manager 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 statistics, and a weather update.
- B) Britten announced that the Management Plan has been approved by TWDB with no changes and that she is waiting for the certificate from TWDB before posting the newly approved Management Plan on the District's website.
- C) Britten stated that the 89th Legislature begins in January 2025. Some of the main topics of discussion may include large scale production permits, waste, and amenity ponds. Additionally, she noted that Senator Perry from Lubbock is expected to propose a new water supply plan during the next session which would include the use of treated produced water to be supplied to municipalities by a pipeline network system to lessen municipal reliance on groundwater resources. Sen. Perry also wants to plan like the state does for roads and bridges by having a dedicated state fund for water infrastructure projects.

12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SET FUTURE MEETING DATES


The next Regular Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON LISTED AGENDA ITEMS

None.

14. ADJOURN

Director Peterson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 a.m., seconded by Director Hardcastle. The motion passed unanimously.



Chaney Cruse



Lee Peterson