

**PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

DISTRICT OFFICE - Windmill Room
201 W. Third Street, White Deer, Texas
June 6, 2024– 9:00 a.m.

Those Present Were:

Chancy Cruse	President
Lee Peterson	Secretary
Charles Bowers	Director
William Breeding	Director
John R Spearman	Director
Wes Stockett	Director
Britney Britten	General Manager
Julie Bennett	Permitting Administrator
Payton Holtkamp	Education/PR
Rita Poor	Admin Assistant
Jake Robinson	Meter Specialist

Guests Present: Drew Satterwhite; CRMWA, Chad Pernell; CRMWA, Craig Cowden;
Hemphill UWCD Board Member

Minutes from the Public Hearing on the District's Management Plan were approved at a regularly scheduled meeting on June 6, 2024, so they could be included with the final submittal of the District's Management Plan to the Texas Water Development Board. Those approved minutes are attached to these minutes.

5. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

President Cruse called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit to 3 minutes.

No public comment.

7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES FROM MAY 2, 2024

Director Stockett motioned to approve the May 2, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes, seconded by Director Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APRIL 2024 EXPENDITURES

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

9. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPOINTING A GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 1 REPRESENTATIVE

General Manager Britten stated that Director Lee Peterson has been the District's representative to the GMA and Director Devin Sinclair has been the alternate. Director Sinclair attended the last GMA meeting and really took an interest in it, feeling it goes along with what is discussed during the rules committee meetings and would like to be District's representative. Director Peterson would remain on as an alternate.

Director Peterson motioned to approve President Cruse's delegation of Devin Sinclair as the GMA 1 representative and Lee Peterson as alternate, seconded by Director Spearman. The motion passed unanimously.

10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT POLICY

General Manger Britten stated the Board is required to review the policy at least annually. The only change made was to include North Central Texas Council of Governments as a listed training option for the Investment Officer.

Director Spearman motioned to approve the District Investment Policy as presented. Seconded by Director Breeding. The motion passed unanimously.

11. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AUTHOURZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO PARTNER WITH WTAMU FOR RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES REGARDING CLIMATE STUDIES

General Manager Britten stated that as the Board may remember, last fall WTAMU contacted the District regarding research opportunities regarding climate studies. They were particularly interested in the precipitation enhancement program. Unfortunately, that research proposal was not selected. However, there is a new opportunity, internal to WTAMU graduate students, and they would like to study the results of the precipitation enhancement program. Academic research can be helpful to Archie's evaluation or if the state ever offers additional funding. Britten added that there is no fiscal impact at this time. If any funds are ever requested of the District, that will be brought to the board to consider at that time.

Director Bowers motioned to authorize the General Manager to partner with WTAMU on research opportunities regarding climate studies, seconded by Director Stockett. The motion passed unanimously.

12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE RESOLUTION FROM TWDB APPROVING A LOAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000.00 TO THE PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT THROUGH THE AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM

Director Peterson asked about the loan's interest rate. General Manager Britten stated that the interest rate information is not available at this time. She stated that the board would be made aware of the interest rate and if they were not in agreement with the rate, they would not be obligated to sign the loan agreement.

Director Spearman motioned to approve the resolution from TWDB for approval of a loan in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Panhandle Groundwater District through the TWDB agricultural loan program, seconded by Director Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

13. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO REVIEW THE POSITION OF GENERAL MANAGER AS REQUIRED BY DISTRICT BYLAWS

The Board recessed into Executive Session under Texas Open Meetings Act Chapter 551 Government Code 551.074 Personnel Matters at 10:14 a.m.

The Board reconvened into open session at 11:28 a.m.

No action was taken.

14. REPORT FROM RULES COMMITTEE AND DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT RULES

Director Bowers stated that the rules committee had a good discussion with operators Ryan Berry and Lance Williams. General Manager Britney Britten stated the operators shared concerns about the penalty schedule and the way it increases from year to year. The committee discussed how the two-step process in evaluating production, the 5% variance to all approved metering methods, and the 4-year average are all in place to give operators leniency on the 1-acre-foot per contiguous acre owned or leased production rule. There was discussion of somehow developing a drought rule that could allow for more production in extreme cases, however, legal counsel advised that during a drought the aquifer is more stressed and the District should not encourage or allow more production.

15. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DISTRICT METER STANDARDS

General Manager Britney Britten stated that the main changes to the District Meter Standards are reflective of the 5% variance applied to all meters, when production is evaluated. This removes the previous reference of 10% spot checks. This also addresses that the Field Staff are not trained to maintain or repair every meter within the District, and that the responsibility falls on the owner/operator. The other amendment concerns the number of times the District may read and record meter data throughout the District. The Board discussed sending out usage reports for informational purposes after the summer meter reading data has been verified.

Director Peterson motioned to adopt the proposed amendments to District Meter Standards, seconded by Director Stockett. The motion passed unanimously.

16. STAFF UPDATES

None at this time.

17. MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Update on 2020-2023 Production
 - b) GMA 1 Update
 - c) Review of Region A Water Conservation Strategies for Agriculture
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- a) General Manager Britten stated that of the eleven enforcement letters sent four have been paid and that she will call those that have not paid before sending them to legal counsel for further enforcement.
 - b) General Manager Britten stated that she and Director Sinclair attended the May 9th GMA meeting. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the contract with Intera, which is the Technical Consultant for the next round of joint planning. Britten made note the GMA process is a little behind in getting requirements completed which could affect this year's budget.
 - c) General Manager Britten reviewed the Region A Water Conservation Strategies for Agriculture with the Board.

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.


18. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SET FUTURE MEETING DATES

Director Spearman motioned to schedule the next Regular Board of Directors meeting date for August 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON LISTED AGENDA ITEMS

20. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Director Breeding motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 11:32 a.m., seconded by Director Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.



Chancy Cruse



Lee Peterson