

# **PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REGULAR MEETING**

DISTRICT OFFICE - Windmill Room  
201 W. Third Street, White Deer, Texas  
January 23, 2025– 9:00 a.m.

Those Present Were:

Chancy Cruse	President
Lee Peterson	Secretary
Charles Bowers	Director
John R. Spearman Jr.	Director
Bill Breeding	Director
Wes Stockett	Director
David Hodges	Director
Britney Britten	General Manager
Ashley Ausbrooks	Hydrogeologist/PM
Katie Hodges	Office Manager
Rita Poor	Administration Assistant
Korri Packard	PR/Education Director

Guests Present: Arturo Ortega, Allen & Ortega CPA; Dr. Aquimedes Ruiz-Columbié; and Benjamin Orr, City of Amarillo.

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Cruse called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

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

None.

### **3. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

***Director Spearman motioned to approve the minutes from the November 2024 Regular Meeting minutes on November 21, 2024. Director Breeding seconded. The motion passed unanimously.***

4. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXPENDITURES

a. November 2024

***Director Peterson motioned to approve the November 2024 expenditures, seconded by Director Hodges. The motion passed unanimously.***

b. December 2024

***Director Breeding motioned to approve the December 2024 expenditures, seconded by Director Bowers. The motion passed unanimously.***

5. DISCUSSION ON THE 2024 ANNUAL PRECIPITATION ENHANCEMENT EVALUATION REPORT

*-Presented by Dr. Arquimedes Ruiz-Columbié*

Dr. Arquimedes Ruiz-Columbié presented the 2024 Annual Precipitation Enhancement Evaluation report to the Board and stated the District had 29 operational days in 2024 (1 in May, 12 in June, 4 in July, 9 in August, and 3 in September). Eighteen operational days were ranked as excellent performances, 9 as very good performances, and another 2 with good performances. Dr. Ruiz-Columbié noted two missed opportunities for precipitation enhancement and noted 2024 was an excellent performance year. He explained that for the 2024 season, the District had an average increase in precipitation of 13.5% and that the District averages a 10.6% increase in precipitation based on the past 21 years of data from the program. Dr. Ruiz-Columbié noted that over a period of 10 years, this 10.6% average increase in precipitation equates to approximately one additional year of rainfall within the District area. In addition to his evaluation of the 2024 season, he noted that the District's program performance has increased since 2018 and the precipitation enhancement program appears to be more effective in years experiencing the effects of La Niña compared with El Niño or ENSO neutral years.

6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE 2023-2024 FINANCIAL AUDIT

*-Presented by Arturo Ortega, CPA*

Mr. Ortega with Allen & Ortega Certified Accountants presented the 2023-2024 financial audit to the Board. Ortega expressed the District finances are healthy with an unmodified opinion from Allen & Ortega. He explained that property taxes provided approximately 80% of the District's total revenue in 2024, and the District had a break-even year. Ortega also noted that the District has approximately 2.5 years in reserves, and he had no concerns at this time.

***Director Spearman motioned to approve the 2023-2024 financial audit, seconded by Director Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.***

7. 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

Office Manager Katie Hodges noted that the District had not yet received a report from the City of Borger this quarter.

***Director Peterson motioned to approve the Quarterly Production Reports and Out-of-District Transport Reports, seconded by Director Breeding. Motion passed unanimously.***

8. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CALL THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ELECTION ON MAY 3, 2025, FOR PRECINCTS 1, 3, 5, 7, AND 9.

General Manager Britten reminded the Board that the filing deadline for the election is on February 14, 2025.

***Director Stockett motioned to call the Board of Director's Election for Precincts 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 on May 3, 2025, seconded by Director Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.***

9. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AMARILLO TIRZ #1 BOARD

***Director Spearman motioned to appoint Director Hardcastle as the District representative to the Amarillo TIRZ #1 Board with Director Bowers as an alternate. Motion was seconded by Director Breeding. Motion passed unanimously.***

10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SHERIFF SALE PROPERTIES IN POTTER COUNTY

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| a. Lot 5, Block 28, 1202 S. Western Street | Bid: \$50,000.00 |
| b. Block 1, 927 Bowie Street               | Bid: \$35,312.00 |

***Director Breeding motioned to approve the bids for the two properties in Potter County, seconded by Director Spearman. Motion passed unanimously.***

11. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT A SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Directors Breeding, Stockett, and Bowers were appointed to the scholarship committee. Director Hodges was appointed as an alternate.

12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE 2023-2024 DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

General Manager Britten presented the 2024 Annual Report to the Board and stated that the District completed all management plan goals.

***Director Breeding motioned to approve the 2023-2024 PGCD Annual Report, seconded by Director Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.***

13. DISCUSSION AND INITIAL REVIEW OF AVERAGED AND ANNUAL PERMITTED PRODUCTION FROM 2021-2024

General Manager Britten informed the Board that the District's field staff completed the last of the winter meter readings on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and that District Meter Specialist Jake Robinson is in the final stages of meter verifications and reports. Britten stated that Robinson is working through verifications for remotely metered irrigation systems and is expecting municipal reports after their due date in March. At this time, preliminary reports are indicating approximately 10 operating permits over the 1 acre-foot rule in Carson, 2 in Donley, 2 in Gray, and 1 in Wheeler. Britten stated there are currently no operating permits out of compliance with the 1 acre-foot rule in Armstrong, Potter, or Roberts counties at this time. Britten noted that these numbers may change during the final verification stages and the official results will be presented to the Board in a later meeting.

14. 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**

1. Galaxy Catering – A 1” well to be drilled on 60 acres by Howell Drilling by 12.6.24, located in the SW4 of Sec 106, Blk 2, AB&M Survey (being located in Amarillo City Limits, approx. ½ mi E of Eastern & I-40, N side of I-40) **POTTER COUNTY**

***Director Spearman motioned to approve all drilling permits for wells pumping less than 25,000 gallons a day, seconded by Director Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.***

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

1. Steve Hightower – An 8” well to be drilled on 640 acres by Matt Lichtie by 11.26.24, located in the SW4 of Section 14, Blk 7, I&GN Survey (being located W of Panhandle

on FM 2385 to CR T, S on CR T to CR 17, E side of CR T, N side of CR 17) **CARSON COUNTY WELL #1**

2. Steve Hightower – An 8” well to be drilled on 640 acres by Matt Lichtie Drilling by 11.26.24, located in the SW4 of Section 14, Blk 7, I&GN Survey (being located W of Panhandle on FM 2385 to CR T, S on CR T to CR 17, E side of CR T, N side of CR 17) **CARSON COUNTY WELL #2**
3. Need It More/Justin Crownover – An 8” well to be drilled on 320 acres by Hydro Resources by 11.20.24. located in the SW4 of Section 35, Blk T, H&W Survey (being located NW of Panhandle on FM 293 to FM 1342, continue NW on FM 1342 approx 7 ½ mi, S side of FM 1342) **CARSON COUNTY**
4. Williams Family Land/Lance Williams – An 8” well to be drilled on 3389 acres by Hydro Resources by 11.20.24. Located in the SE4 of Section 21, Blk 2, TT RR Survey (being located SE of Panhandle on FM 293 to CR Q, approx. 1 ½ mi S on CR Q, W side of CR Q) **CARSON COUNTY**
5. Clarendon College – A 4” well to be drilled on 114.58 acres by John Morrow by 12.3.24, located in the NW4 of Section 32, Blk C-6, GC&SF Survey (being located W of Clarendon on Hwy 287, S side of Hwy 287, Clarendon College Campus) **DONLEY COUNTY REPLACEMENT WELL #1**
6. Clarendon College – A 4” well to be drilled on 114.58 acres by John Morrow by 12.9.24. located in the NE4 of Section 32, Blk C-6, GC&SF Survey (being located W of Clarendon on Hwy 287, S side of Hwy 287, Clarendon College Campus) **DONLEY COUNTY WELL #2**
7. Colt Brittan, LTD/Lee Peterson – A 4” well to be drilled on 2025 acres by Peterson Drilling by 12.5.24, located in the SE4 of Section 60, Blk C-6, GC&SF Survey (being located SE of Clarendon on Hwy 287 to FM 1260, S on FM 1260 approx ½ mi, E side of FM 1260) **DONLEY COUNTY**
8. National Oilwell Varco, LP – A 4” well to be drilled on 498.87 acres by Hydro Resources by 11.25.24, located in the NW4 of Section 153, Blk 3, I&GN Survey (being located SW of Pampa on Hwy 60 to CR 3, N on CR 3 approx. ½ mi to plant entrance, E side of CR 3) **GRAY COUNTY**
9. LFC Ranch Properties, LTD/Lynn Cowden – A 6” well to be drilled on 789.2 acres by Hydro Resources by 12.4.24. located in the SE4 of Section 186, Blk 3, I&GN Survey (being located NE of White Deer, ½ mi S of the intersection of Hwy 152 & CR 1, W side of CR 1) **GRAY COUNTY**

10. Pampa Energy Center – A 3” well to be drilled on 2733.6 acres by 3T drilling by 1.15.25, located in the NE4 of Section 179, Blk 3, I&GN Survey (being located SW of Pampa on Hwy 60 to CR 2,  
S on CR 2 approx. 1 ¼ mi, W side of CR 2, S side of CR J) **GRAY COUNTY**

11. Gary Hutchens – A 4” well to be drilled on 1680 acres by First Priority Drilling by 12.4.24, located in the NE4 of Section 99, Blk 23, H&GN Survey (being located NE of McLean, approx. 1 mi W of the intersection of CR X 7 Pagan Rd, S side of CR X)  
**WHEELER COUNTY WELL #1**

12. Gary Hutchens – A 4” well to be drilled on 1680 acres by First Priority Drilling by 12.4.24, located in the NE4 of Section 99, Blk 23, H&GN Survey (being located NE of McLean, approx. 1 mi W of the intersection of CR X 7 Pagan Rd, S side of CR X)  
**WHEELER COUNTY WELL #2**

*Director Breeding motioned to approve drilling permits 1-6 and 8-12 for wells pumping more than 17.5 gallons per minute, seconded by Director Stockett. The motion passed unanimously.*

*Director Bowers motioned to approve drilling permit 7 for wells pumping more than 17.5 gallons per minute, seconded by Director Spearman. The motion passed with a majority vote. Director Peterson abstained from voting.*

## 15. DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT RULES

None.

## 16. STAFF UPDATES

General Manager Britten announced the hire of Korri Packard as the new part-time District Public Relations and Education Director.

## 17. MANAGER’S REPORT

- a. GMA 1 Update
- b. Legislative Update
- c. Ag Loan 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.

- A) General Manager Britten informed the Board that the GMA 1 meeting originally scheduled for January 21, 2025 was rescheduled for February 4, 2025 and that she will give a GMA 1 update at the next Board meeting.
- B) Britten noted that this will likely be a busy legislative session and that the Texas house of representatives has a new speaker of the house, Rep. Dustin Burrows from Lubbock. Additionally, the Texas legislature has had high turnover, especially in the house. Because of this, Britten hopes to increase the District's visibility with incoming representatives to increase their awareness of groundwater districts' interests. Britten also noted several bills that she is watching with topics ranging from government procedures, precipitation enhancement programs, desalination projects and agricultural conservation funds which could impact District programs such as the Ag Loan Program.
- C) Britten segued into updates on the District Ag Loan Program and informed the Board that the District received a loan from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in the amount of \$1 million with an interest rate of 4.23%. The District now has funding available for loans at an interest rate of 5.23%.

#### 18. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SET FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next Regular Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. *\*\*\*After the adjournment of the January meeting, the February meeting was moved to February 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. due to scheduling conflicts.*

#### 19. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON LISTED AGENDA ITEMS

None.

#### 20. ADJOURN

***Director Peterson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m., seconded by Director Breeding. The motion passed unanimously.***

  
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Chancy Cruse  
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Lee Peterson