

**PANHANDLE GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING ON RULE AMENDMENTS
MINUTES**

DISTRICT OFFICE
Windmill Room
201 W. Third St, White Deer
September 21, 2023, at 9:00 AM

Those Present Were:

Chancy Cruse	President
Lee Peterson	Secretary
Charles Bowers	Director
William Breeding	Director
David Hodges	Director
John R. Spearman, Jr.	Director
Marcus Hardcastle	Director
Wes Stockett	Director
Britney Britten	General Manager
Ashley Ausbrooks	Hydrogeologist/Programs
Jake Robinson	Field Tech/Meter Specialist
Aspen Edgar	PR/Education Director
Rita Poor	Administrative Assistant

- Guests Present: Drew Satterwhite, CRMWA; Chad Pernell, CRMWA; Floyd Hartman, City of Amarillo.

1. CALL PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER:

President Chancy Cruse called the Rules Hearing to order at 9:09 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS: Board Member and Staff Introductions.

3. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DISTRICT RULES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, 5.1,10.5,10.7,10.10, AND 14:

General Manager Britney Britten said all proposed changes to the rules are changes that happened during the 88th Legislative Session, but she stated that some non-substantive reference errors have been corrected as well. She mentioned that a new exemption has been added under "exempt well," which was added in Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, and went into effect on September 1, 2023. For instance, one can now apply for a temporary water rig supply well, that can be used to help drill another water well. The majority of the other amendments are found under rule 10. If any constituents wish to request changes to the rules, they can refer to 10.10- Petition to change rules.

This provides a clear outline for anyone who intends to do so. The other changes come in Rule 14 which is the water transportation rule. The legislature did increase the fee that Districts can charge for water being exported outside its boundary. Britten said that based on the budget that was adopted for 2023-2024, she did not anticipate increasing these fees, but that the Board had the option to do so. No written public comments were received regarding these rules. They were posted in the Amarillo Globe News and followed our 20-day posting guidelines. Britten also emphasized that all these changes were legislative requirements that the District was legally required to change.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public questions and comments on District’s proposed Rule amendments (limited to 5 minutes each; please fill out a “Request to Speak” form prior to the discussion of the agenda item.

Assistant City Manager for the City of Amarillo, Floyd Hartman asked if the proposed export fee in Rule 14, which increased from 2.5 cents per 1,000 gallons to 20 cents per 1,000 gallons was legislatively driven or a District policy. Britten said that was a legislative change that is now found in Chapter 36. She also said it is not the intention of the District to charge the maximum export fee at this time, and that is also reflective of the budget that was adopted for 2023-2024. The revenue from export fees is projected to be the same, indicating the District is not going to charge 20 cents to the current exporters. Britten said she anticipates the export fees will remain the same, and the District will negotiate a contract, if necessary, with exporters. There was further discussion about mitigation efforts currently provided by CRMWA and the City of Amarillo.

5. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DISTRICT RULES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, 5.1,10.5,10.7,10.10, AND 14

Director Charles Bowers motioned to approve and adopt the proposed rule changes, seconded by Director Lee Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.

6. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING:

Director Wes Stockett motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing, seconded by Director Marcus Hardcastle. The motion passed unanimously. The Hearing adjourned at 9:28 a.m.


Chancy Cruse


Lee Peterson