

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

DISTRICT OFFICE - Windmill Room
201 W. Third Street, White Deer, Texas
February 9, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Those Present Were:

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| Chancy Cruse | Vice President |
| David Hodges | Secretary |
| Charles Bowers | Director |
| William Breeding | Director |
| Devin Sinclair | Director |
| John R. Spearman, Jr. | Director |
| Lee Peterson | Director |
| Danny Hardcastle | Director |
| Britney Britten | General Manager |
| Ashley Ausbrooks | Hydrogeologist/Program Manager |
| Jake Robinson | Meter Compliance Officer |
| Aspen Edgar | PR/Education Director |
| Rita Poor | Administrative Assistant |

- Guests Present: Misti Tracey, City of Amarillo; Drew Satterwhite, CRMWA; Chad Parnell, CRMWA; Jimmy Osborn, Producer; Ryan Berry, Producer; Brett Friemel, Producer; Zach Berry, Producer; Wes Williams, Producer; Heather Johnson, Texas Parks and Wildlife; Mike Carter, Playa Lakes Joint Venture

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice President Chancy Cruse called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

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

No Public Comment

3. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES FROM JANUARY 12, 2023

Director William Breeding motioned to accept the minutes from January 12, 2023, seconded by Director David Hodges. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON JANUARY 2023 EXPENDITURES

Director John R. Spearman, Jr. motioned to accept the January 2023 expenditures, seconded by Director Charles Bowers. Motion passed unanimously.

5. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PLAYA LAKE PROGRAM WITH TEXAS PLAYA CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

Heather Johnson, Migratory Game Bird Specialist with Texas Parks and Wildlife, presented information on the Texas Playa Conservation Initiative Project to the Board of Directors. Johnson explained how playas are the primary source of recharge for the Ogallala Aquifer and how they play a critical role in providing plentiful amounts of clean water for the entire region if they are healthy and working properly. The decline in healthy playas spearheaded the initiative of the restoration project. Texas Playa Conservation Initiative works with landowners and other stakeholders across the panhandle region to incentivize the restoration and rejuvenation of healthy playas. Landowners who participate pay no project costs and receive a one-time payment of \$80/acre. General Manager, Britney Britten, explained she sees the importance of the restoration project and how great of an impact it has made and will continue to, and would like to set aside funds to partner with them through education efforts.

Director William Breeding motioned to support the Texas Playa Conservation Initiative Conservation Project with a partnership through education, seconded by Director Devin Sinclair. Motion passed unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CONTRACT WITH USGS TO INSTALL MONITORING WELL EQUIPMENT ON AN EXISTING DISTRICT MONITORING WELL

Britten explained contracting with USGS to install monitoring well equipment on the District's existing monitoring well will provide a daily water level measurement, serving as a check against the other monitoring wells in the area. The well resides in a heavy production area northeast of Pantex. Costs for this project total at \$22,500. USGS will pay \$10,000 towards the project leaving \$12,500 for the District to pay. Britten said we have a current access agreement with the previous landowner, but she wants to update that with the new landowner

William Breeding motioned to approve the contract after an agreement with the landowner has been made, seconded by Director Charles Bowers. Motion passed unanimously.

7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ALLOW THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A METEOROLOGIST FOR THE WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

Britten said our Meteorologist, Corey Clay, is currently working in Saudi Arabia and wants to entertain the option of him working remotely when the weather enhancement season begins. She said equipment upgrades will be necessary. But at this time, she was unaware of costs or the necessary equipment. She said she was working with Weather Modification International to begin the process because they have a successful project in Canada that is being run remotely from Idaho.

Director William Breeding motioned to give General Manager Britney Britten the authority to make the best decision on entering a contract with Meteorologist Corey Clay, Seconded by Director Charles Bowers. Motion passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DISTRICT WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

Britten stated our Pilot, Aaron Woolsey has resigned and is moving back to Colorado. She said a new pilot has been hired and will be trained by seasoned pilot, Ben Thomas.

No Action

9. 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 –

Mark Urbanczyk requests to reclassify well #644315 located in the SW4 of Section 3, Block M-4, JH Gibson Survey in Carson County from an 8” to a 6” well.

Mr. Urbanczyk decided to pull his application for reclassification for well #644315.

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

1. Scott Barefoot – A 6” well to be drilled on 554 acres by First Priority Drilling by 2.1.23 located in the SE4 of Section 34, Blk 13, H&GN Survey (being located at the intersection of CR 23 & CR SC, E side of CR 23 & N side of CR SC) **WHEELER COUNTY**
2. Blake Glover – A 4” well to be drilled on 320 acres by Drill Pro by 1.31.23 located in the SE4 of Section 87, Blk 23, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 1 mi N of I-40 on FM 1443 at the intersection of FM 1443 & CR Z, W side of FM 1443, N side of CR Z) **WELL #1 WHEELER COUNTY**
3. Blake Glover – A 4” well to be drilled on 320 acres by Drill Pro by 1.31.23 located in the SE4 of Section 87, Blk 23, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 1 mi N of I-40 on FM 1443 at the intersection of FM 1443 & CR Z, W side of FM 1443, N side of CR Z) **WELL #2 WHEELER COUNTY**
4. Rick Hargrove – A 4” well to be drilled on 320 acres by Kelly Faulk Drilling by 2.1.23 located in the SE4 of Section 73, Blk 13, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 2 mi N of I-40 on CR 23 at the intersection of CR 23 & CR Y, W side of CR 23 & N side of CR Y) **WHEELER COUNTY**
5. James Wischkaemper – A 6” well to be drilled on 426 acres by First Priority Drilling by 2.1.23 located in the NE4 of Section 50, Blk 13, H&GN Survey (being located approx. ½ mi S of I-40 on CR 21, W side of CR 21) **WHEELER COUNTY**

William Breeding motioned to approve drilling permits on items 1-5, seconded by Director Devin Sinclair. Motion passed unanimously.

10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DISTRICT’S RAIN GAUGE PROGRAM

Per the Board of Director’s request during the January Meeting, District Hydrogeologist and Program Manager, Ashley Ausbrooks researched FarmLog as an option for the rain gauge program and found that they use National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) data. She explained our current program costs \$23,000 and we have the option to upgrade or disband the program.

Director John R. Spearman, Jr. motioned to disband the rain gauge program and go with NOAA data for all weather enhancement needs moving forward, seconded by William Breeding. Motion passed unanimously.

11. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF 2022 PERMITTED ANNUAL WATER USAGE

Britten stated all reports should be sent out by next week and any producer present at today's meeting will be able to have one printed out before they leave at their request.

12. DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT RULES

Britten stated the Rules Committee did not meet this last month and there are no proposed changes at this time. It was suggested that operators receive their usage reports and allow time for feedback, and the Rules Committee can meet sometime after that.

13. STAFF UPDATES

None.

14. MANAGER'S REPORT

Britten stated legislation is picking up and hearings will begin soon after the deadline to file bills, which is March 10th. She said Senate Bill 156 is an omnibus groundwater bill that would cause changes to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. She said it is one the District is watching. Britten gave an update on the upcoming Board of Director's election, stating it will be held on Saturday, May 6th. She requested the District hold a candidate forum and invite the media.

15. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SET FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next Board of Director's Meeting is set for Thursday, March 23rd, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON LISTED AGENDA ITEMS

None.

17. ADJOURN

Director William Breeding motioned to adjourn at 11:23 a.m., seconded by Director Lee Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Thompson

David Hodges