

**MINUTES OF**  
September 15, 2023  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**CENTRAL TEXAS GROUNDWATER**  
**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District held a Show Cause Hearing, Public Hearing on Tax Increase and Regular Board Meeting on Friday, September 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office, 225 S. Pierce Street, Suite 104, Burnet, TX 78611.

**Members Present:** Ryan Rowney, President   Ricky Bindseil, Vice-President  
Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer   Homer Will, Director   Paul King, Director  
**Staff and/or Consultants Present:** Mitchell Sodek, General Manager   Shrader Davis, Groundwater Technician   Donnita Coats, Office Manager   Bill Dugat, District Legal Counsel  
**Others Present:** 5 Members of the Public

President Rowney declared a quorum present and called the Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

President Rowney then called for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags.

President Rowney then asked for Public Comment. A member of the public asked the Board if high volume users like Delaware Springs Golf Course are under the same restrictions for drought and why, since area wide Texas is in severe drought, that Austin and Travis County are not under as severe drought restrictions as some others. The questions were addressed during Directors Comments later in the meeting.

President Rowney then called the Show Cause Hearing to order at 9:04 a.m.

President Rowney stated that the well owners/permittees identified below have been noticed to appear before the Board and required to show cause why a suit should not be initiated against the person in a court of competent jurisdiction for failure to comply with the orders or Rules of the Board, the relevant statutes of the State, or failure to abide by the terms and provisions of a permit issued by the District or the operating authority of the District:

OP-18081301 Tributary Sporting Club

General Manager Sodek informed the Board that all well owners/permittees had acknowledged receipt of their Agreed Order before the initial show cause hearing on August 21, 2023 and that orders had been signed by the City of Highland Haven, Eagle Mountain Ranch Ltd. (formerly Willburr & Co.), RFHDAH, LP, River Oaks Water System and Corix Utilities. General Manager Sodek and District Legal Counsel Dugat have been in contact with multiple Attorneys for Tributary Sporting Club prior to this hearing and the latest Attorney has asked for more time to continue to review and possibly tweak the order. Legal Counsel Dugat suggested giving them 30 days, in good faith, to review and consider the order.

Paul King moved to:

Continue the show cause hearing for Tributary Sporting Club and to give President Rowney authority to approve and sign an Agreed Order with Tributary Sporting Club as long as there are no material changes to the order.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney adjourned the Show Cause Hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:14 a.m.

President Rowney then called the Public Hearing on Tax Increase to order at 9:14 a.m.

President Rowney then stated that a Proposal to Increase the Total Tax Revenues of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District would be discussed. General Manager Sodek reviewed the previously Board approved proposed tax rate, the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter approval tax rate. He stated that the proposed tax rate that would cause a tax increase required this hearing and that the required Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase had been properly published and posted and that an Order Setting a Tax Rate would be required.

President Rowney then asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

President Rowney adjourned the hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:15 a.m.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on an FY 2023-2024 Budget. General Manager Sodek presented and reviewed a FY 2023-2024 Proposed Budget that included changes to the proposed budget that were discussed and approved at the previous Board Meeting, adjustments to increase the line item for Health Insurance due to notification by the provider of increased cost for healthcare; a 5 percent cost of living wage increase for District Office Staff and also minor changes to balance the budget.

Kathy Griffis-Bailey moved to:

Adopt the proposed FY 2023-2024 Budget as presented for adoption as the FY 2023-2024 Budget of the District.

Second was by Homer Will.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on a 2023 Tax Rate.

General Manager Sodek informed the Board that the requirements for posting and publishing tax rate notices and the requirement for a Public Hearing on Tax Rate Increase had been met and that the Board had previously approved a proposed 2023 tax rate of \$0.0055/\$100 value. He presented the Board with an Order Setting the Tax Rate that needed Board Approval.

Ricky Bindseil moved:

I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.0055, which is effectively a 10 percent increase in the tax rate and to adopt the Order Setting the Tax Rate.

Second was by Kathy Griffis-Bailey.

Vote on the motion carried as follows:

For: Ryan Rowney, Ricky Bindsiel, Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Homer Will, Paul King

Against: None

Present and not voting: None

Absent: None

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on the District Health Insurance Plan. General Manager Sodek reviewed the current TX Health Benefits Pool (TX Health) plan that will no longer be offered to the District for small groups of less than 5 employees and he reviewed the only two plan options that will now be offered to the District for the 2024 plan year. The new plan options will have a significant increase in cost to the District and to deductible and out of pocket costs to the

employees. General Manager Sodek, with the help of an insurance broker, is looking into other health insurance plan options for the District but the deadlines to choose an option for renewal with TX Health requires the District to choose an option and sign a renewal by the end of September 2023 to insure a plan will be in place for 2024. General Manager Sodek recommended choosing the TX Health Option 1 Plan and offering a HRA (Health Reimbursement Account) to employees to help lower the burden of increased costs to the employees for the plan. He reviewed HRA options that would add \$150.00 to \$200.00 monthly to an account for each employee to use for certain health care costs that would have been covered under the previous plan and reviewed the cost of the HRA to the District.

Kathy Griffis-Bailey moved to:

Approve Option 1 with TX Health Benefits Pool with a HRA) as presented and that Mitchell be authorized to continue to determine if there are acceptable options.

Second was by Homer Will.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Determination of the Drought Stage. General Manager Sodek reviewed Palmer Hydrogeologic Drought Index graphics which show extreme drought and District monitor well graphs which show levels compare with lowest levels recorded. He recommended no change from the Stage 4 Critical Drought Stage. No action was taken.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 21, 2023.

Ricky Bindseil moved to:

Approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 21, 2023.

Second was by Kathy Griffis-Bailey.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Expenditures for August 2023; Budget Line-Item Adjustments; and Review of 2022-2023 Budget. General Manager Sodek reported that the following line item adjustments were made to the budget:

Moved \$135.74 from Expenses – Vehicle Expense – Fuel/Maintenance to Expenses – Vehicle Expense - Repairs

President Rowney suggested that a policy for rotation of company vehicles be considered in the future and General Manager Sodek suggested considering replacing the 2017 Chevrolet Pickup within the next 12 months.

Kathy Griffis-Bailey moved to:

Approve the Expenditures for August 2023 and the Budget Line Item Adjustments as reported.

Second was by Paul King.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then called on the General Manager for the General Manager and/or Staff Report and Update.

a. Well Registrations & Permitting

Graphs of Well Applications received from 2012 to present show that the number of applications received have increased each year beginning in 2017 with a larger increase in 2021 and 2022. The trend in the number of applications in 2023 is down some probably due to interest rates and the increased costs in drilling a well.

b. Stakeholder Committee on District Rules

The fourth meeting of the committee will be held on September 21, 2023. A fifth and final wrap up meeting will be planned for October and a Rulemaking Hearing with a report given by the Stakeholder Committee Facilitator will be planned for November 2023.

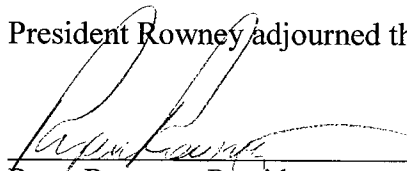
President Rowney then called for Director Comments. Ricky Bindseil and Homer Will discussed a HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) Event that will be held in October. Paul King asked to return to the questions asked during Agenda Item Number 4 Public Comment. General Manager Sodek answered that Groundwater Permit Holders are under a mandatory 15% decrease in use but the water used on the Delaware Springs Golf Course is effluent water and not under the groundwater district jurisdiction. Drought restrictions are specific and local and the City of Austin is on surface water.

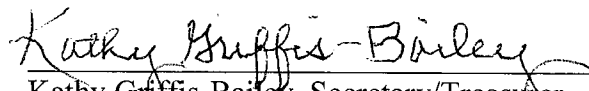
President Rowney then called for agenda items for the next Regular Board Meeting. Continued Show Cause Hearing for Permittees in violation of Rules if needed

Directors may contact the General Manager or Board President prior to the deadline for posting notice of the next meeting if they have a suggested agenda item.

President Rowney then set the date for the next Regular Board Meeting and continued Show Cause Hearing if needed for October 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the District Office.

President Rowney adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

  
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Ryan Rowney, President

  
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Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer