

MINUTES OF
November 17, 2023
BOARD MEETING
CENTRAL TEXAS GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Board of Directors of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District held a Show Cause Hearing, a Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the District Rules, and a Regular Board Meeting on Friday, November 17, 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: 2 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. There were no public comments.

President Rowney then called the Show Cause Hearing to order at 9:03 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 this hearing was a continuation of the previous hearings held on August 21, 2023, September 15, 2023 and October 25, 2023. District Legal Counsel Dugat informed the Board that modified Agreed Order language has been presented to the District by Tributary Sporting Club that he and General Manager believe is acceptable to meet the original intent of the order.

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

President Rowney then called for consideration and/or action relating to the Show Cause Hearing.

Kathy Griffis-Bailey moved to:

Accept the Agreed Order as modified and to monitor the situation going forward.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney adjourned the Show Cause Hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:08 a.m.

President Rowney then called the Public Hearing on Proposed Rule Amendment: Rule 7.83 Petition for Adoption or Modification of Rules at 9:09 a.m.

President Rowney asked the General Manager to review the proposed rule amendment. General Manager Sodek informed the Board that the Notice of Hearing for the rule amendment had been published 20 days prior to the hearing, had been posted with the county clerk, at the District Office and on the District website. He reviewed the rule that was created by new legislation from the last legislative session requiring adoption of the rule.

President Rowney asked for public comment. A member of the public commented that he has seen a lot of noise on social media but no one comes to the meetings to speak. No written public comment was received by the District.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on the proposed rule amendment.

Paul King moved to:

Accept the proposed language for petitions of rule changes and to adopt the rule effective November 17, 2023.

Second was by Kathy Griffis-Bailey.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney adjourned the hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:14 a.m.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Determination of the Drought Stage. General Manager Sodek reviewed Palmer Hydrogeologic Drought Index October graphics which still show Burnet County to be in extreme drought. Even with recent rainfall the water levels are still below average. If no significant improvement is seen a hearing could be held by December 31, 2023 to impose up to a 15% mandatory reduction of permitted volume on permit holders for 2024. He recommended no change from the Stage 4 Critical Drought Stage. Public comment was received by a current permit holder and an exempt well owner regarding the effects of the current mandatory reduction and notice of drought stages. No action was taken.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 25, 2023. Kathy Griffis-Bailey pointed out a small correction that needed to be made to the minutes regarding a well number associated with the Skyline Terrace Subdivision Permit.

Kathy Griffis-Bailey moved to:

Correct the October 25, 2023 minutes as discussed and approve the minutes as corrected.

Second was by Paul King.

Vote on the motion carried.

President Rowney then asked for consideration and/or action on Expenditures for October 2023; Budget Line-Item Adjustments; and Review of 2023-2024 Budget. General Manager Sodek requested that the following line item adjustments needed be made to the budget due to new minimum coverage rates now imposed:

Move 195.38 from Expenses – Insurance – General Liability to Expenses Insurance – Errors & Omissions

Move 95.40 from Expenses – Capital Purchase – Monitor Wells to Expenses - Insurance – Errors & Omissions

Move 142.30 from Expenses – Capital Purchase – Monitor Wells to Expenses - Insurance – Cybersecurity

Move 106.26 from Expenses – Capital Purchase – Monitor Wells to Expenses - Insurance – Automobile

Move 811.34 from Expenses – Capital Purchase – Monitor Wells to Expenses - Insurance – Property

Move 236.00 from Expenses – Capital Purchase – Monitor Wells to Expenses - Insurance – Workers Compensation

Paul King moved to:

Approve the Expenditures for October 2023 and the Budget Line Item Adjustments as requested.

Second was by Ricky Bindseil.

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

Well Applications received have been down a little this month to date.

b. District Health Insurance

The District is enrolled in the TXHealth Plan previously presented and approved by the Board. There were no better plan or cost options for alternative plans explored by a broker on behalf of the District.

President Rowney then called for Director Comments. Paul King and Kathy Griffis-Bailey shared positive comments that she had received from a local news reporter on the professionalism of the District's Board and Staff and on the District's creation of a Stakeholder Committee on District Rules.

Ryan Rowney suggested having a presentation at a future meeting on Cedar Tree removal and its benefits to groundwater.

Ricky Bindseil noted the county burn ban had been lifted by the county.

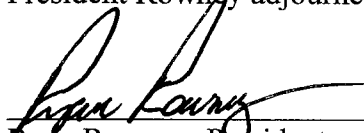
President Rowney then called for agenda items for the next Regular Board Meeting.

Hearing on Mandatory Drought

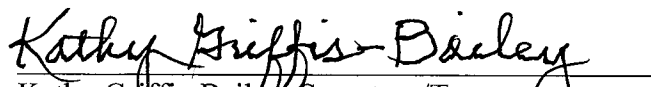
Directors may contact the General Manager or Board President prior to the deadline for posting notice of the next meeting if they have a suggested agenda item.

President Rowney then set the date for a Hearing on Mandatory Drought, a possible Work Session and the next Regular Board Meeting for December 14th or 15th, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. depending on a date that the AgriLife Auditorium or an alternate location other than the District Office is available.

President Rowney adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.



Ryan Rowney, President



Kathy Griffis-Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer