

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

DISTRICT OFFICE - Windmill Room  
201 W. Third Street, White Deer, Texas  
November 16, 2023– 9:00 a.m.

Those Present Were:

Chancy Cruse	President
Devin Sinclair	Vice President
Lee Peterson	Secretary
Charles Bowers	Director
William Breeding	Director
David Hodges	Director
Marcus Hardcastle	Director
Britney Britten	General Manager
Katie Hodges	Office Manager
Ashley Ausbrooks	Hydrogeologist/PM
Aspen Edgar	PR/Education Director
Rita Poor	Administrative Assistant

- Guests Present: Drew Satterwhite, CRMWA; Chad Parnell, CRMWA; Benjamin Orr, City of Amarillo

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Cruse called the regular meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

No public comment.

3. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

a) Rules Hearing

*Director Peterson motioned to approve the September 2023 Rules Hearing minutes, seconded by Director Breeding. The motion passed unanimously.*

b) Regular Meeting

*Director Sinclair motioned to approve the September 2023 Regular Meeting minutes, seconded by Director Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.*

4. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXPENDITURES

a) September 2023

General Manager Britney Britten stated that the District ended the 2022-2023 fiscal year under budget.

***Director Breeding motioned to approve the September 2023 expenditures, seconded by Director Hodges. The motion passed unanimously.***

b) October 2023

***Director Peterson motioned to approve the October 2023 expenditures, seconded by Director Hardcastle. The motion passed unanimously.***

5. 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

***Director Sinclair motioned to approve all quarterly production and out-of-district transportation reports, seconded by Director Hodges. The motion passed unanimously.***

6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RESOLUTION TO REAUTHORIZE GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS

General Manager Britten notified the Board of a change to the guidelines and criteria for property tax abatements to include the submission of a water conservation plan with the proposed abatement.

***Director Breeding motioned to approve the resolution with the updated guidelines and criteria for property tax abatements, seconded by Director Bowers. The motion passed unanimously.***

7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO PARTNER WITH WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY FOR WEATHER MODIFICATION RESEARCH

General Manager Britten informed the Board that the Department of Life, Earth, and Environmental Sciences at West Texas A&M University (WTAMU) approached the District about partnering with their department for Weather Modification Research as part of a Department of Energy (DOE) grant received by WTAMU. The partnership would allow WTAMU to coordinate with our current Precipitation Enhancement Program staff to conduct atmospheric research at no cost to the District.

***Director Breeding motioned to authorize the General Manager to partner with WTAMU for research purposes, seconded by Director Bowers. The motion passed unanimously.***

8. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO ADOPT A PROHIBITED TECHNOLOGIES SECURITY POLICY

General Manager Britten notified the Board that this policy results from changes to Texas legislation, which bans TikTok and other specified applications on District-owned devices, equipment, and networks. This legislative change applies to groundwater districts in Texas and will require the District's IT department to set additional restrictions on District servers and Wi-Fi routers.

***Director Bowers motioned to adopt the prohibited technologies security policy, seconded by Director Hardcastle. The motion passed unanimously.***

9. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ARMSTRONG COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

***Director Sinclair motioned to split all District votes between candidates for the Armstrong County Appraisal District Board of Directors, seconded by Director Peterson. The motion passed unanimously.***

10. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON GRAY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

***Director Peterson motioned to split all District votes between candidates for the Gray County Appraisal District Board of Directors, seconded by Director Hodges. The motion passed unanimously.***

11. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RAINWATER HARVESTING REBATE FOR STEVE BYRUM

General Manager Britten informed the Board that Byrum's Rebate Application showed the rainwater harvesting system would have a 65,000-gallon capacity, allowing them to approve funding for up to \$32,500.

***Director Bowers motioned to approve the Rainwater Harvesting rebate for Steve Byrum, seconded by Director Sinclair. The motion passed unanimously.***

12. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE CARSON COUNTY SEALED BID

Lot 1-5, Blk 2 OT 200 Main, Skellytown, TX

BID AMOUNT: \$180.00

*Director Peterson motioned to approve the Carson County bid, seconded by Director Sinclair. The motion passed unanimously.*

### 13. 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 OR 17.5 GPM – NONE

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

- a) Jim Risley – A 2” well to be drilled on 236 acres by David Neufeld Drilling by 8.14.23 located in the SW4 of Section 14, Blk C-6, TT RR Survey (being located SE of Ashtola on Hwy 287 approx. 3 ¼ mi to FM 2362, S approx. 1 mi on FM 2362 to CR P, E on CR P ¼ mi, N side of CR P)  
**DONLEY COUNTY**
- b) Tejas Feeders – A 5” well to be drilled on 2,325 acres by Etter Water Well by 11.1.23 located in the SW4 of Section 149, Blk M-2, BS&F Survey (being located approx. 6 mi E of the Hwy 60 & Hwy 152 intersection, on the N side of Hwy 152) **GRAY COUNTY WELL #1**
- c) Tejas Feeders – A 5” well to be drilled on 2325 acres by Etter Water Well by 11.1.23 located in the SW4 of Section 149, Blk M-2, BS&F Survey (being located approx. 5 3/4 mi E of the Hwy 60 & Hwy 152 intersection, on the N side of Hwy 152) **GRAY COUNTY WELL #2**
- d) Karen Puryear – A 4” well to be drilled on 1608.9 acres by K-Ran Drilling by 10.2.23 located in the NW4 of Section 28, Blk A-3, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 9 mi E of Wheeler on Hwy 152 to CR 22, N on CR 22 approx. 3 mi, E side of CR 22)  
**WHEELER COUNTY**
- e) Jesse Wieners – A 4” well to be drilled on 337 acres by Kelly Faulks by 10.27.23 located in the NW4 of Section 53, Blk 13, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 6 mi E of Shamrock on I-40 to CR 23, approx. 1 ¼ mi W of CR 23) **WHEELER COUNTY WELL #1**

- f) Jesse Wieners – A 4” well to be drilled on 337 acres by Kelly Faulks by 10.27.23 located in the NW4 of Section 53, Blk 13, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 6 mi E of Shamrock on I-40 to CR 23, approx. 1 mi W of CR 23) **WHEELER COUNTY WELL #2**
- g) Jesse Wieners – A 4” well to be drilled on 337 acres by Kelly Faulks by 10.27.23 located in the SW4 of Section 53, Blk 13, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 6 mi E of Shamrock on I-40 to CR 23, approx. ¾ mi W of CR 23) **WHEELER COUNTY WELL #3**
- h) Jesse Wieners – A 4” well to be drilled on 337 acres by Kelly Faulks by 10.27.23 located in the SW4 of Section 53, Blk 13, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 6 mi E of Shamrock on I-40 to CR 23, approx. 1 mi W of CR 23) **WHEELER COUNTY WELL #4**
- i) James Wischkaemper – A 6” well to be drilled on 1374.27 acres by Kelly Faulks by 11.1.23 located in the SE4 of Section 66, Blk 13, H&GN Survey (being located approx. 9 mi E of Shamrock on I-40 to CR 26, N on CR 26 approx 1 ½ mi, well located approx. 1 ½ mi W of CR 26)  
**WHEELER COUNTY**

*Director Hardcastle motioned to approve all drilling permits for wells pumping more than 17.5 gallons per minute, seconded by Director Bowers. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### 14. REPORT FROM RULES COMMITTEE AND DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT RULES

The Rules Committee met in October and continued discussions regarding District Rule 3.3 (e). The committee decided to continue with the original process and evaluate the 4-year average in early 2024. Any operating permit over the maximum allowable volume of 1 acre-foot per contiguous acre owned or leased will be subject to enforcement. They also proposed a new rule change that would create a two-step approach to determine fining offenses. This proposed change would require the District to continue calculating the 4-year average production on all operating permits. Any operating permit’s average production over the maximum allowable volume of 1 acre-foot per contiguous acre of water rights would then trigger the second step in which the District would look at the operating permit’s current year of production. For a penalty to be assessed, both the 4-year average and the current year of production would need to be over the maximum allowable volume of 1 acre-foot per contiguous acre of water rights. The penalty would then be assessed on the current year of production. For the offense record to be reset, the permit holder must bring the 4-year average production to the maximum allowable volume of 1 acre-foot per contiguous acre of water rights. Operating permits obtained after the rule change would follow the same process outlined above, and once more than 4 years of usage data is obtained, then the two-step process would become applicable to

those operating permits. Director Bowers stated that the two-step process would eliminate the possibility of producers being fined for the same offense as the rule is currently written. The Directors had a lengthy discussion about additional changes to the rule and fining schedule. Director Bowers suggested wording changes to the proposed rule and fining schedule. General Manager Britten recommended that the Rules Committee meet in December since more revisions are necessary before the Board votes to send Rule 3.3 to hearing.

#### 15. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DRAFT RULE 3.3 REGARDING ENFORCEMENT OF RULES FOR HEARING

***Director Breeding motioned to table any consideration and possible action on Draft Rule 3.3 until the next Board Meeting. Director Hodges seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### 16. STAFF UPDATES

General Manager Britten announced that the District is looking to hire a new Public Relations/Education Director. Additionally, she reminded the Board that District Field Technicians will collect data for the annual water level and meter programs over the next several months. District Hydrogeologist Ashley Ausbrooks informed the Board that field staff are currently working with staff from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to install new equipment in seven satellite telemetry well systems within the District. The funding for this project was from an approved joint grant with TWDB and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in 2022, but equipment delays prevented earlier installation of the new systems. Water level measurements from District satellite monitoring wells can be found on the District website at [www.pgcd.us/water-level-measurements](http://www.pgcd.us/water-level-measurements).

#### 17. MANAGER'S REPORT

##### a) GMA 1 Update

General Manager Britten presented her report to the Board in the Board Packet, which included past and upcoming meetings, District public education events, District well statistics, and a weather update. She reminded the Directors that District staff will participate in the upcoming Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show on November 28-30, 2023. She also stated that GMA 1 managers met on November 15, 2023, to review technical applications, and they have prepared a recommendation.

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

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.


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

None.

20. ADJOURN

***Director Peterson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m., seconded by Director Hardcastle. The motion passed unanimously.***

  
Chancy Cruse

  
Lee Peterson