

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

DISTRICT OFFICE - Windmill Room
201 W. Third Street, White Deer, Texas
August 24, 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
John R. Spearman, Jr.	Director
Marcus Hardcastle	Director
Wes Stockett	Director
Britney Britten	General Manager
Ashley Ausbrooks	Hydrogeologist/Programs Manager
Jake Robinson	Field Technician & Meter Specialist
Aspen Edgar	PR/Education Director

- Guests Present: Kevin Carter, Amarillo EDC; Holly Shankle, Amarillo EDC; Michael Kitten; Amarillo EDC; Ben Orr, City of Amarillo; Gerald Berry, Producer; Tim Rocha, Producer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Chancy Cruse called the regular meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

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

No Public Comment.

3. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES FROM JULY 26, 2023

Director William Breeding motioned to approve the minutes from July 26, 2023, seconded by Director David Hodges. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXPENDITURES

a. May 2023

Director Devin Sinclair motioned to approve May 2023 expenditures, seconded by Director Charles Bowers. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. July 2023- General Manager, Britney Britten stated the District is tracking under budget for the fiscal year.

Director John R. Spearman, Jr. motioned to approve July 2023 expenditures, seconded by Director William Breeding. Motion passed unanimously.

5. REPORT FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE AND CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE 2023-2024 BUDGET

Director John R. Spearman Jr. stated the budget is similar to previous year's budgets and the District is looking at a slight tax decrease for the next fiscal year. Britten stated one major change to note is the increase in the insurance line item. The main change was due to health care insurance premiums going up, but that line item also reflects general liability, auto and property insurance.

Director William Breeding motioned to approve the 2023-2024 budget, seconded by Director David Hodges. Motion passed unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SETTING THE PROPOSED 2023-2024 TAX RATE

Britten explained the process of calculating the proposed 2023-2024 tax rate. This information can be found on the District website at www.pgcd.us/public-information. She reminded the Board that the process changed in 2021, and we now have to calculate the no-new-revenue tax rate and the voter-approval rate. The no-new-revenue rate for 2023-2024 is \$0.008643/\$100 valuation, and the voter-approval rate is \$0.009472/\$100 valuation. The no-new-revenue rate is exactly as it sounds, this is the rate that will generate about the same revenue as the previous fiscal year. The voter-approval rate is a rate that will trigger an election. Britten and the budget committee recommend adopting the no-new-revenue tax rate of \$0.008643/\$100 valuation.

Director Wes Stockett moved to adopt the proposed tax rate of \$0.008643/\$100 valuation for the 2023-2024 tax year, seconded by Director William Breeding. Motion passed unanimously.

7. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DRAFT RULES FOR HEARING

Britten stated District Attorney, Monique Norman, wrote the proposed amendments to District Rules to reflect amendments to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code that were recently made by the Texas Legislature. She said many of these changes go into effect on September 1, 2023. We are legally required to make these changes to the District Rules.

Director William Breeding motioned to set a Rules Hearing for Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9 a.m., seconded by Director Devin Sinclair. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Britten stated all Armstrong County Appraisal District Directors with expiring terms are seeking re-election.

Lee Peterson motioned to place Shenee Bichsel, Rachel Myers and Tim Young on the ballot for election to the Armstrong County Appraisal District Board of Directors, seconded by Director William Breeding. Motion passed unanimously.

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 – 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-

1. Steve Hightower – An 8” well to be drilled on 637 acres by Lichtie Drilling by 7.24.23 located in the NW4 of Section 2, Blk 2, TT RR Survey (being located NE of Panhandle, approx. 5 mi N of Hwy 60 on FM 2385, W side of FM 2385) **CARSON COUNTY**
2. Jim Risley – A 4” well to be drilled on 236 acres by David Neufeld Drilling by 8.3.23 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) **WELL #1 DONLEY COUNTY**
3. Jim Risley – A 4” well to be drilled on 236 acres by David Neufeld Drilling by 8.4.23, 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) **WELL #2 DONLEY COUNTY**
4. Frank Wiebe – A 4” well to be drilled on 305 acres by First Priority Drilling by 8.8.23, located in the NW4 of Section 32, Blk HD, JC Barnett Survey (being located approx. 2 mi NE of Hedley on FM 203 to FM 2695, approx. 6 mi NE on FM 2695, N side of FM 2695) **DONLEY COUNTY**

Director Lee Peterson motioned to approve items 1-4, seconded by Director David Hodges. Motion passed unanimously.

10. **CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT’S WATER QUALITY NETWORK**

-Ashley Ausbrooks, Districts Hydrogeologist

District Hydrogeologist, Ashley Ausbrooks stated PGCD has a biennial water quality program which was established in 1987. Objective 6.1 A of the District’s Management Plan states employees must sample 80% of the wells in the District’s Water Quality Network on a biennial basis and report program status to the Board of Directors each year. Ausbrooks said District staff conducted sampling of 141 of 169 network wells (83.4%) in Armstrong, Potter, Roberts and Wheeler Counties. To view all water quality results, please reference Ausbrooks’ presentation attached to the minutes.

Director Lee Peterson motioned to accept the water quality results, seconded by Director William Breeding. Motion passed unanimously.

11. **DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT RULES**

Britten stated the rules committee has not met since June, but she will send an email out to the Rules Committee to set up a meeting for this fall.

12. STAFF UPDATES

Britten stated the District hired a new Field Technician, David Dees. He will start on Monday, August 28.

13. MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Draft 25-Year Saturated Thickness Map from INTERA

Britten stated the report shows all upcoming meetings and educational programs scheduled. She said the Board can see the well registrations, permit applications, website stats and a climate update. The Directors reviewed maps that showed work completed from INTERA. The maps show saturated thickness from 1996-1997, another map shows saturated thickness from 2021-2022, and the final map shows the change in saturated thickness from the two time periods. Overall, the data shows that in PGCD's portion of the Ogallala Aquifer saturated thickness has decreased about 7% the District the last 25 years. The Directors pointed out some aesthetic changes that need to be made. Britten said this information shows that we are on track with our 50/50 DFC goal of wanting 50% of current volume in storage in each 50-year period through 2080.

14. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SET FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next Regular Meeting date is set for Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION ON LISTED AGENDA ITEMS

None

16. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Director Lee Peterson motioned to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 11:26 a.m., seconded by Director William Breeding. Motion passed unanimously.



Chancy Cruse



Lee Peterson