MEETING MINUTES

SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 9:30 AM

A quorum of the Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors held a regular monthly board meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the District's office at 8656 W. Highway 71, Building A, Suite 224, Austin, Texas 78735. The meeting was open to the public and a videoconference remote participation option was provided; instructions for accessing the remote videoconference were provided with the Public Notice of Meeting.

1. **Call to order, declare meeting open to the public, take roll and declare quorum status**
   President Scadden called the public meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2026. Five directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum, including President Scadden, Director Davis, Director Leva, Director Phillips, and Director Urie. Also present were General Manager Lane Cockrell, District Administrative and Hydrogeology Assistant Barbara Reyes, Lyle Williams with Bee Cave Drilling, Martin Lingle with Centex Drilling, and Jamie Riegert and Pike Riegert. The following individuals participated remotely by videoconference call: Cole Ruiz and Audrey Cooper with Lloyd Gosselink, Tina Cooper with Austin Alliance Group, District Regulatory Compliance Specialist Virginia Smith, Danna Oakes with Cypress Ranch WCID No. 1, Joe Shafer and Alexander Thompson with Bee Cave Drilling, Michael Miller, and Doug Millsaps with Canyon Springs Engineering.

2. **Announcements**
   General Manager Cockrell announced that Texas Water Development Board ("TWDB") staff recommended the District's FY 2026 Groundwater Research, Science, and Data Collection Grant proposal for approval by the TWDB Board at its upcoming meeting. Mr. Cockrell noted that the grant award remains subject to final approval by the TWDB Board.

3. **Public Comments**
   No public comments were presented under this agenda item.

4. **Consent Agenda**
   Director Davis moved to approve all items on the consent agenda (listed below). Motion seconded by Director Phillips. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

   a. **Approve Minutes of April 22, 2026 Special Board Meeting**
   b. **Approve Minutes of May 8, 2026 Special Board Meeting**
   c. **Approve Minutes of May 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**
   d. **Approve May 2026 Financial Report**

e. **Approve Payment of Outstanding Invoices**

5. **Public Hearings**

a. **Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9) Proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs)**
President Scadden called the public hearing on the proposed Desired Future Conditions ("DFCs") for Groundwater Management Area 9 ("GMA 9") to order at 9:37 a.m. A quorum of five directors remained present. General Manager Cockrell presented an overview of the GMA 9 joint planning process and proposed DFCs for the Trinity Aquifer. He reported that the GMA 9 member districts approved proposed DFCs on March 31, 2026, and that notice was provided to member districts on April 20, 2026, initiating a 90-day public comment period. Mr. Cockrell reported that following the comment period, District staff will prepare a summary of public comments and any recommended revisions for GMA 9 consideration before final DFC adoption by January 25, 2027. Mr. Cockrell reported that the proposed DFC for the Trinity Aquifer in Travis County would allow approximately 28 feet of average drawdown through 2080, consistent with Scenario 6 in TWDB GAM Task 10-005. He noted that the current DFC allows approximately 30 feet of average drawdown through 2060 across GMA 9, consistent with the same model scenario. No written or in-person public comments were received regarding the proposed DFCs. President Scadden closed the public hearing at 9:50 a.m. and reconvened the open meeting.

6. **Discussion and Possible Action**

a. **Update on Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9) Joint Planning Process, including proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs), potential non-relevant aquifer designations, and other considerations under §36.108, Texas Water Code**
Director Phillips asked how the District monitors compliance with the current Trinity Aquifer DFC. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District relies on long-term monitoring data from the HEB, St. Stephen's, and Pace Bend Girl Scout monitoring wells to evaluate drawdown relative to 2008 baseline conditions. Director Phillips questioned how groundwater conservation districts can realistically achieve the DFCs given existing drawdown in parts of the Trinity Aquifer. President Scadden asked how other GMA 9 districts evaluate compliance. Mr. Cockrell reported that most districts calculate average drawdown using designated index wells, although the wells are not geographically weighted and may not fully represent district-wide conditions. He added that GMA 9 has discussed comparing current potentiometric surfaces to 2008 modeled water levels, but no standard methodology has been adopted. District General Counsel Cole Ruiz reported that while the Legislature has considered strengthening DFC reporting requirements and consequences for failing to meet DFCs, Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code currently provides limited enforcement mechanisms beyond the petition process through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") for inadequate participation in joint planning. President Scadden noted that District staff will

submit a summary of any public comments received during the comment period to GMA 9. No action was taken under this agenda item.

b. **Appointment of a Board Secretary**
President Scadden wished Director Van Ackeren the best with his health and recovery, and noted the need to appoint an interim Board Secretary during his absence. He recommended appointing Director Leva to serve as Secretary/Treasurer until Director Van Ackeren returns. President Scadden moved to appoint Director Leva as Board Secretary/Treasurer. Motion seconded by Director Davis. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

c. **Update on District Drought Stage and Conditions**
This agenda item was taken out of order. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District's current declared drought stage is D3 Extreme Drought and presented a map reflecting drought conditions as of June 9, 2026, according to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor. Mr. Cockrell reported that 67% of the District is classified as severe drought (D2) and the remaining 33% is classified as moderate drought (D1). Mr. Cockrell reported that last week was the first week since January that no portion of the District was classified as D3. Mr. Cockrell reminded the Board that District Rules allow the declared drought stage to be reduced after improved conditions persist across a majority of the District for four consecutive weeks. He recommended reducing the declared drought stage to D2 once that threshold is met. The Board concurred by consensus.

d. **Requests for Reduced Setbacks or Spacing for Proposed New Wells**
This agenda item was taken out of order. General Manager Cockrell presented two requests for a reduced setback to the Board for consideration.

1150 Barrie Drive
Mr. Cockrell presented a request for a reduced property-line setback for a proposed exempt domestic well at 1150 Barrie Drive. Mr. Cockrell presented a site plan showing the proposed well location and provided a summary of the application and applicable requirements. District staff recommended approval due to site constraints, including topography and tract dimensions, while continuing to work with the applicant to reduce groundwater demand through alternative water supplies. Director Phillips moved to accept the staff recommendation to approve a reduced property-line setback for the proposed well to be located at 1150 Barrie Drive. Motion seconded by President Scadden. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

901 Skyline Drive
Mr. Cockrell presented a request for a reduced property-line setback for a proposed exempt domestic well at 901 Skyline Drive. Mr. Cockrell presented a site plan showing the proposed well location and provided a summary of the application and applicable requirements. Mr. Cockrell reported that tract dimensions limited the maximum achievable setback to 50 feet while maintaining required separation from the proposed septic system. District staff recommended approval based on the site's physical constraints. Mr. Cockrell noted that a neighboring property owner submitted written

comments expressing concerns about potential impacts on future development. Applicant Pike Riegert addressed the Board to provide additional information regarding the request, noting an existing retaining wall limits relocation options, and requested approval. District staff Barbara Reyes also commented regarding potential impacts on neighboring properties. Director Davis moved to accept the staff recommendation and approve a reduced property-line setback for the proposed well to be located at 901 Skyline Drive. Motion seconded by Director Urie. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

e. **Requests to Perform Aquifer Testing Under Test Well General Permits During D-3 or D-4 Drought Stages**
General Manager Cockrell reported that no requests were submitted for Board consideration this month. No action was taken under this agenda item.

f. **Proposed work order for INTERA to evaluate potential impacts of proposed groundwater production associated with operating permit applications**
President Scadden reported that General Manager Cockrell requested a proposed work order from INTERA to provide technical support for evaluating groundwater production impacts associated with operating permit applications. President Scadden reported that INTERA submitted a draft order, that he and Mr. Cockrell are working with INTERA to revise the draft, and an updated work order will be presented for Board consideration in July. No action was taken under this agenda item.

g. **District Priorities for 90th Legislative Session**
General Manager Cockrell provided an update on legislative planning efforts. He reported that the District's primary priorities are revising the definition of "beneficial use" under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code as it relates to non-agricultural irrigation; and increasing the District's statutory production fee cap. Mr. Cockrell discussed coordinating with legislators, preparing draft legislation and supporting materials, and working with organizations including the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, and Hill Country Alliance on broader groundwater policy initiatives. President Scadden asked about recent discussions regarding regulating data centers at the recent County to County Workshop attended by District staff. Mr. Cockrell reported growing concern regarding their impacts on water supplies and the power grid, and noted that Governor Abbott issued a directive on June 10th instructing the Public Utility Commission and ERCOT to identify ways to protect residents and small businesses from these impacts. No action was taken under this agenda item.

h. **Update on Board vacancy**
General Manager Cockrell reported that staff distributed a press release announcing the Board vacancy and developed an online Expression of Interest Form for prospective candidates. Mr. Cockrell reported that one individual has expressed interest to date, and that information has been forwarded to the Board Search Committee. Mr. Cockrell also proposed establishing a priority application deadline to encourage additional qualified applicants. No action was taken under this agenda item.

i. **Update on Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Travis County**
General Manager Cockrell reported that the District has received reimbursement from Travis County for its first four FY 2026 invoices and submitted a fifth invoice covering May 2026 expenses. He also summarized remaining funding available under the agreement. No action was taken under this agenda item.

j. **Update on Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC Contested Case Hearing**
General Manager Cockrell reported that the contested case remains abated while settlement discussions continue. He also reported that the West Travis County Public Utility Agency has not yet acted on the proposed Hamilton Pool Road extension to serve the Mirasol development but may consider the matter at its July meeting. No action was taken under this agenda item.

7. **Board Committee Reports**

a. **Finance and Administrative**
No action was taken under this agenda item.

b. **Legislative**
District General Counsel Cole Ruiz reported that industry organizations, including the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, have begun developing legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. **Science**
Director Phillips reported that District staff recently collected groundwater-level measurements from wells in his neighborhood. No action was taken under this agenda item.

d. **Outreach**
No action was taken under this agenda item.

e. **Rules**
No action was taken under this agenda item.

f. **Search**
No action was taken under this agenda item.

8. **General Manager's Report**

a. **Permit Applications and Well Registrations**
General Manager Cockrell presented a summary of permit applications and well registrations received during May 2026. He reported that the District received two well registrations, four new well drilling authorization applications, one application to plug or cap an existing well, and eight long-term water utility service connection applications. Mr. Cockrell also reported that FY 2026 groundwater production to date totaled approximately 397.2 acre-feet (129.4 million gallons). No action was taken under this agenda item.

b. **Groundwater Science and Monitoring Program**
General Manager Cockrell presented recent groundwater-level monitoring data and reported that the UT Bureau of Economic Geology continues to collect data for its dye trace study at Reimers Ranch. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. **Public Outreach and Education**
No action was taken under this agenda item.

d. **Other Informational Items of Board Interest**
General Manager Cockrell announced upcoming meetings and events, including the Region K Regional Water Planning Group meeting on June 24, the House Natural Resources Committee interim hearing on data centers on June 23, the Texas Groundwater Summit on September 1–3 in San Antonio, and the next GMA 9 joint planning meeting on September 29 in Boerne following the close of the public comment period. Mr. Cockrell also reported that District staff plan to hold an internal workshop to evaluate and streamline the District's permitting process to improve application processing times.

9. **Future Board Meetings and Agenda Items**

a. **Regular July Meeting**
President Scadden reported that the next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the District's office.

10. **Adjournment**
Director Davis moved to adjourn the open meeting at 11:55 a.m. Motion seconded by Director Phillips. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 16th day of July, 2026.

Michael Leva

Michael Leva, Secretary Treasurer