



MEETING MINUTES

SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 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, February 19, 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 9:32 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026. Four directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum, including President Scadden, Director Leva, Director Davis, and Director Van Ackeren. Also present were General Manager Lane Cockrell; District Regulatory Compliance Specialist Virginia Smith; District Administrative and Hydrogeology Assistant Barbara Reyes; Charlie Flatten, General Manager for Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD); Laura Thomas, General Manager for Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (HTGCD); Rebecca Smyth, Travis County Senior Hydrogeologist; Ryan Irion with TDI Engineering; Lyle Williams, Joe Schaefer, and Alex Thompson with Bee Cave Drilling; Floyd Davis; and Brian Hunt with the UT Bureau of Economic Geology. The following individuals participated remotely by videoconference call: Audrey Cooper and Cole Ruiz with Lloyd Gosselink, Victoria Rose representing Save Our Springs Alliance, Tina Cooper with Austin Alliance Group, Radu Boghici with HTGCD, CJ Bennett with Bullock, Bennett & Associates, Travis County Commissioner Ann Howard, Brianna McBride with Travis County Commissioner Ann Howard's Office, Danna Oakes with Cypress Ranch WCID No. 1, Michael Ashby with Double Down Capital, and Landon Marino.

2. **Announcements**

No announcements were presented under this agenda item.

3. **Public Comments**

No in-person public comments were received. President Scadden noted one written comment submitted by Genea Browne on February 10, 2026, included in the agenda packet.

4. **Consent Agenda**

Director Davis moved to approve all items on the consent agenda (a-d). Motion seconded by Director Van Ackeren. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

- a. **Approve Minutes of January 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. **Approve January 2026 Financial Report**
- c. **Approve Payment of Outstanding Invoices**
- d. **Ratify Executed Master Technical Services Agreement with INTERA, Inc.**

5. **Discussion and Possible Action**

- a. **Accept Director Huber's resignation, effective January 16, 2026, and discuss resulting vacancy**

President Scadden reminded the Board that Director Huber submitted her resignation from the Board, effective January 16, 2026. Director Leva moved to accept Director Huber's resignation from the Board. Motion seconded by Director Van Ackeren. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent. Director Davis thanked Director Huber for her insight and service to the District. President Scadden proposed the appointment of a search committee to fill the at-large vacancy.

- b. **Update on Hamilton Pool & Reimers Ranch Source Water Protection Study**

Brian Hunt with the UT Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) presented a summary of the *Hamilton Pool & Reimers Ranch Source Water Study in Western Travis County, Texas*. Mr. Hunt noted that Travis County commissioned the study to be conducted by the BEG to better characterize and protect the spring systems in and around Hamilton Pool and Reimers Ranch. Director Davis and the Board thanked Mr. Hunt for his presentation and hard work. Rebecca Smyth with Travis County provided public comments, reporting that Travis County is interested in funding additional hydrogeologic research and that dye tracing studies have been limited by low rainfall. No action was taken under this agenda item.

- c. **Update on District Drought Stage and Conditions**

General Manager Cockrell reported that the District's current drought stage is D2 Severe Drought and presented a map reflecting drought conditions as of February 10, 2026, according to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor. Mr. Cockrell reported that 47% of the District is under severe drought (D2), and 53% of the District is under extreme drought (D3). Mr. Cockrell noted that more than 50% of the District has remained in D3 conditions for five consecutive weeks and recommended increasing the declared drought stage to D3, consistent with District Rules. Mr. Cockrell noted that under D3, new non-exempt wells are prohibited except to replace existing permitted wells. Mr. Cockrell noted that this restriction does not apply to exempt wells, and that the Board may approve new non-exempt wells if necessary to address an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare. Ryan Irion provided public comments under this item, asking what methodology the District uses to determine drought status. Mr. Cockrell explained that the District's primary drought stage trigger is the U.S. Drought Monitor, which integrates multiple drought indices and data to determine drought severity. Mr. Cockrell also noted that the Board may consider other relevant factors under District Rules. President Scadden

moved to approve the staff recommendation to increase the District drought stage to D3 Extreme Drought consistent with District Rules. Motion seconded by Director Davis. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

d. Requests for Reduced Setbacks or Spacing for Proposed New Wells

11018 Southwest Oaks

Mr. Cockrell presented a request for a reduced property-line setback for a proposed non-exempt well at 11018 Southwest Oaks. Mr. Cockrell noted that this item was previously considered in January and was tabled to allow staff to obtain additional information. Mr. Cockrell presented a site plan and summary of the application and applicable requirements, noting the property is within the West Travis County PUA service area but currently lacks access to a water line. Mr. Cockrell reported that the proposed Lower Trinity well would replace the existing Middle Trinity well on the property that is no longer reliable and will be capped. Mr. Cockrell reported that the proposed well location is approximately 55 feet from the road centerline and 75 feet from the nearest neighboring property line. Director Davis moved to accept the staff recommendation to approve a reduced property-line setback of no less than 50 feet, provided all setbacks are maintained from potential sources of contamination and existing wells completed in the same aquifer. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

11825 Yaupon Holly Lane

Mr. Cockrell presented a request for a reduced property-line setback for a proposed exempt domestic irrigation well at 11825 Yaupon Holly Lane. Mr. Cockrell presented a site plan and summary of the application and applicable requirements, noting the property is served by West Travis County PUA for indoor water use, and the proposed well would be used solely for residential irrigation. Mr. Cockrell reported that District staff recommend approval of a reduced property-line setback of no less than 80 feet, provided all setbacks are maintained from potential sources of contamination and existing wells completed in the same aquifer. President Scadden and Director Davis expressed concerns regarding the use of groundwater for irrigation where surface water service is available. Mr. Cole Ruiz, District General Counsel, confirmed that the Board may consider granting a variance but is not obligated to under the District Rules. President Scadden moved to deny the variance request. Motion seconded by Director Davis. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

e. Application for FY 2026 Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Groundwater Research, Science, and Data Collection Grants, including resolution confirming District eligibility, intent, and authorized representatives

President Scadden reported that the TWDB established the Groundwater Research, Science, and Data Collection Grant program provides funding to GCDs for groundwater science and data collection projects. President Scadden reported that he and District

staff are preparing an application and that the application requires Board adoption of a resolution authorizing application submittal and to address other requirements. Mr. Cockrell reported that, if awarded, grant funds would be used to drill two new Lower Trinity monitoring wells with Middle Trinity piezometers installed to allow data collection from both aquifers at each site. Director Davis moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-02, authorize President Scadden to execute necessary documentation, and designate General Manager Cockrell as the District's contact. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

f. **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**

Mr. Cockrell reported that the GMA 9 member districts are finalizing proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the current planning cycle. Mr. Cockrell reported that draft DFCs must be submitted for GMA 9 consideration, with GMA adoption of proposed DFCs by May 1, 2026, followed by a 90-day public comment period and hearings by each district. The deadline for final adoption of DFCs by GMA 9 and submittal of the explanatory report to the TWDB is January 25, 2027.

Mr. Cockrell reported that the current GMA 9 DFC for the Trinity Aquifer allows no more than 30 feet of average drawdown from 2008 levels. Mr. Cockrell noted that prior efforts by the District and HTGCD to develop district-specific DFCs based on local water-level and springflow data were not feasible due to model limitations and differing methodologies among other GMA 9 districts. Mr. Cockrell reported that GMA 9 is proceeding with Scenario 6 from TWDB GAM Task 10-005 using the existing Hill Country Groundwater Availability Model (GAM), which would allow approximately 28 feet of average drawdown within the District through 2080. Mr. Cockrell also presented an alternative DFC approach based on water-level data from the BSEACD multiport monitoring well in the District (State Well Number 58-41-408).

President Scadden thanked Mr. Cockrell for his efforts this planning cycle and acknowledged the limitations of the current Hill Country GAM. President Scadden reminded the Board that the District has a statutory obligation to participate in the GMA 9 planning process and expressed support for proposing a DFC based on the existing GAM, despite its limitations. Director Davis moved to propose a draft DFC for the Trinity Aquifer based on Scenario 6 from TWDB GAM Task 10-005, allowing for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 28 feet through 2080. Motion seconded by Director Van Ackeren. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

Mr. Cockrell also reported that GMAs may designate aquifers as non-relevant for joint planning purposes if districts determine that conditions do not warrant the adoption of a DFC. Mr. Cockrell recommended that all aquifers in the District other than the Trinity Aquifer be proposed as non-relevant for joint planning purposes. Director Davis moved

to propose classifying all aquifers within the District other than the Trinity Aquifer as non-relevant for the purpose of joint planning. Motion seconded by Director Van Ackeren. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

g. **Update on Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Travis County**

Mr. Cockrell thanked Rebecca Smyth for her assistance with the FY2026 agreement. Mr. Cockrell reported that District staff are preparing the first invoice under the current agreement for reimbursement of expenses incurred from October 1, 2025 to January 31, 2026, subject to County approval. No action was taken under this agenda item.

h. **Update on Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC Contested Case Hearing**

Mr. Cockrell provided an update to the Board regarding the status of the Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC contested case matter at the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Mr. Cockrell reported that the case remains abated until further notice, as Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC continues efforts to secure water service from West Travis County PUA. No action was taken under this agenda item.

i. **Participation in the Texas Well Owner Network “Well Informed” Program, including authorization to use District funds for water quality analyses**

Mr. Cockrell reported that the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service’s Texas Well Owner Network hosts a “Well Informed” educational program to offer well owners annual water testing for common contaminants including coliform, E. coli bacteria, nitrates, and high salinity. Mr. Cockrell reported that HTGCD and BSEACD participate in this program each year to encourage public engagement. Mr. Cockrell reported that testing costs \$15 per sample, and proposed allocating up to \$150 in District funds to cover testing costs for the first 10 District participants. The Board approved the use of up to \$150 of District funds by consensus to cover testing costs for the first 10 District participants. No action was taken under this agenda item.

j. **Administrative Committee responsibilities and authority to approve expenditures and payments**

President Scadden reported that the Administrative Committee met to discuss ways to streamline administrative processes. President Scadden requested that the item be tabled until a future meeting when more directors are present. No action was taken under this agenda item.

k. **Authorization for Aquifer Testing Under Test Well General Permits During D-3 or D-4 Drought Stages**

Crawford Rd, LLC – 4301 Crawford Road, Spicewood, TX 78669

General Manager Cockrell presented a request from Crawford Rd, LLC for authorization to conduct a 36-hour pumping test at a rate not to exceed 5 gallons per minute (GPM) from a single Lower Trinity Aquifer test well located at 4301 Crawford Road to evaluate

well performance in support of a proposed Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) public water supply well that would serve an indoor baseball training facility with an estimated daily demand of 800 gallons. Mr. Cockrell noted that Board authorization is required under District Rule 3.5(c)(6) for aquifer testing during D-3 Extreme or D-4 Exceptional Drought Stages under Test Well General Permits. Mr. Cockrell reported that District staff recommend authorizing the requested aquifer test, provided that groundwater produced during testing is used for beneficial purposes to the maximum extent feasible. Director Van Ackeren moved to approve the staff recommendation and authorize the requested aquifer test, provided that groundwater produced during testing is used for beneficial purposes to the maximum extent feasible. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

6. Board Committee Reports

a. Finance

No action was taken under this agenda item.

b. Legislative

Director Davis reported that the Texas Legislature may consider groundwater export projects and the need for additional groundwater districts in the state during the interim. Mr. Cole Ruiz noted that the House Natural Resources Committee is expected to review groundwater export regulation following the contentious export project in East Texas involving the Neches & Trinity Valleys GCD. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. Science

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. Administrative

No action was taken under this agenda item.

7. General Manager's Report

a. Permit Applications and Well Registrations

General Manager Cockrell presented a summary of permit applications and well registrations received by the District in January 2026. Mr. Cockrell reported that three new well drilling authorization applications, one new general permit application, and two long-term water utility service connections were submitted to the District in January

2026. Mr. Cockrell noted that reported production for fiscal year 2026 to date totals approximately 190.15 acre-feet (62 million gallons). Mr. Cockrell also provided a summary of proposed new wells requiring operating permit applications, which are currently under review by District staff and pending administrative completeness. No action was taken under this agenda item.

b. Groundwater Science and Monitoring Program

General Manager Cockrell presented an overview of the District's monitoring wells and recent water-level data from selected sites. Mr. Cockrell reported that Lower Trinity Aquifer levels have recovered in both the St. Stephen's monitoring well and Lakeside monitoring well since mid-December. Mr. Cockrell reported that water-level measurements in the Archangel irrigation well declined in mid-February as the school began bringing the well on for irrigation. 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

No action was taken under this agenda item.

8. Future Board Meetings and Agenda Items

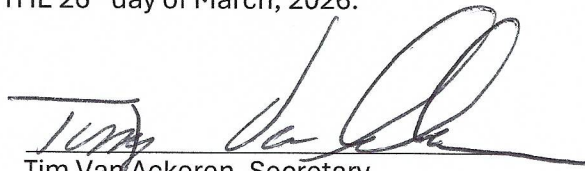
a. Regular March Meeting

President Scadden reported that the next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the District's office.

9. Adjournment

Director Davis moved to adjourn the open meeting at 12:23 p.m. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 26th day of March, 2026.



Tim Van Ackeren, Secretary