MEETING MINUTES

SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 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, May 21, 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, May 21, 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 Regulatory Compliance Specialist Virginia Smith, District Administrative and Hydrogeology Assistant Barbara Reyes, Cole Ruiz, District General Counsel, Lyle Williams and Chris Wilson with Bee Cave Drilling, Charlie Flatten, General Manager for the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, Aaron Glass with Centex Drilling, and Galt Graydon. The following individuals participated remotely by videoconference call: Audrey Cooper and Stephen Malish with Lloyd Gosselink, Lynn Cooling, Michael Miller, Heidi Gudelman, and Danna Oakes with Cypress Ranch WCID No. 1.

2. **Announcements**
   No announcements were presented under this agenda item.

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 16, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**
   b. **Approve April 2026 Financial Report**
   c. **Approve Payment of Outstanding Invoices**

5. **Public Hearings**

   a. **Proposed Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026**
   President Scadden called the public hearing on the proposed amendments to the budget for fiscal year 2026 to order at 9:35 a.m. A quorum of five directors remained present. General Manager Cockrell provided a presentation to the Board of Directors regarding the proposed amendments to the fiscal year 2026 budget by line-item. Consistent with recommendations from the District's auditor and standard governmental accounting practices, Mr. Cockrell reported that the District may amend its adopted budget during the fiscal year to address differences between budgeted and actual revenues or expenditures. No public comments were presented in-person or in writing regarding the proposed amended budget for fiscal year 2026. President Scadden closed the public hearing at 9:39 a.m. and reconvened the open meeting.

6. **Discussion and Possible Action**

   a. **Proposed Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026**
   General Manager Cockrell reported that there will be additional time before the end of the fiscal year to amend the budget for fiscal year 2026 again if needed. Director Davis moved to approve the amended budget for fiscal year 2026 as presented. Motion seconded by Director Urie. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

   b. **Update on District Drought Stage and Conditions**
   General Manager Cockrell reported that the District's current drought stage is D3 Extreme Drought and presented a map reflecting drought conditions as of May 14, 2026, according to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor. Mr. Cockrell reported that 66% of the District is under extreme drought (D3) and 34% of the District is under severe drought (D2) as of May 14, 2026. Mr. Cockrell recommended that the District remain at D3 Extreme Drought due to continued drought conditions throughout much of the District and reminded the Board that under D3 drought the District Rules prohibit the drilling of new non-exempt wells, except to replace an existing permitted well or under narrow circumstances needed to address public health, safety, or welfare. No action was taken under this agenda item.

   c. **Requests for Reduced Setbacks or Spacing for Proposed New Wells**
   General Manager Cockrell presented three requests for a reduced setback to the Board for consideration.

   4416 Blacksmith Cove
   Mr. Cockrell presented a request for a reduced property-line setback for a proposed exempt domestic well at 4416 Blacksmith Cove. 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 District staff recommended

approving a reduced property-line setback based on site specific limitations and the property's dimensions. Director Phillips moved to accept the staff recommendation and approve a reduced property-line setback for the proposed well to be located at 4416 Blacksmith Cove. Motion seconded by Director Davis. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

25261 Paleface Lake Drive
Mr. Cockrell presented a request for a reduced property-line setback for a proposed exempt domestic well at 25261 Paleface Lake 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 District staff recommended approving a reduced property-line setback based on site specific limitations and because the proposed well site maintains adequate setbacks from all septic components. Director Davis moved to accept the staff recommendation and approve a reduced property-line setback for the proposed well to be located at 25261 Paleface Lake Drive. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

9920 FM 1826
Mr. Cockrell presented a request for a reduced property-line setback for a proposed exempt domestic well at 9920 FM 1826. 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 this proposed well is intended to replace an existing domestic well that has stopped producing water, that the applicant is currently trucking in water for domestic indoor use, and that District staff recommended approving the reduced property-line setback request at the proposed well site. Director Davis moved to accept the staff recommendation and approve a reduced property-line setback for the proposed well to be located at 9920 FM 1826. Motion seconded by Director Phillips. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

d. **Authorization to develop a work order for the District's hydrogeologic consultant, INTERA, to evaluate potential impacts of proposed groundwater production associated with operating permit applications**
General Manager Cockrell reported that the District has an existing Master Services Agreement with INTERA and proposed drafting a work order for INTERA to support the technical review of operating permit applications. Mr. Cockrell reported that utilizing INTERA to review technical portions of applications and evaluate potential impacts of proposed production would reduce staff workload and help expedite the permit review processes. Mr. Cockrell noted that the fiscal year 2026 budget includes $10,000.00 earmarked for hydrogeologic consulting, which has not been expended yet, and that applications would be assigned selectively to INTERA for review to remain within budget. Director Davis and President Scadden expressed support for the proposal to help reduce the District's application backlog and reduce staff's technical review workload. President Scadden recommended that he and Mr. Cockrell contact INTERA to develop a

proposed task order to bring to the Board for consideration at a future board meeting. No action was taken under this agenda item.

e. **District Priorities for 90th Legislative Session**

General Manager Cockrell provided an update to the Board on potential priorities for the upcoming 90th Texas Legislative Session to further refine District objectives. Mr. Cockrell reported that he met with the Hill Country Alliance, Great Edwards Aquifer Alliance, and Laura Thomas at Hays Trinity GCD to discuss potential shared policy priorities for the next legislative session. Mr. Cockrell presented a short list of potential legislative priorities, including revisions to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code to allow districts to differentiate between beneficial groundwater use types in permitting decisions, revising the District's enabling act to increase the District's production fee cap, and expanding Texas Water Development Board ("TWDB") funding opportunities for groundwater science, monitoring, and joint planning. Mr. Cockrell reported that last legislative session the District worked with legislative staff to file a bill to raise the cap on its production fees from $0.20 per 1,000 gallons to $0.38 per 1,000 gallons, but that the bill was ultimately unsuccessful in passing. Director Davis reported that it would be helpful to have a report showing what groundwater districts across the state charge for their production fees to help demonstrate for legislators that the District's request is reasonable. Mr. Cockrell reported that he will check with the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts ("TAGD") to confirm if that information is available. Cole Ruiz reported that many districts across the state are funded by property taxes instead of production fees, which may make it difficult to compare. President Scadden proposed developing a breakdown by percentage of how much groundwater is produced in the District for various beneficial uses, to demonstrate how much water is used for irrigation compared to commercial use and exempt domestic use. Mr. Cockrell reported that it will also be important for the District to consider coordinating with legislators on committees focused on water and natural resources issues. No action was taken under this agenda item.

f. **Update on Board vacancy**

General Manager Cockrell provided an update to the Board on the Search Committee's efforts to fill the current at-large vacancy on the Board of Directors. Mr. Cockrell reported that staff are finalizing a press release to publicize the vacancy on the Board of Directors as well as the eligibility requirements to serve on the Board. The Board discussed seeking representation from portions of the District's territory that aren't currently represented on the Board. President Scadden reported that it would be helpful for the District to develop an informational form for interested persons to fill out for staff to verify if they meet the statutory eligibility requirements. No action was taken under this agenda item.

g. **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**

General Manager Cockrell provided an update to the Board of Directors on the status of joint planning at Groundwater Management Area 9 ("GMA 9"). Mr. Cockrell reported that the GMA 9 member districts approved proposed desired future conditions ("DFCs") on March 31, 2026, and that notice was mailed to the member districts on April 20, 2026, triggering a 90-day public comment period running through July 20, 2026. Mr. Cockrell reported that during this public comment period the District is required to conduct a public hearing to receive public comments on the proposed DFCs. Mr. Cockrell proposed scheduling the hearing on the District's proposed DFCs for the regular June board meeting. President Scadden asked whether the GMA 9 member districts have discussed developing a standardized methodology for determining compliance with the DFCs. Mr. Cockrell reported that the districts in GMA 9 have discussed standardizing but haven't reached a consensus on how to measure achievement of the DFCs. No action was taken under this agenda item.

h. **Update on Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Travis County**
General Manager Cockrell provided an update regarding the fiscal year 2026 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Travis County and reported that the District has received payment for its first three invoices covering eligible expenses from October 2025 through March 2026. Mr. Cockrell reported that a fourth invoice was submitted to Travis County for April 2026 expenses and is currently pending. Mr. Cockrell provided a summary of the funding categories under the 2026 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement, including the total dollar amount allocated, total invoiced to-date, and the remaining funding under each line-item. Mr. Cockrell reported that $45,724.14 of funding remains earmarked for groundwater studies and monitoring under the agreement. No action was taken under this agenda item.

i. **Update on Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC Contested Case Hearing**
General Manager Cockrell reported that the Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC contested case matter at the State Office of Administrative Hearings remains abated as the parties work through settlement negotiations. No action was taken under this agenda item.

7. **Board Committee Reports**

a. **Finance and Administrative**
President Scadden discussed that he asked the General Manager to combine the Finance Committee and the Administrative Committee. No further action was taken under this agenda item.

b. **Legislative**
Cole Ruiz reported that TAGD and the Texas Water Association have established their internal legislative committees to begin planning out priorities for the next session. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. **Science**
Director Phillips reported that he continues to collect springflow and groundwater level measurements from Middle and Lower Trinity wells in his area. He noted that recent rainfall has resulted in some recharge to the Middle Trinity Aquifer, while water levels in the Lower Trinity Aquifer continue to decline. General Manager Cockrell reported that Brian Hunt of the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology is scheduled to begin a new phase of the Reimers Ranch dye trace study the following week. No action was taken under this agenda item.

d. **Outreach**
General Manager Cockrell reported that staff continue to work on organizing a reunion of the Hamilton Pool Stakeholders group. He noted that the effort has been delayed in part due to staff turnover among participating organizations. 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 by the District in April 2026. Mr. Cockrell reported that two new well registrations, two new well drilling authorization applications, two applications to plug or cap an existing well, and one general permit application were submitted to the District in April 2026. Mr. Cockrell noted that reported production for fiscal year 2026 to date totals approximately 348.8 acre-feet (113.6 million gallons). President Scadden requested an update on the permit processing for Bentree RV Park. Mr. Cockrell reported that Bentree RV responded to the District's most recent request for information and that staff are working to request additional information regarding Bentree's groundwater use. 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. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. **Public Outreach and Education**
General Manager Cockrell presented a graph showing traffic to the District's website showing over 12,867 visitors to the website over the last 12 months, including 1,439 visitors in April 2026. No action was taken under this agenda item.

d. **Other Informational Items of Board Interest**
General Manager Cockrell reported that a County-to-County Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cibolo Center for Conservation in Boerne, Texas. Mr. Cockrell reported that the next Lower Colorado River (Region K) Regional Water Planning Group meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2026, at the LCRA Service Center in Austin, Texas. Mr. Cockrell reminded the Board that the Texas Groundwater Summit is scheduled for September 1 through 3 at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Cockrell reported that the District's fiscal year 2025 financial audit is underway, and that staff are coordinating with the District's auditor to provide them with needed documentation. No action was taken under this agenda item.

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

a. **Regular June Meeting**
President Scadden reported that the next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the District's office.

b. **Public hearing on proposed DFCs**
President Scadden reported that the District will also conduct a public hearing on the proposed Desired Future Conditions for GMA 9 during the meeting on June 18, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the District's office.

10. **Adjournment**
Director Davis moved to adjourn the open meeting at 11:21 a.m. Motion seconded by Director Phillips. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 18st day of June, 2026.

Michael Leva

Michael Leva, Secretary