



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

A quorum of the Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors held a regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 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 Wednesday, October 9, 2024. Six directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum, including President Scadden, Director Leva, Director Phillips, Director Davis, Director Huber, and Director Van Ackeren. Also present were General Manager Lane Cockrell, District Regulatory Compliance Specialist Virginia Smith, District Administrative and Hydrogeology Assistant Barbara Reyes, Ty Embrey with Lloyd Gosselink, Natalie Crowe with Hays Trinity GCD, Vince Clause, P.G., with LRE Water, Jordan Furnans, PhD, P.E., P.G., with LRE Water, and Richard Kenyon with the Cypress Ranch WCID No. 1 Board. The following individuals participated remotely by videoconference call: Audrey Cooper with Lloyd Gosselink, Ed McCarthy representing Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC, CJ Bennett, G.I.T., with Bullock, Bennett & Associates representing Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC, Kyle McDaniel with JPD Backyard Finance, LLC, and Radu Boghici, P.G., hydrogeologist with Hays Trinity GCD.
2. **Announcements** – No announcements.
3. **Public Comments** – No public comments were presented.
4. **Discuss and possibly act on approving previous meeting minutes** – President Scadden presented the draft minutes for the September 18, 2024 regular board meeting and public hearings to the Board for review and consideration. A motion was made by Director Davis to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.
5. **Receive, discuss, and possibly act on presentation regarding *Hydrostratigraphic Model of the Trinity Aquifer for Portions of Bell, Burnet, Travis, and Williamson Counties*** – General Manager Cockrell introduced Vince Clause, P.G., with LRE Water, who provided a presentation to the Board of Directors regarding the hydrostratigraphic model LRE Water developed for the Trinity Aquifer in portions of Bell, Burnet, Travis, and Williamson counties. Vince Clause reported that several groundwater districts in central Texas collaborated on the development of this model, including Clearwater UWCD, Central Texas GCD, and the District, with financial support from Travis County and additional contributions by the UT Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG). Vince Clause provided a presentation to the Board regarding the project background, study area, geologic setting,

methodology, and key findings and results. President Scadden asked whether data collected in this regional study will be included in the updated Hill County Groundwater Availability Model (GAM). General Manager Cockrell and Vince Clause reported that staff at TWDB are aware of the regional study, but that work might be too far along for data from this project to be included in the updated GAM. President Scadden thanked Vince Clause for his presentation, and General Manager Cockrell requested that the Board provide any comments or feedback regarding the report as LRE Water works to finalize it. No action taken under this agenda item.

6. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to renewing agreement with INTERA for hydrogeologic consulting services** – President Scadden reminded the Board that INTERA was engaged by the District to conduct an initial hydrogeologic review of Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC’s permit application. As Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC’s permit application has been referred to the State Office of Administrative Hearings (“SOAH”), President Scadden reported that the District will need to renew their engagement with INTERA if INTERA is to provide any testimony in connection with the contested case hearing. President Scadden reported that INTERA’s renewed engagement is a time and materials contract, and reported that INTERA won’t undertake any work without express Board approval. A motion was made by Director Huber to authorize General Manager Cockrell to execute the updated master services agreement and work order between the District and INTERA. Motion seconded by Director Van Ackeren. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.
7. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to renewing agreement with Montemayor Britton Bender PC for auditing services** – General Manager Cockrell reported that he is working to coordinate with Montemayor Britton Bender, PC, to prepare an engagement agreement for the District’s fiscal year 2024 financial audit, however a draft agreement was not prepared in time for the Board meeting. A motion was made by Director Davis to authorize General Manager Cockrell and President Scadden to negotiate and execute an agreement with Montemayor Britton Bender, PC, with a not-to-exceed amount equivalent to the District’s budgeted amount for auditing services. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.
8. **Receive, discuss, and possibly act on update regarding contested case hearings** – General Manager Cockrell reported that he is working with the District’s counsel to designate expert witnesses for the Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC contested case at SOAH. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District’s counsel is also working with JPD Backyard Finance to compile the background information needed to docket that contested case with SOAH. No action taken under this agenda item.
9. **Receive, discuss, and take action as necessary on Board Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Finance** – General Manager Cockrell provided a report to the Board regarding the financial reports dated September 30, 2024. The balance sheet indicated assets totaling \$174,055.66, and liabilities totaling \$4,278.68. The fiscal year to date profit and loss report indicated expenses totaling \$426,945.30, gross profit totaling \$363,362.34, and net income totaling \$-63,520.76 through September 2024. General Manager Cockrell provided a summary of the checks issued by the District since the last board meeting, a summary of expenses by vendor, and a fiscal year to date summary of revenue and expenses by budgetary line item.

- b. **Legislative** – Ty Embrey reported that the Senate Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs Committee held an interim hearing on September 3, 2024, primarily focused on the development of new water supplies in the state. Ty Embrey reported that the House Natural Resources Committee held an interim hearing on September 24, and that five members of the Committee are retiring, including Chairman King. Ty Embrey also reported that the TWCA legislative committee is studying potential legislation regarding drought contingency and water supplies.
- c. **Science** – No action taken under this agenda item.
- d. **Outreach** – No action taken under this agenda item.
- e. **Rules** – No action taken under this agenda.

10. **General Manager's Report:**

- a. **Summary of permitting, application, and registration inquiries and submissions** – General Manager Cockrell provided a summary of the permit applications and well registrations received by the District during the month of September. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District received one (1) new well registration, two (2) new well drilling authorization applications, one (1) application to plug or cap an existing well, and five (5) water utility service connections. General Manager Cockrell reported that total groundwater production reported by permittees for the month of September was 36.3 acre-feet (approximately 11.8 million gallons).

Richard Kenyon with the Cypress Ranch WCID #1 provided public comment to the Board regarding the lengthy permit processing times at the District. President Scadden requested that District staff follow up with Mr. Kenyon to discuss the permit applications submitted by Cypress Ranch WCID #1, and noted that the District has hired additional staff to help address application processing times.

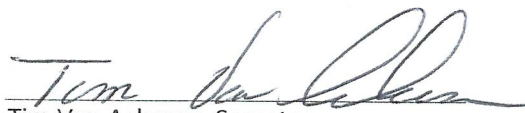
- b. **Regulatory items and updates related to TWDB, TCEQ, GMAs, and other organizations** – General Manager Cockrell reported that the next Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K) meeting will be held on October 16, 2024 at the LCRA offices in Austin. General Manager Cockrell reported that the next GMA 9 joint planning meeting is currently scheduled for December 17, 2024 at the Cow Creek GCD offices in Boerne, Texas, and that a remote videoconference option will be available. General Manager Cockrell reported that District staff recently met with staff from the City of Lakeway and Travis County WCID No. 17 to discuss how the District's permitting requirements overlap with the City and the WCID's rules and requirements.
- c. **Overview of current District groundwater monitoring program** – General Manager Cockrell presented a hydrograph for the District's Lakeside monitoring well, showing water-level data for the Middle and Lower Trinity aquifers and Lake Travis levels. General

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Manager Cockrell also presented a summary table for the Lakeside monitoring well, showing how current levels compare to levels from October 2023 and October 2022.

- d. **Other items of interest not requiring Board action** – No action taken under this agenda item.
11. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to District drought stage status** – General Manager Cockrell reported that the District's current declared drought stage is D-1 Moderate Drought. General Manager Cockrell presented a map from the U.S. Drought Monitor showing drought conditions in Travis County through October 1, 2024, which reflects that nearly all of the District is currently experiencing D-0 Abnormally Dry conditions. Director Davis reported that the southwest corner of the District, where she lives, is experiencing more severe drought conditions, and that they haven't had rain in more than two months. General Manager Cockrell recommended that the District remain at the current declared D-1 Moderate Drought stage. No action taken under this agenda item.
12. **Receive, discuss, and possibly act on updates regarding FY 2024 and FY 2025 Interlocal Cooperation Agreements with Travis County** – General Manager Cockrell reported that he submitted one final invoice under the fiscal year 2024 interlocal agreement to Travis County for approval. General Manager Cockrell reported that all funding allocations included in the fiscal year 2024 agreement were utilized by the District. No action taken under this agenda item.
13. **Discuss and establish possible agenda items for future Board Meetings** – President Scadden reported that the November meeting will include discussion regarding holiday scheduling and whether or not the Board will meet in December.
14. **Discuss and possibly act on setting the date, time, and location for the next Board Meeting** – The Board discussed conducting a special workshop to focus on the report from the Hamilton Pool Management Zone Stakeholder Group and the associated recommendations. The workshop date was set for 9:30 AM on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 in the District office. President Scadden reported that the next regular board meeting will be held on November 13, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the District's office.
15. **Adjourn** – A motion was made by Director Davis to adjourn the open meeting at 11:41 p.m. Motion seconded by Director Phillips. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 13th day of November, 2024.


Tim Van Ackeren, Secretary