SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY
GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 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, April 16, 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, April 16, 2026. Five directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum, including President Scadden, Director Davis, Director Leva, Director Phillips, and Director Van Ackeren. 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, and Julie Joe, Assistant Travis County Attorney. The following individuals participated remotely by videoconference call: Audrey Cooper with Lloyd Gosselink, Danna Oakes with Cypress Ranch WCID No. 1, Kim Jones with Austin Alliance Group, Travis Roberts with PSI Environmental, and Michael.

2. **Announcements**
   President Scadden wished General Manager Cockrell a happy birthday and thanked him for his service to the District. Separately, General Manager Cockrell reminded the Board that President Scadden was interviewed by the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District for an article on rainwater harvesting which is now available online. Mr. Cockrell also reminded the Board that he was interviewed by Community Impact Newspaper for an upcoming article on drought conditions and impacts on groundwater.

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 Leva. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

   a. **Approve Minutes of March 26, 2026 Regular Board Meeting**
   b. **Approve March 2026 Financial Report**
   c. **Approve Payment of Outstanding Invoices**

d. **Ratify Payments Approved by Administrative Committee**

5. **Discussion and Possible Action**

a. **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 April 7, 2026, according to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor. Mr. Cockrell reported that 34% of the District is under severe drought (D2), and 66% of the District is under extreme drought (D3) as of April 7, 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. Mr. Cockrell reminded the Board that in order to declare a lower drought stage at least 50% of the District territory must experience lower drought severity for a minimum of four consecutive weeks, however the majority of the District has been under D3 drought since February 24, 2026. No action was taken under this agenda item.

b. **Requests for Reduced Setbacks or Spacing for Proposed New Wells**
General Manager Cockrell reported that there were no requests for Board consideration this month. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. **Authorization for Aquifer Testing Under Test Well General Permits During D-3 or D-4 Drought Stage**
General Manager Cockrell reported that there were no requests for Board consideration this month. No action was taken under this agenda item.

d. **Update on Board vacancy**
President Scadden reminded the Board that a Search Committee consisting of Directors Davis, Phillips, and Van Ackeren, was appointed in March to identify and evaluate potential candidates for appointment to fill the at-large vacancy on the Board of Directors. General Manager Cockrell reported that he is working to develop a press release that directors could distribute to interested people in the community to outline eligibility requirements and provide an overview of the commitment of serving on the Board. No action was taken under this agenda item.

e. **District Priorities for 90th Legislative Session**
General Manager Cockrell provided a presentation to the Board regarding potential priorities for the District for the upcoming 90th Texas Legislative Session. Mr. Cockrell reported that other stakeholder organizations, including the Hill Country Alliance, have identified several potential policy considerations relevant to groundwater districts, and that the District could benefit from coordinating with other stakeholder organizations

and groundwater districts in central Texas on common goals. Mr. Cockrell highlighted several potential policy areas, including requesting additional funding for groundwater science and data collection, and grant funds or expanded support from the Texas Water Development Board ("TWDB") for joint planning and modeling expenses. Mr. Cockrell reminded the Board that the District coordinated with its legislators last session to submit local bills to increase the cap on the District's production fees, which ultimately were not successful in passing. President Scadden asked the District's counsel whether the Texas Attorney General's office could be required to defend groundwater districts in future litigation, as districts are a political subdivision of the State of Texas. Mr. Cole Ruiz, District general counsel, reported that issue has been raised during past legislative sessions, but that it hasn't gotten much traction. Mr. Cockrell reported that the District and others could pursue legislation to clarify various terms under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, including "waste", "conservation", and what constitutes a "beneficial use". Mr. Cockrell also reported that the District and others could pursue legislation clarifying the authority of districts within the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area related to regulate vanity ponds. Mr. Cole Ruiz reported that if the District is interested in pursuing legislation focused on district funding mechanisms again next session, the District could begin with coordinating with Rep. Goodwin's staff to re-file the District's bill from last session. Mr. Ruiz reported that next legislative session is likely to be a big session for water issues, including water utility infrastructure, groundwater, and surface water, and the District would benefit from keeping in contact with its legislators on its policy priorities. No action was taken under this agenda item.

f. **Preliminary Draft Amended FY2026 Budget**

General Manager Cockrell provided a presentation to the Board regarding the preliminary draft amended budget for fiscal year 2026. Mr. Cockrell reported that mid-year budget amendments are standard practice and are recommended by the District's auditor to address variances between budgeted line items and actual revenues and expenditures, and reported that the District's Bylaws require the Board to hold a public hearing to receive feedback on a proposed amended budget before adoption. Mr. Cockrell presented a draft amended budget for fiscal year 2026 with columns reflecting the original budgeted amount for each line item, the actual dollar amount spent through March 31, 2026, the proposed amended budget amount for each, and the change in dollar amount, if any. Upon review, President Scadden requested that the line item for mileage reimbursement be increased from $2,000.00 to $3,000.00 to account for projected reimbursements for the remainder of the fiscal year. Kim Jones, the District's bookkeeper with Austin Alliance Group, provided comments under this agenda item and reported that she reviewed the draft amended budget and did not have any recommended changes. Mr. Cockrell reported that he will revise the draft amended budget for consideration at the Board's regular May meeting. The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on the proposed amended budget at that meeting. 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 reported that GMA 9 proposed desired future conditions ("DFCs") on March 31, 2026 for the current round of joint planning. Mr. Cockrell reported that the proposed DFC for the Trinity Aquifer allows up to 30 feet of average drawdown across GMA 9 through 2080, relative to 2008 baseline conditions. Mr. Cockrell reported that the proposed DFC specifies average drawdown for each member district, which includes approximately 28 feet of average drawdown in the District. Mr. Cockrell reported that the next step in the joint planning process will be a 90-day public comment period, during which each member district in GMA 9 is required to hold a public hearing and seek public input on the proposed DFCs. After the public comment period, Mr. Cockrell reported that the GMA 9 member districts will prepare a summary of any public comments received and report those back to GMA 9 for consideration. Mr. Cockrell reported that the deadline to adopt final DFCs for relevant aquifers following public comment is January 25, 2027. Mr. Cockrell reported that the District could schedule its public hearing on the proposed DFCs for either May or June, depending on availability. No action was taken under this agenda item.

h. **Update on Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Travis County**
President Scadden thanked Julie Joe, Assistant Travis County Attorney, for her support and assistance with the District's interlocal cooperation agreement with Travis County. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District has received payment from Travis County for its first two invoices under the fiscal year 2026 agreement, covering eligible expenses from October 2025 through February 2026. He noted that the District has submitted its third invoice, for March 2026 expenses, to Travis County staff and it is currently pending approval. Mr. Cockrell thanked Kim Jones and Austin Alliance Group for their assistance in streamlining the District's ILA invoicing process. He also provided a summary of the fiscal year 2026 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement funding categories, including the amount allocated, invoiced to date, and remaining for each category. Mr. Cockrell reported that roughly $59,319.49 of funding remains under the fiscal year 2026 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. Mr. Cockrell reported that West Travis County PUA is considering a revised route for the potential service line to reach the Mirasol Development utilizing public right-of-way easements. No action was taken under this agenda item.

6. **Board Committee Reports**

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

b. **Legislative**
Cole Ruiz reported that Texas House and Senate committees have begun scheduling hearings on the interim charges for both chambers. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. **Science**
General Manager Cockrell reported that Brian Hunt with the UT Bureau of Economic Geology is beginning the next phase of the dye trace study at Reimer's Ranch. 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 March 2026. Mr. Cockrell reported that three new well registrations, four new well drilling authorization applications, and four applications to plug or cap an existing well were submitted to the District in March 2026. Mr. Cockrell noted that reported production for fiscal year 2026 to date totals approximately 305.6 acre-feet (99.6 million gallons). 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 water-level declines in both the St. Stephen's and Beckelman monitoring wells since October 2025. Mr. Cockrell reported that data collected from the Archangel Lower Trinity irrigation well shows almost 50 feet of decline during production periods. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. **Public Outreach and Education**
Virginia Smith provided a presentation to the Board on the District's online interactive map, a publicly available tool that shows the District's jurisdiction, HPMZ boundaries,

U.S. Drought Monitor conditions, parcels, subdivisions, Travis County Commissioner Precincts, surface geology, monitoring well sites, and more. Virginia Smith provided a demonstration to the Board showing the data and information available through the interactive map. Virginia Smith demonstrated how the interactive map could be used by permit applicants to ensure compliance with the District's spacing requirements for proposed wells. No action was taken under this agenda item.

d. **Other Informational Items of Board Interest**
General Manager Cockrell reported that the District is coordinating with Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and Hays Trinity GCD to conduct an Introduction to Rainwater Harvesting event for the public on April 28, 2026 in Dripping Springs, and that over a hundred people have registered to attend. Mr. Cockrell reported that the next Region K meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2026 at the LCRA Service Center in Austin, and that the Texas Alliance of Groundwater District's annual Texas Groundwater Summit is scheduled for September 1 through 3 at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio, Texas. Virginia Smith provided an update to the Board on the implementation of the My Government Online permitting platform. Mr. Cockrell reported that the TWDB has proposed brackish groundwater production zones for the southern Trinity Aquifer, and a stakeholder meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2026 to discuss public comments. No action was taken under this agenda item.

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

a. **Special Meeting**
President Scadden reported that the District will hold a special meeting on April 22, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Bee Cave City Hall.

b. **Regular May Meeting**
President Scadden reported that the next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the District's office.

9. **Adjournment**
Director Davis moved to adjourn the open meeting at 12:06 p.m. Motion seconded by Director Phillips. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 21st day of May, 2026.

Richard A Scadden
Richard A Scadden for
Tim Van Ackeren, Secretary