



# **BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

## **SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 9:00 am**

In accordance with the order of the Office of the Governor issued March 16, 2020, the SWTCGCD Board of Directors conducted its June 9, 2021 regular board meeting and public hearings as remote access only meetings in order to advance the public health goal of limiting face-to-face meetings (also called “social distancing”) to slow the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The meeting and public hearings were open to the public and instructions for accessing the remote meeting 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 9:01 am on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Six Directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum, including Directors Dower, Hennings, Hunt, Van Ackeren, Davis, and Scadden. Director Urie was absent. Also present were Cole Ruiz and Ty Embrey with Lloyd Gosselink, Kodi Sawin, Virginia Smith, Kristen Loflin, Pete Golde, and Kirk Holland.
2. **Public comments** – No public comments were presented.
3. **Public Hearing to receive input from the public regarding Proposed Amendments to the District Rules** – The public meeting closed and the public hearing was called to order at 9:03 am by President Scadden. President Scadden reported that the District’s proposed rule amendments include the clarification of domestic use under the District Rules, and revisions to the minimum requirements for horizontal spacing of wells. Director Davis raised a question regarding the difference between watering animals kept domestically as pets and livestock under the rule amendments. Cole Ruiz and Ty Embrey presented answers to Director Davis’ questions regarding domestic use and the supplemental use of water for livestock. Kirk Holland provided comments regarding the changes to the definition of domestic use under the District Rules. No action taken. The public hearing on proposed amendments to the District Rules was adjourned at 9:15 am by President Scadden.
4. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to proposed amendments to the District Rules** – The Board returned to open meeting at 9:16 am. A motion was made by Director Van Ackeren to adopt the proposed amendments to the District Rules as revised after receiving public comment. Motion seconded by Director Davis. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.
5. **Public Hearing to receive input from the public regarding GMA 9 Proposed Desired Future Conditions and Relevant Aquifer Designations** – The public meeting closed and the public hearing on the proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) of Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9) was called to order at 9:18 am by President Scadden. President Scadden and Director Hunt provided an explanation of the proposed DFCs for GMA 9 and the joint planning process to the Board. The proposed DFC for the District allows for an increase in average drawdown of approximately 30 feet



through 2060 in the Trinity Aquifer. Discussion regarding boundary changes to GMA 9 regarding Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and average drawdown of the Trinity Aquifer. Virginia Smith presented questions regarding the meaning of average drawdown for the aquifer. Kristen Loflin presented public comments regarding data available to the District regarding the Trinity Aquifer and questioned whether 30 feet of drawdown is achievable for the Trinity Aquifer. No action taken. The Public Hearing was closed at 9:46 am.

6. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to GMA 9 Proposed Desired Future Conditions and Relevant Aquifer Conditions** – The Board returned to open meeting at 9:47 am. Ty Embrey and Kirk Holland provided the Board with information regarding the next steps in the joint planning process with GMA 9. No action taken.
7. **Discuss and possibly act on approving previous meeting minutes** – A motion was made by Director Dower to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 regular board meeting. Motion seconded by Director Hennings. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.
8. **Receive, discuss, and take action as necessary for Board Committee Reports:**
  - a. **Finance** – Pete Golde provided a report to the Board regarding the financial reports dated June 4, 2021 in Director Urie’s absence. The balance sheet indicated assets totaling \$45,085.27 and liabilities totaling \$0.00. The profit and loss report indicated expenses totaling \$19,796.26, and net income totaling \$22,669.68. Pete Golde also provided a summary of the check detail report dated May 8, 2021 to June 4, 2021, and a summary of the District’s current financial position in fiscal year 2021. President Scadden presented that the Board will need to begin working on a budget for the next fiscal year in the coming months, and that the District will need to submit certain financial statements to Travis County. No action taken.
  - b. **Legislative** – Ty Embrey and Director Davis provided a report to the Board regarding the end of the regular legislative session at the Texas Legislature. Ty Embrey reported that no changes were made to Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, or to the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ty Embrey reported that Governor Abbott’s current suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act is still in effect, allowing the Board to meet remotely by videoconference. Director Davis reported that she has been in communication with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor regarding relevant legislation. No action taken.
  - c. **Science-Outreach** – Director Hennings reported that she has reserved space for the District to have a booth set up at the City of West Lake Hills National Night Out event in October 2021. Director Hunt reported that he is continuing to work on developing monitoring well sites for the District’s use, and that one monitoring well has been drilled for the District at Reimers Ranch. Director Dower provided a report to the Board on the District’s website traffic and reminded the Board about the required cybersecurity training course for Board members. No action taken.



9. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to implementing District Rules** – Kodi Sawin and Virginia Smith presented that no current action is needed regarding implementing the District Rules. No action taken.
10. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to District audit** – Director Davis reported that she has spoken with a potential auditor for the District about obtaining an engagement letter for the District’s fiscal year 2021 financial audit. No action taken.
11. **Discuss and establish possible agenda items for future Board meetings** – Director Dower requested that an item be added to the agenda to discuss and act on the draft fiscal year 2022 budget. No action taken.
12. **Discuss and possibly act on setting the date, time, and location for next Board meeting** – President Scadden reported that he and Director Davis will not be available to attend a meeting on July 14, 2021. Discussion regarding rescheduling date of next regular Board meeting to July 21, 2021 at 9:00 am. President Scadden stated that if the Board is able to meet remotely by videoconference the meeting will commence at 9:00 am, but if the Board meets in person the meeting will commence at 10:00 am.
13. **Adjourn** – A motion was made by Director Davis to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 am. Motion seconded by Director Dower. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 8th day of September 2021.

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Tim Van Ackeren, Secretary