



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

A quorum of the Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, January 10, 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 9:34 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. Six directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum, including President Scadden, Director Leva, Director Hunt, Director Davis, Director Norton, and Director Van Ackeren. Also present were General Manager Lane Cockrell and District Regulatory Compliance Specialist Virginia Smith, Jim Truitt with Mirasol Capital and Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC, Charlie Flatten, General Manager for Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District ("Hays Trinity GCD"), and Pete Golde. The following individuals participated remotely by videoconference call: Ty Embrey, Cole Ruiz, and Audrey Cooper with Lloyd Gosselink; Ed McCarthy representing Mirasol Capital and Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC; CJ Bennett with Bullock, Bennett & Associates, LLC and Rusty Tarver with Tarver Geologic Services, LLC, as representatives for Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC; Vicky Kennedy and Jon White with Travis County; Rebecca Smyth with the UT Bureau of Economic Geology; Radu Boghici with Hays Trinity GCD; Tom Smith, Christy Muse, and Eric (no last name provided), resident.
- 2. Announcements** – General Manager Cockrell thanked the Board of Directors for their well wishes ahead of his paternity leave in December and for their congratulations upon his return.
- 3. Public Comments** – Tom Smith presented public comments to the Board of Directors regarding the Mirasol Springs development and reported that the Hays Trinity GCD Board recently issued their draft permit for the portion of the development in Hays County. Mr. Smith expressed general support for the Hays Trinity GCD draft permit but plans to request a contested case hearing to seek additional restrictions. General Manager Cockrell reported that he will provide a copy of Hays Trinity GCD's draft permit to the Board for review.
- 4. Discuss and possibly act on approving previous meeting minutes** – President Scadden presented the draft minutes for November 8, 2023 to the Board for consideration. A motion was made by Director Van Ackeren to approve the minutes for November 8, 2023. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent. President Scadden presented the draft minutes for November 29, 2023 to the Board for consideration. A motion was made by Director Davis to approve the minutes for November 29, 2023. Motion seconded by Director Hunt. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.
- 5. Receive, discuss, and take action as necessary on Board Committee Reports:**



- a. **Finance** – Pete Golde provided a report to the Board regarding the financial reports dated December 31, 2023. The balance sheet indicated assets totaling \$151,301.94, and liabilities totaling \$4,153.68. The fiscal year to date profit and loss report indicated expenses totaling \$113,362.90, gross profit totaling \$27,151.22, and net income totaling \$-86,149.48 through December 2023. Pete Golde provided a summary of the checks issued by the District since the last board meeting, a summary of expenses by vendor, a fiscal-year-to-date summary of expenses by budgetary line item, and the reconciliation change report for the District’s general fund and escrow accounts. Pete Golde reported on several bugs he’s experienced in Quickbooks that make it appear as if the District has two general fund checking accounts, when in reality there is only one. Pete Golde reported that he is working with Quickbooks’ support service to try to resolve this issue, but suggested that the Board may consider hiring a CPA to prepare the District’s financial statements in the future.
- b. **Legislative** – Director Davis reported that Texas Senate committees may begin conducting their interim studies soon. Ty Embrey reported that party primary elections will be held on March 5, 2024, so many legislators are focused on campaigning. Ty Embrey reported that the Senate Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs Committee may hold their interim hearing later this spring.
- c. **Science & Outreach** – General Manager Cockrell reported that the UT Bureau of Economic Geology (“BEG”) plans to drill three new monitoring wells in the Hamilton Pool area, two of which will be Lower Trinity Aquifer wells, and one Middle Trinity Aquifer well. General Manager Cockrell reported that the UT BEG also plans to conduct a dye trace near Reimers Ranch this spring or summer, depending on hydrologic conditions. President Scadden asked whether the monitoring wells were being installed by Travis County, the District, or the UT BEG. General Manager Cockrell reported that the wells were a collaborative project by the UT BEG and Travis County. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District’s website received 655 and 518 unique visits during November and December respectively. President Scadden reported that he made comments at the City of Bee Cave City Council meeting on January 9, 2024, regarding the ongoing drought and his November-2023 reelection as the City of Bee Cave representative to the SWTCGCD.
- d. **Rules** – General Manager Cockrell reported that the Rules Subcommittee is working to develop a definition for “export” to be included in the District’s Rules, and that the Subcommittee has looked at other district’s rules for guidance.

6. **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 months of November and December. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District received three (3) new well registrations and four (4) well drilling authorization applications for new wells during the month of November 2023. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District received



one (1) new water utility service connection in November, and that reported production for the month showed 37.7 acre-feet (12.3 million gallons) total. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District received five (5) new well registrations, two (2) new well drilling authorization applications for new wells, and one (1) application to plug or cap an existing well during the month of December. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District received eight (8) water utility service connections in December. Reported production for the month of December showed 35.9 acre-feet (11.7 million gallons) in total.

- b. **Regulatory items and updates related to TWDB, TCEQ, GMAs, and other organizations** – General Manager Cockrell reported that the next GMA 9 Joint Planning Committee meeting will be held on January 23, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cow Creek GCD offices in Boerne, Texas. General Manager Cockrell reported that the next TAGD business meeting will be held on January 30 and 31 in Round Rock, Texas, and that the registration deadline for the meeting is January 19. General Manager Cockrell reported that TAGD is seeking candidates for executive director.
  - c. **Overview of current District groundwater monitoring program** – General Manager Cockrell reported that the District’s new monitoring well north of Lake Travis was completed in December, though he has not yet installed transducers on the well. General Manager Cockrell presented a hydrograph showing Middle Trinity Aquifer levels in the western portion of the District. General Manager Cockrell reported that water levels in the well have rebounded slightly.
  - d. **Other items of interest not requiring Board action** – General Manager Cockrell reported that the District’s office will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, consistent with Travis County’s holiday schedule. General Manager Cockrell reported that the District’s auditor has begun work on the District’s fiscal year 2023 financial audit.
7. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to District drought stage status** – General Manager Cockrell presented a map showing drought conditions in the District and Travis County through January 2, 2024. The entire District is currently under D3 Severe Drought. Director Norton reported that the draft map presented by the Texas State Climatologist for this week showed portions of Travis County under D2 drought. General Manager Cockrell emphasized that despite improvements from recent rains, the District is still experiencing drought conditions and that lake levels are still about 50 feet below full. No action taken under this agenda item.
  8. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to stakeholder process for Hamilton Pool Management Zone, including potential professional services contract for facilitator** – This agenda item was taken out of number order due to time constraints. General Manager Cockrell reminded the Board and the public that the Board instructed General Manager Cockrell and President Scadden to work with Christy Muse to develop a scope of work and draft agreement for her to act as the facilitator for the District’s Hamilton Pool Management Zone stakeholder process. General Manager Cockrell reported



that the facilitator agreement proposes that stakeholder meetings will begin in late February 2024, and that five total meetings will be held from February through June 2024. General Manager Cockrell reported that at the end of the stakeholder meeting process, Christy Muse will prepare a summary report for the Board documenting the stakeholder process and final recommendations for the Hamilton Pool Management Zone. General Manager Cockrell reported that the total proposed cost to hire Christy Muse to serve as a facilitator to run the stakeholder group is \$27,000.00. President Scadden expressed concerns regarding the lump sum nature of the facilitator agreement and warned that if the level of effort ends up being more than initially anticipated Christy Muse would only be paid the same lump sum regardless of hours worked. Director Davis asked whether directors will be allowed to participate in the stakeholder process. General Manager Cockrell reported that directors could attend for informational purposes, but that notice would need to be posted if a quorum is present. Christy Muse thanked the Board for the opportunity and reported that she is open to answer any further questions. Director Norton asked who would be drafting the final rules for the management zone. General Manager Cockrell reported that the Rules Subcommittee would be responsible for drafting rules for board consideration and that the full District board would have the final decision on adopting any new Rules. A motion was made by Director Hunt to approve the scope of work and facilitator agreement with Christy Muse. Motion seconded by Director Norton. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

General Manager Cockrell presented a list of proposed stakeholders to be invited to participate in the District's stakeholder meetings for the Hamilton Pool Management Zone. General Manager Cockrell reported that list included landowners, neighborhoods and communities, governmental entities, businesses and developments, and water utilities to ensure diverse interests are represented. General Manager Cockrell asked whether the Board prefers to limit stakeholder participation to stakeholders with property located within the management zone. Jim Truitt with Mirasol Capital and Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC provided public comments and reported that the Mirasol Springs development has created a municipal utility district and asked that the municipal utility district board of directors be included in the stakeholder process. Charlie Flatten with Hays Trinity GCD provided public comments and asked whether interested parties outside the management zone, such as Hays Trinity GCD, who aren't participating in the stakeholder process will be able to attend stakeholder meetings to stay informed. President Scadden suggested that other members of the public may be able to attend the meetings but would not be able to participate. After discussion, the Board reached a consensus to limit stakeholder participation to stakeholders within the management zone and reached a consensus on a list of stakeholders to be invited to participate in the Hamilton Pool Management Zone stakeholder meetings.

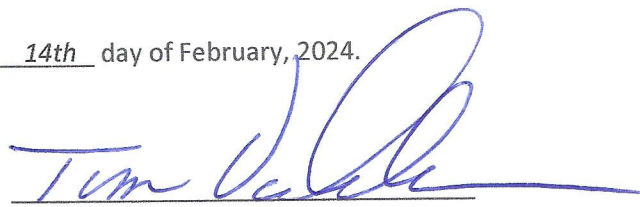
General Manager Cockrell presented a proposed stated purpose and key objectives for the Hamilton Pool Management Zone stakeholder process for Board consideration. After discussion, the Board reached a consensus on the stated purpose and key objectives for the stakeholder process.

Director Hunt left the open meeting at 11:04 a.m. A quorum of five directors remained present, including President Scadden, Director Davis, Director Norton, Director Leva, and Director Van Ackeren. President Scadden adjourned the open meeting for a temporary break at 11:05 a.m. President Scadden reconvened the open meeting at 11:14 a.m.



9. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to FY 2023 and FY 2024 Interlocal Agreements with Travis County** – General Manager Cockrell reported that Travis County provided an approved draft interlocal agreement for fiscal year 2024 that includes total funding of \$175,000.00. General Manager Cockrell reported that this interlocal agreement includes an extra \$25,000.00 to cover additional staffing expenses. General Manager Cockrell reported that the interlocal agreement is just awaiting President Scadden’s signature this morning, and that a signed copy will be sent back to Travis County for final approval by the Travis County Commissioner’s Court. No action taken under this agenda item.
10. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to District staffing** – President Scadden reported that the Board previously put the search for a part time administrative assistant on hold during the holidays. President Scadden reported that his wife is aware of one individual in search of a part-time administrative role, and that he would speak with her about the role. No action taken under this agenda item.
11. **Discuss and establish possible agenda items for future Board Meetings** – President Scadden reported that the next agenda should include an item to discuss engaging a CPA for bookkeeping services.
12. **Discuss and possibly act on setting the date, time, and location for the next Board Meeting** – President Scadden reported that the hearing on Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC’s permit application is scheduled for January 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bee Cave City Council chambers. President Scadden reported that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on February 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the District’s offices.
13. **Adjourn** – A motion was made by Director Davis to adjourn the open meeting at 11:48 a.m. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 14th day of February, 2024.

  
Tim Van Ackeren, Secretary