



MEETING MINUTES

SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Workshop

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

A quorum of the Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors held a board workshop on Wednesday, October 30, 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 30, 2024. Six directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum, including President Scadden, Director Leva, Director Phillips, Director Huber, and Director Van Ackeren; Director Davis joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m. Also present were General Manager Lane Cockrell, District Regulatory Compliance Specialist Virginia Smith, District Administrative and Hydrogeology Assistant Barbara Reyes, and Cole Ruiz with Lloyd Gosselink. The following individuals participated remotely by videoconference call: CJ Bennett, G.I.T., with Bullock, Bennett & Associates representing Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC, and Danna Oakes with SiEnviro.
2. **Announcements** – General Manager Cockrell announced that a public meeting will be held on November 6 by Travis County Commissioner Ann Howard and West Travis County Public Utility Agency ("WTCPUA"), regarding WTCPUA's proposal to provide water service to the Mirasol Springs development. General Manager Cockrell reported that WTCPUA's Board of Directors would consider the proposal at their next meeting on November 18, and that he planned to attend. After closing agenda item #5, President Scadden announced that he and Brian Hunt are presenting at the County-to-County Workshop hosted by the Hill Country Alliance on November 18.
3. **Public Comments** – No public comments were presented.
4. **Discuss and possibly act on FY25 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Travis County** – General Manager Cockrell provided a summary of the draft agreement provided by Travis County. Director Huber raised questions regarding sections of the agreement related to rollover funds and payment terms established in the agreement. Cole Ruiz addressed Director Huber's questions. A motion was made by Director Huber to authorize President Scadden and General Manager Cockrell to execute the agreement and schedule a meeting with Travis County to discuss processes related to the agreement and continued collaboration between the District and County. Motion seconded by Director Leva. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

President Scadden, Director Huber, and General Manager Cockrell agreed to coordinate with the County to set up a meeting. Director Huber suggested the District establish regular communications with the County to build and maintain relationships.

5. **Discuss and possibly act on matters related to potential management strategies for the Hamilton Pool Management Zone** – General Manager Cockrell reported that existing District Rules offer protections for all aquifers in the District, including those within the Hamilton Pool Management Zone (“HPMZ”), and that the Board may consider adopting special rules to enhance protections within HPMZ. General Manager Cockrell provided an overview of current monitoring sites in HPMZ and background of the HPMZ and related stakeholder process. Directors discussed strategies related to the following recommendations from the HPMZ Stakeholder Process Final Report:

#1 Education & Outreach – Directors agreed on the importance of expanded education and outreach activities, and discussed related strategies including social media, a District newsletter, utilizing existing educational resources developed by other organizations, distributing information through homeowners’ associations, and utilizing HPMZ stakeholders.

#2 Science and Monitoring – Directors agreed on the importance of expanded groundwater monitoring, particularly in the Lower Trinity Aquifer, to inform future policies and strategies.

#3 Desired Future Conditions (DFC) – Directors discussed modeling and data needs for developing DFCs for the HPMZ. President Scadden requested an update at a future meeting on the status of the numerical groundwater model being developed by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District.

#4 Drought Management – Directors discussed possible strategies to encourage permittees to limit using groundwater for outdoor irrigation, including encouraging rainwater harvesting and possible a new permit classification for those who agree to not use groundwater for outdoor irrigation. Directors agreed by consensus to direct Rules Committee to begin drafting language for a new permit classification for indoor-only use for later consideration by the Board.

#5 Rainwater Harvesting – Directors discussed the potential for Lake Travis Independent School District (LTISD) to utilize rainwater harvesting and other alternative water supplies at new schools. Directors discussed potential limitations of rainwater collection systems, and compared relative costs for installing rainwater collection systems and groundwater wells. Directors discussed available financial incentives for installing new rainwater collection systems, including LCRA and City of Austin rebate programs. President Scadden suggested contacting LCRA to discuss the possibility of expanding their rainwater rebate program to include residential systems and suggested a meeting with LTISD to discuss potential alternative water strategies at new schools.

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#6 Incentives – Directors raised the question of whether new rules language is needed to prohibit the use of groundwater to fill vanity ponds. Cole Ruiz provided a summary of related statutes. Directors discussed possible funding sources for financial incentives.

Directors agreed to hold a second workshop to continue their discussion and consider remaining stakeholder recommendations.

6. **Discuss and establish possible agenda items for future Board Meetings** – President Scadden confirmed that the next regular meeting had already been scheduled for November 13, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the District office. Directors agreed by consensus to hold a regular board meeting on December 11, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the District office.
7. **Adjourn** – A motion was made by Director Davis to adjourn the open meeting at 11:55 p.m. Motion seconded by Director Phillips. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 11th day of December, 2024.


Tim Van Ackeren, Secretary