



MEETING MINUTES

SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular Monthly Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 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, January 15, 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**

Vice President Davis called the public meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2026. Four directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum, including Vice President Davis, Director Van Ackeren, Director Huber, and Director Phillips. Also present were General Manager Lane Cockrell, District Regulatory Compliance Specialist Virginia Smith, District Administrative and Hydrogeology Assistant Barbara Reyes, Cole Ruiz with Lloyd Gosselink, Charlie Flatten, General Manager for Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, Michael Ashby with Double Down Capital, and Joe Shafer with Bee Cave Drilling. The following individuals participated remotely by videoconference call: Audrey Cooper with Lloyd Gosselink, Laura Thomas, General Manager for Hays Trinity GCD, Danna Oakes on behalf of Cypress Ranch WCID No. 1, Brianna McBride with Travis County Commissioner Ann Howard's Office, Tina Cooper with Austin Alliance Group, Bryan Boyd with Bullock, Bennett & Associates, Gary Hebert with Double Down Capital, Alex Thompson with Bee Cave Drilling, and Tyler Marshall.

2. **Announcements**

Director Huber announced that she submitted her written resignation from the Board of Directors, effective January 16, 2026, as she will be moving outside the District's boundaries. General Manager Cockrell and the Board thanked Director Huber for her service to the District. Director Huber thanked the Board and District staff for their dedication, and encouraged them to continue their hard work.

3. **Public Comments**

No public comments were presented under this agenda item.

President Scadden joined the open meeting at 9:34 a.m. A quorum of five directors remained present at the meeting, including President Scadden, Director Davis, Director Van Ackeren, Director Huber, and Director Phillips.

4. Consent Agenda

Director Davis moved to approve all items on the consent agenda (listed below). Motion seconded by Director Van Ackeren. Motion carried 4 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent – 1 Abstaining. Director Huber abstained from voting as she was not present at the November 20, 2025 regular board meeting.

- a. **Approve Minutes of November 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting**
- b. **Approve November 2025 Financial Report**
- c. **Approve December 2025 Financial Report**
- d. **Approve Payment of Outstanding Invoices**

5. Discussion and Possible Action

a. Appoint Board Outreach Committee

General Manager Cockrell reported that he contacted individual directors to gauge interest in serving on a Board Outreach Committee to support and expand District outreach efforts. President Scadden noted that the Board will need to fill Director Huber's vacancy and that a new director could potentially assist with outreach efforts. No action was taken under this agenda item.

b. Update on District Drought Stage and Conditions

General Manager Cockrell reported that the District's current declared drought stage is D2 Severe Drought and presented a map reflecting drought conditions as of January 6, 2026, according to data from the U.S. Drought Monitor. Mr. Cockrell reported that according to the most recent data from the U.S. Drought Monitor map (map date: January 6, 2026), 100% of the District is in severe drought (D2). Mr. Cockrell recommended that the District remain under its current declared drought stage due to hydrologic conditions and drought outlook. President Scadden requested that District staff provide the most recent drought map to the Board and the Community Impact newspaper for outreach purposes. Mr. Cockrell noted that District staff maintain an interactive map on the District's website which includes current drought conditions. President Scadden asked District staff what mandatory curtailments would be required if the District increased the declared drought stage to D3. Mr. Cockrell confirmed that District Rules require a mandatory 30% curtailment for Operating Permit holders under D3 drought, with additional restrictions on outdoor use. Director Davis raised the possibility of amending the District Rules to allow the Board to declare a different drought stage for the Hamilton Pool Management Zone as needed, as that portion of the District seems to experience more intense drought conditions. President Scadden requested that an agenda item be added to the next meeting to allow further discussion of the topic. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. Requests for Reduced Setbacks or Spacing for Proposed New Wells

1132 Thurman Bluff Drive

General Manager Cockrell presented a request for a reduced property-line setback for a proposed exempt domestic well at 1132 Thurman Bluff Drive. Mr. Cockrell presented a site plan showing the proposed well location and provided a summary of the application and applicable requirements. Mr. Cockrell reported that the dimensions of the tract prohibit compliance with the District's standard 100-foot setback requirement, and that District staff recommend approving a reduced property-line setback of no less than 50 feet, provided all setbacks are maintained from potential sources of contamination and existing wells completed in the same aquifer. Director Huber proposed providing future applicants with information on installing a rainwater harvesting systems. Director Huber asked Brianna McBride, from Commissioner Ann Howard's office, whether Travis County Development Services provides rainwater harvesting information to developers and permit applicants. Ms. McBride stated she will confirm with Development Services what information is provided. Director Davis moved to approve the staff recommendation, requiring a property-line setback of no less than 50 feet, provided all setbacks are maintained from potential sources of contamination and existing wells completed in the same aquifer. Motion seconded by Director Phillips. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

11018 Southwest Oaks

Mr. Cockrell presented a request for a reduced property-line setback for a proposed non-exempt well at 11018 Southwest Oaks. Mr. Cockrell presented a site plan showing the proposed well location and provided a summary of the application and applicable requirements. Mr. Cockrell reported that the proposed Lower Trinity well is intended to replace an existing Middle Trinity well on the property that is no longer reliable and will be capped. District staff recommended approving a reduced property-line setback of no less than 50-feet, provided all setbacks are maintained from potential sources of contamination and existing wells completed in the same aquifer. Director Huber proposed requesting additional information from the applicant to confirm whether they could obtain water service from West Travis County PUA. President Scadden asked District staff if the existing structure on the property is currently occupied. Mr. Cockrell reported that District staff are not aware of whether any tenants or residents currently occupy the duplex on the property. Director Huber moved to table the request for the proposed well to be located at 11018 Southwest Oaks until the next regular board meeting. Motion seconded by Director Davis. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

d. Renew Master Technical Services Agreement with INTERA, Inc.

President Scadden noted that the District's Master Technical Services Agreement with INTERA, Inc. expired December 31, 2025. A proposed Second Amendment would extend the agreement through December 31, 2026. President Scadden expressed concern regarding INTERA's proposed 8% increase in billing rates and requested that the Board authorize himself and General Manager Cockrell to negotiate revised terms and execute an amended agreement. Director Huber moved to authorize President Scadden and

General Manager Cockrell to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Master Technical Services Agreement with INTERA, Inc. Motion seconded by Director Davis. Motion carried 5 Ayes – 0 Nays – 2 Absent.

e. Update on Interlocal Cooperation Agreements with Travis County

General Manager Cockrell reported that the proposed interlocal cooperation agreement for fiscal year 2026 would provide up to \$200,000.00 in funding for District operations. Mr. Cockrell reported that the agreement also includes approximately \$16,158.00 in rollover funds from fiscal year 2025 and provides for automatic renewals for up to five additional one-year terms through September 30, 2031, subject to annual County budget approval. Mr. Cockrell reported that the agreement is scheduled for consideration by the Travis County Commissioners Court on January 27, 2026, and that he is scheduled to present an update to the Court on February 3 regarding District activities. President Scadden requested that District staff provide the Board with a copy of the written progress report to the Commissioners Court. No action was taken under this agenda item.

f. Update on Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC Contested Case Hearing

Mr. Cole Ruiz provided an update to the Board regarding the status of the Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC contested case matter at the State Office of Administrative Hearings. Mr. Ruiz reported that the case remains abated until further notice, as Clancy Utility Holdings, LLC continues efforts to secure water service from West Travis County PUA. No action was taken under this agenda item.

g. Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9) Joint Planning Process

General Manager Cockrell updated the Board on the status of GMA 9 joint planning. Mr. Cockrell reminded the Board that the current Desired Future Condition (DFC) for the Trinity Aquifer limits average drawdown to no more than 30 feet from 2008 levels. Mr. Cockrell reported that the District and Hays Trinity GCD proposed preliminary DFCs this planning cycle to establish maximum allowable drawdown at key index wells and minimum springflows to limit additional drawdown and simplify compliance determinations. However, preliminary modeling using the existing Hill Country Trinity GAM with updated pumping data indicates that it is not feasible to use the model to support the development of local drawdown- and springflow-based DFC, due to model limitations and differing methodologies among districts. Mr. Cockrell provided a summary of the three pumping scenarios evaluated using the existing GAM with updated pumping distributions: Scenario 6 from TWDB GAM Task 10-005 GMA-wide (8,697 AF/yr in the District); Scenario 5 from TWDB GAM Task 10-005 in the District and Hays Trinity GCD, with the remainder of the GMA at Scenario 6 (6,094 AF/yr in the District); and Scenario 4 from TWDB GAM Task 10-005 in the District and Hays Trinity GCD, with the remainder of the GMA at Scenario 6 (5,006 AF/yr in the District). Mr. Cockrell presented hydrographs prepared by Advanced Groundwater Solutions, the GMA 9 hydrogeologic consultant, showing the significant differences between modeled water levels and

actual water levels in three index wells in the District. Mr. Cockrell reported that the next GMA 9 meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cow Creek GCD offices, and that districts must confirm their preferred pumping scenarios at that meeting for final modeling. Final modeling results will be reviewed in February and March, during which time districts will prepare draft DFCs. The deadline for GMA 9 to propose DFCs is May 1, 2026. Mr. Cockrell noted that the District may still propose DFCs that are district-specific, and that many groundwater management areas in Texas have moved away from adopting GMA-wide DFCs in favor of adopting district-specific DFCs. Mr. Cole Ruiz reported that there have been ongoing discussions at the Texas Legislature about revising the joint planning process to ensure that the DFCs developed by districts are more practical and helpful for managing aquifer conditions, however no legislation has passed thus far. No action was taken under this agenda item.

Director Leva joined the open meeting at 10:42 a.m. A quorum of six directors remained present at the meeting, including President Scadden, Director Davis, Director Van Ackeren, Director Huber, Director Leva, and Director Phillips.

6. Board Committee Reports

a. Finance

No action was taken under this agenda item.

b. Legislative

Mr. Cole Ruiz reported that the Texas Legislature is developing interim charges, which are expected to include discussion of groundwater export projects in light of the contentious export project in East Texas involving the Neches & Trinity Valleys GCD. Director Huber suggested that a member of the Board Legislative Committee attend the Texas Alliance of Groundwater District's legislative committee meetings or the Texas Water Association's meetings to stay informed on proposed and pending legislation. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. Science

Director Phillips presented water level and springflow data he collected from wells and springs in the Pedernales Canyon Ranch and Lick Creek Ranch neighborhoods. Mr. Cockrell noted that the additional springflow and water level data will strengthen the District's monitoring network and support future development of improved DFCs. Mr. Cockrell also reported the Texas Water Development Board will open applications for groundwater science grants in January, and that funding may be used by districts to drill new monitoring wells and conduct groundwater research. Mr. Cockrell reported that he and President Scadden met with Brian Hunt and INTERA to discuss potential proposals, and that he will provide an update at the next Board meeting. 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**

President Scadden reported that the Administrative Committee will meet with District staff on January 22 to discuss ongoing administrative projects. No action was taken under this agenda item.

7. **General Manager's Report**

a. **Permit Applications and Well Registrations**

Mr. Cockrell reported that the District received five new drilling authorization applications, one application to plug or cap a well, and five new long-term water utility service connections in November 2025, and one well registration, one drilling authorization application, and one long-term water utility service connection in December 2025. Mr. Cockrell noted that reported production for fiscal year 2026 to date totals approximately 165.1 acre-feet (53.8 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 that water levels in the St. Stephen's monitoring well have increased since mid-December. Water levels in the Reimers Ranch public water supply well remained relatively stable over the past month, fluctuating by approximately half a foot. Mr. Cockrell reported that overall, Lower Trinity Aquifer levels have recovered from summer 2025 lows but are expected to decline again this summer as more groundwater is used for irrigation. No action was taken under this agenda item.

c. **Public Outreach and Education**

No action was taken under this agenda item.

d. **Other Informational Items of Board Interest**

General Manager Cockrell reported that he plans to attend the next Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K) meeting on January 16, 2026, at the LCRA Service Center in Austin. Mr. Cockrell reported that there is a Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts business meeting scheduled for January 20, and that District staff are registered to attend the continuing education event hosted by TAGD the same day. Mr. Cockrell reported that the District's office lease with Travis County expires at the end of February, and that he submitted a renewal request to be considered by the Travis

County Commissioners Court. Mr. Cockrell also reported that the District's electronic payment platform is operational, allowing applicants to pay fees electronically. Mr. Cockrell reported that he continues to work with Austin Alliance Group, the District's new bookkeeper, to provide the information needed to manage District finances and payroll. He also noted that, going forward, invoices above a specified amount will be presented to the Board for consideration and approval. No action was taken under this agenda item.

8. Future Board Meetings and Agenda Items

a. Regular February Meeting

President Scadden reported that the next regular board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the District's office .

9. Adjournment

Director Davis moved to adjourn the open meeting at 12:01 p.m. Motion seconded by Director Huber. Motion carried 6 Ayes – 0 Nays – 1 Absent.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS THE 19th day of February, 2026.


Tim Van Ackeren, Secretary