

**Minutes**  
**Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**January 8, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District (the District) held their regular meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at the La Salle County Steakhouse, 182 S., I-35, Cotulla, Texas, at 12:00 noon.

1. President Bill Martin called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.
2. Introduction of visitors was held. Directors present were President Martin, Secretary Mike Whitwell, Director-at-Large J. R. Ramirez, Director Sunny Fitzsimons, and Director Jack Rutledge. Absent were Vice-President Chris Meyer and Treasurer Mario Escobar. Staff present were Debbie Farmer, General Manager, and Louie Longoria, Field Technician. Peter Gregg, attorney for the District, was present. Also present were Kathryn Menke with the USDA-NRCS, La Salle County; Phil Lyne, Rancher; and George Schroeder, Contractor.
3. There was no public comment.
4. The minutes of the November 13, 2019, meeting were reviewed. Director-at-Large Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes as reviewed. Secretary Whitwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
5. The Bills for Payment and Financial Statements for the months of November and December 2019 were reviewed. Secretary Whitwell made a motion to approve the bills for payment as reviewed. Director Rutledge seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
6. General Manager Farmer presented the Manager's Report for the months of November and December 2019. She noted that there were some water damages in the restroom of the apartment within the District's office building that would need to be repaired. Director-at-Large Ramirez noted to GM Farmer that on the updated budget, it shows that items under Research and Development are over-budget. GM Farmer stated that amendments to the budget will need to be made, and gave her explanation as to these expenses.
7. Attorney Peter Gregg gave a brief update on the procedural status of the Black Mountain Sand hearing matter.
8. A proposal by Karen Ford, Water PR, on proposed public communication and public relation ideas for the District were reviewed from a handout provided to the Board. Director-at-Large Ramirez requested more complete data from GM Farmer before he was comfortable addressing the proposal, and he made a motion to table this agenda item until the data is complete. Secretary Whitwell seconded the motion and the motion to table passed unanimously.
9. Two (2) bids were presented for the service of developing a new website for the District. Bids presented were from Ranch House Designs and Water PR. Director Fitzsimons made a motion to accept the bid from Ranch House Designs in the amount of \$2800 plus fees. Director-at-Large Ramirez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
10. Brush Control applications from Phil Lyne, La Salle County, Aerial Spray Mesquite and Pear; STX Camp 3, LLC, La Salle County, Aerial Spray Pear; Erskine Laird Ranch, Dimmit County, Aerial Spray Pear; and Steve Cope, Dimmit County, Aerial Spray Pear were presented for approval. Director Rutledge made a motion to approve all applications presented. Secretary Whitwell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
11. Due to not having a full slate of directors present at this meeting, Director-at-Large Ramirez made a motion to table this agenda item on the annual review of the District's Personnel Policy

until the next meeting. Director Fitzsimons seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

12. Attorney Gregg reviewed possible changes of the District's Rules and Regulations. Some of the suggested changes are to align the District's Rules with the Texas Water Code Chapter 36, and other suggested changes were to alleviate ambiguity of certain rules. A copy of the possible changes was presented to the Board. The plan to review the possible changes and to make proposals of possible rule changes at the February meeting was discussed. Then a public hearing will be held for possible adoption of the proposed changes during the March board meeting.
13. The District's authority to enforce compliance of the District's Rules was discussed. There was no action necessary on this item as the District's enforcement authority is included in the Texas Water Code Chapter 36 and the District's Rules and Regulations.
14. President Martin read an email from Ed Walker on his offer to perform the work that will be necessary on the Westwind Recharge Project in the event a significant rain event happens. Also, he had issued an invoice earlier in the year for work performed on the project following his resignation as General Manager for the District. The payment of the invoice was previously denied due to the fact that he was not authorized to perform the work.

In regards to Mr. Walker's offer to perform the work at the next rain event, GM Farmer stated that Louie Longoria is now the District's Field Technician, and it would be his duty to perform the work along with the staff from Southwest Research Institute who would teach and instruct him how to complete the task. Mr. Martin stated he would let Mr. Walker know that his requests were denied.

15. Secretary Whitwell made a motion to adjourn. Director-at-Large Ramirez seconded the motion. President Martin adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

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Bill Martin, President

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Date

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Mike Whitwell, Secretary

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Date