

Minutes
Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District (the District) held their regular meeting immediately following the Public Hearing on Permit Applications on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at the District Office, 2881 Hwy. 277 West. In accordance with Governor Greg Abbott's March 16, 2020, action to temporarily suspend certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, a quorum of the Board of Directors held a Board meeting via telephone and video conference to allow directors and the public to participate remotely as well as allowing directors to participate in person following the Governor's limitation of more than 10 persons in a gathering.

1. President Bill Martin called the meeting to order at 12:54 p.m.
2. Directors present in-person were President Martin, Vice-President Chris Meyer, Treasurer Mario Escobar, Director-at-Large J. R. Ramirez, and Director Jack Rutledge. Director Sunny Fitzsimons was present by telephonic participation. Peter Gregg, legal counsel, was present along with staff members Debbie Farmer, General Manager, and Louie Longoria, Field Technician. Secretary Mike Whitwell was absent.
3. There was no public comment.
4. The minutes of the February 12, 2020, meeting were reviewed. Vice-President Meyer made a motion to approve the minutes as reviewed. Treasurer Escobar seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. The bills for payment and financial statements for the months of February and March 2020 were reviewed. Treasurer Escobar commended the District staff on the reduction of expenses. Director Rutledge made a motion to approve the bills for payment. Director-at-Large Ramirez seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
6. GM Farmer presented the Manager's Report for the months of February and March 2020.
7. Brush Control applications were considered. Charlie Riha, Dimmit County, has applied to aerial spray 160.2 acres for prickly pear; and Evelyn Kingsbury, Zavala County, has applied to aerial spray 200.5 acres for mesquite. Director Rutledge made a motion to approve both applications. Treasurer Escobar seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5 for and 1 against. Vice-President Meyer opposed the motion. Director Rutledge displayed a book on brush control that he has ordered copies of for the board.
8. The question of whether to rent the District-owned apartment that is part of the office building was discussed. Vice-President Meyer made a motion to not rent the apartment. Treasurer Escobar seconded the motion and asked GM Farmer to work out a deal with Peggy Van Cleve who has been renting the apartment on the utilities. The motion passed unanimously.
9. Discussion was held regarding amending the District's budget to allocate more funds for well plugging. Director Rutledge made a motion to table this agenda item until a request for funds is made. Vice-President Meyer seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
10. GM Farmer presented certification of unopposed candidates for the District's May 2, 2020, General Election. All candidates were unopposed (Sunny Fitzsimons-Dimmit County; Mario Escobar-Zavala County; and Martin Krueger-La Salle County.)
11. Director Rutledge made a motion to declare the unopposed candidates elected to the Board of Directors and to order the election cancelled in all three counties of the District (Dimmit, La Salle, and Zavala Counties.) Director Fitzsimons seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

12. Other Business: GM Farmer requested that the Board convene to Executive Session as allowed. **President Martin recessed the regular meeting at 1:32 p.m. in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law.**

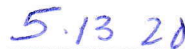
President Martin reconvened the regular meeting at 1:47 p.m.

There was no action required in the opinion of the Board with regard to any matter considered in the executive session.

Vice-President Meyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director-at-Large Ramirez seconded the motion. There being no further business, President Martin adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.



Bill Martin, President



Date



Chris Meyer, Vice-President

Mike Whitcomb, Secretary



Date