Minutes

Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting
May 12, 2021

The Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District (the District) held their regular meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 201, at 12:00 p.m. at the District Office, 2881 Hwy. 277 West, Carrizo Springs, Texas. Attendance was in-person as well as Zoom meeting.

1. President Bill Martin called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.
2. Introduction of visitors: Diana Nichols, Kelly Hart representing Panther City Cattle Company; Norma Carrillo, Chief Appraiser-Dimmit Central Appraisal District; Ron Green-Technical Consultant for the District; and Peter Gregg, Legal Counsel for the District.

   Directors participating: President Bill Martin (in-person;) Secretary Chris Meyer (in-person;) Vice-President J. R. Ramirez (Zoom video;) and Treasurer Mario Escobar (telephonic.) Directors not present were Director Jack Rutledge, Director Martin Kruger; and Director Sunny Fitzsimons.

   Staff present were General Manager Debbie Farmer and Field Technician Paul VanCleve, new hire for the District.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. The minutes of the April 14, 2021, board meeting were reviewed. Vice-President Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes as reviewed. Treasurer Escobar seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. The April 2021 Bills for Payment and Financial Statements for all accounts were reviewed. Secretary Meyer made a motion to approve the bills for payment and financial statements as reviewed. Vice-President Ramirez seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
6. General Manager Farmer presented the April 2021 Manager's Report. Following a question of the well monitor level for the Cargil location, GM Farmer corrected the rate for the Cargil and the Hinojosa wells by referring to office records. The levels were entered into the wrong column.
7. A Brush Control Application for Frank Harris to aerial spray 137 acres of mesquite for a cost of $46.65 per acre in Zavala County was reviewed. Treasurer Escobar made a motion to approve the application as reviewed. Vice-President Ramirez seconded the motion, and the motion passed with President Martin, Vice-President Ramirez, and Treasurer Escobar voting for approving the application, and Secretary Meyer voting against approving the application.
8. The proposed budget amendment by the Dimmit Central Appraisal District's (DCAD) Board of Directors to retain the 2020 surplus in the amount of $62,556.54 for the purpose of the aerial county flyover purchase was reviewed. This will be an additional amount to the previous approved $47,079.27 designated for this project. Secretary Meyer asked DCAD Chief Appraiser Norma Carrillo when the last flyover was conducted, and she replied in the year 2015. Following further discussion, Secretary Meyer made a motion to approve the proposed amendment for the 2020 surplus in the amount of $62,556.54. Vice-President Ramirez seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
9. President Martin introduced to the Board the need to discuss La Salle County's endeavor to conduct an investigation to ascertain the presence, extent, and source of groundwater contamination in La Salle County. In addition, President Martin stated that La Salle County has once again requested the District's contracted Technical Consultant Dr. Ron Green to engage in this endeavor.

   Dr. Green explained La Salle County's desire to engage him in efforts to investigate occurrences of groundwater degradation. Dr. Green discussed his communication with the County attorney, Mike Chauncey. Dr. Green's recommended course of action would be to use previously prepared preliminary datasets and maps prepared in 2019 by SwRI to investigate the occurrence

of groundwater degradation in all three (3) counties in the District. These data would be the foundation for any work for La Salle County. The benefit to the District would be greater insight and evaluation of these data, as well as to advance this evaluation for all three (3) counties as part of the District's Technical Assistance contract with SwRI. Dr. Green would focus on the La Salle County evaluation as part of his work with the county. Information developed by both endeavors would be available to both the District and La Salle County.

Secretary Meyer inquired as to what is the specific evidence of degradation to groundwater in La Salle County. Where has the degradation occurred and what is the suspected source of contamination? The District's responsibility is the groundwater. If a specific concern is brought to the District, it is our responsibility to investigate the contamination issue and take action as necessary to protect the groundwater.

Peter Gregg, Legal Counsel for the District, noted to the Board two (2) issues with Dr. Green participating with another entity for such a project. First, whether Dr. Green working with another entity is acceptable, which Dr. Green believed the Board would consider to be acceptable. Second, however, is would the proposed work result in the District endorsing the outcome of the investigation.

President Martin directed GM Farmer to write a letter to the La Salle County Judge, copy the letter to their attorney, and request specific information related to the contamination.

10. The Westwind Ranch Recharge project was discussed. President Martin informed the Board that approximately $300,000 has been expended by the District in developing this project. The existing permit the District has with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) must be revised and resubmitted. Discussion was that perhaps the watershed will not direct enough rainwater into the pond to provide water to recharge into the aquifer, but the continuing drought in Zavala County has not allowed these questions to be answered.

    Dr. Green commented that he did not think the watershed could be expanded, but he would look into it. He noted that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has issued a state-wide report on the suitability of locations within the state for aquifer storage/artificial recharge (AS) and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR.) This report would provide general areas in the District suitable for AS or ASR.

    The consensus of the Board was to continue with the Westwind project.

    Secretary Meyer made a motion to engage Dr. Green to contact TCEQ and begin the revisions and resubmitting the District's permit. Vice-President Ramirez seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

11. There was no other business.
12. Vice-President Ramirez made a motion to adjourn, and Secretary Meyer seconded the motion. President Martin adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Bill Martin, President — Date: 6.9.21

Chris Meyer, Secretary — Date: 6/9/2021

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Sign-in Sheet

Name	Company/Title
Debbie Farmer	GM/WGCD
Paula VanCleve	Field Technician
Peter Gregg	DuBois Bryant Campbell Virtual Participation
Ron Green	Technical Consultant Virtual Participation
Diana Nichols	Kelly Hart f/Panther City Cattle Company Virtual Participation
Norma Carrillo	Chief Appraiser, Dimmit Central Appraisal Dist. Virtual participation
J. R. Ramirez	VP-WGCD Board Virtual Participation
Mario Escobar	Treasurer-WGCD Board Telephonic Participation
[illegible]	Director LaSalle
[illegible]	DIMMIT CO