

Minutes
Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District
Public Hearing and Board of Directors Meeting
September 13, 2023

The Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District (the "District") held a Board of Directors meeting which included a Public Hearing on Tax Rate for Tax Year 2023 on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. at the District Office, 2881 Hwy. 277 West, Carrizo Springs, Texas.

1. President Bill Martin called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.
2. Directors present were President Martin; Secretary Chris Meyer; Treasurer Mario Escobar; and Director Martin Kruger. Directors absent were Vice-President J. R. Ramirez; Director John Petry; and Director Lott Whitwell. Staff present were General Manager Debbie Farmer and Field Technician Paula VanCleve. Peter Gregg, legal counsel for the District was present. Visitors present were as follows:
Diana Nichols with Kelly Hart;
Chris Sammons, Signal Peak Silica;
Jackson Wise, Signal Peak Silica;
Daniel Sandoval, Signal Peak Silica;
Clark Fritz, Signal Peak Silica;
Claudio Balboa, Signal Peak Silica;
Paula Seydel, Dimmit Co. Chamber of Commerce;
The Honorable Martha Ponce, Judge, County of Dimmit;
The Honorable Jose A. Urenda, Commissioner Pct 1, County of Dimmit;
Howard Willmon;
Terry Blankenship;
Ann Blankenship;
Jose Rios;
Crystal Rios;
David Seydel;
Patricia Guerra;
Frank Ross Guerra;
William Brian Marbury;
Tracy Ann Marbury;
John Ralston;
Jeanelle Coleman.
3. Public Comment – Comments were made by the following individuals:
 - a. Jackson Wise representing Signal Peak Silica (SP Silica of Carrizo) regarding their proposed groundwater usage for a sand mine to be developed south of Carrizo Springs on FM 186;
 - b. Jose and Crystal Rios, landowners and water well owners in Dimmit County, with concerns of proposed groundwater usage and the impact to their water wells and property;
 - c. Terry Blankenship speaking on behalf of the Lansford Family, landowners and water well owners in Dimmit County, with concerns of proposed groundwater usage and the impact to their water wells and property;
 - d. Brian and Tracy Marbury, Dimmit County landowners and water well owners, with concerns of proposed groundwater usage and the impact to their water wells and property;

- e. Paula Seydel representing the Dimmit County Chamber of Commerce as well as being a landowner and well owner spoke regarding concerns of proposed groundwater usage and the impact to water levels and the possible need to replace water wells; and
 - f. Jeanelle Coleman, Dimmit County landowner and water well owner, with concerns of proposed groundwater usage and the impact to her water well and property.
16. Treasurer Escobar made a motion to move agenda item 16 at this time for discussion and possible action. Secretary Meyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

President Martin asked Peter Gregg, legal counsel for the District, to explain the options to be considered by the Board pursuant to District Rule 14.1 regarding the contested application for a water well production permit submitted by SP Silica of Carrizo. Mr. Gregg explained the three (3) options to be considered. Secretary Meyer made a motion to set the contested application for a hearing conducted by SOAH (State Office of Administrative Hearing). Director Kruger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

President Martin recessed the meeting at 12:35 p.m., to allow time for visitors to exit the meeting, if desired.

President Martin reconvened the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

- 4. The minutes of the August 16, 2023, were reviewed. Treasurer Escobar made a motion to approve the minutes as reviewed. Director Kruger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 5. The financial statements for all accounts and the bills for payment for the month of August 2023 were reviewed. Treasurer Escobar made a motion to approve the financial statements and bills for payment as reviewed. Secretary Meyer seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- 6. GM Farmer presented the August 2023 Manager's Report.
- 7. The current certificate of deposit (CD) that matures on 9/27/2023 at Stockmens National Bank of Cotulla was discussed. Current rates (AYP) offered by financial institutes within the District were reviewed by GM Farmer. Stockmens NB offered a 5.0% AYP on a 6-month CD or 4.0% on a 12-month CD. Treasurer Escobar made a motion to transfer the current CD to a 6-month CD at 5.0%. Director Kruger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 8. Two (2) quotes were received to plug a deteriorated water well owned by Scott Reese of Zavala County. (See bids by Bull's Eye Services totaling \$17,500 and Cross Country Drilling Company totaling \$16,750.) The well owner suggested using Cross Country Drilling. Secretary Meyer made a motion to approve the bid by Cross Country Drilling in the amount of \$16,750. Treasurer Escobar seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 9. Proposed amendments of the current FY2022-2023 budget were reviewed. Secretary Meyer made a motion to approve the amendments as presented. Director Kruger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 10. Treasurer Escobar made a motion to participate in the Nueces River Authority Watershed Education Services for Dimmit, La Salle, and Zavala Counties for the year beginning October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. Director Kruger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- 11. Secretary Meyer made a motion to participate in the Nueces River Authority Rainwater Catchment Demonstration Project, Addendum 9, in public schools within Dimmit, La Salle, and Zavala Counties for the year beginning October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. Director Kruger seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

12. The upgrade of the District Office air conditioner system was discussed. Secretary Meyer made a motion to table this item until the October Board meeting. Treasurer Escobar seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
13. The proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 District Budget was reviewed. Secretary Meyer made a motion to adopt by resolution the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget in the amount of \$782,827.03. Treasurer Escobar seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

President Martin recessed the regular board meeting at 1:19 p.m.

- a. *President Martin called the Public Hearing on the District Tax Rate for Tax Year 2023 to order at 1:20 p.m. The Proposed Tax Rate is \$0.004265 per \$100 Valuation.*
- b. *There was no public comment.*
- c. *President Martin adjourned the Public Hearing at 1:20 p.m.*

President Martin reconvened the regular board meeting at 1:21 p.m.

14. Treasurer Escobar made a motion to adopt by resolution the District Tax Rate of \$0.004265 per \$100 Valuation for Tax Year 2023. Secretary Meyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
15. Secretary Meyer made a motion to adopt the Allowable Discounts accepted by the jurisdiction the 3-2-1 Early Pay Discount and the Disabled Veterans Discount as accepted by each county represented in the District (Dimmit, La Salle, and Zavala Counties).
16. Agenda item 16 was moved to an earlier time in this meeting.
17. Secretary Meyer made a motion to adopt by resolution the nomination of Martin Kruger as candidate for the La Salle County Appraisal District Board of Directors to serve a two (2) year term beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2025. Treasurer Escobar seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

President Martin called for Executive Session at 1:23 p.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney.

The regular meeting resumed at 1:36 p.m. There was no action taken.

18. There was no other business.
 19. Treasurer Escobar made a motion to adjourn, and Secretary Meyer seconded the motion.
- President Martin adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Bill Martin

Bill Martin, President

10-11-23

Date

Chris Meyer

Chris Meyer, Secretary

10/11/23

Date

By J.R. Ramirez, Vice President

Public Comment

[illegible]

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Sign-in Sheet

Name	Company/Title
Debbie Farmer	GM/WGCD
Paula VanCleve	Field Technician/WGCD
Martin Kruger	LA SALLE Co. DIRECTOR
Harold Williams II	RAVICH
JACKSON WISE	SIGNAL PEAK SILICA
Chris Samanns	Signal Peak Silica
DANIEL SANDOVAL	SIGNAL PEAK SILICA
Clark Fritz	Signal Peak Silica
Claudio Balboa	Signal Peak Silica
Terry Blankenship	Landowner
Ken Blankenship	Landowner
Peter Gregg	Counsel
Diana Nichols	Kelly Hart
Mario A Esquivel	Director
JOSE RIOS CRYSTAL RIOS	Local Landowners
ESME RIOS SOFREN RIOS	
Paula Seydel	Chairman of Commerce
Don A. Seydel	
Patricia Guerra	Landowner
Frank Rios Guerra	Landowner

William BRIAN MARBURY

Tracy ANN MARBURY

John Ralston

MARTHA PONCE - DIMMIT COUNTY JUDGE
Jose A Uranda
Jeanelle Coleman

commissioner Pet. (