

**HIGH PLAINS UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NO. 1  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 11, 2014**

The Board of Directors of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 (the Board) convened a regular meeting at the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District office, located at 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock TX, Lubbock County, with the following members present:

Lynn Tate, President  
James Powell, Vice-President  
Mike Beauchamp, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ronnie Hopper, Member  
Brad Heffington, Member

(Attached to these minutes is the *Notice of Meeting of the Governing Body of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1* [District] calling said meeting, which was served upon the directors and publicly posted in accordance with applicable law.)

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Tate called the regular Board of Directors meeting to order at 10:21 a.m. with the above-referenced directors in attendance. A quorum was present.

Visitors signing in for today's meeting were J. Collier Adams Jr.; Charles Allison; Steve Barrett; J. O. Dawdy; Tom Fulton; Jim Gregory; Carol Griffin, Jerald Griffin; Joe Heflin; Kirby Lewis; Josie Musico with the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*; Dillon Pool; Joy Shadid; Gaylen Stukey; Leland Stukey; and Kelly Young.

District staff members in attendance were Jason Coleman, General Manager; Kody Bessent, Legislative Affairs; Adeline Fox, Outreach and Education; Jed Leibbrandt, GIS Specialist; Carmon McCain, Information/Education Group Supervisor; Gray Sanders, Information Technology; and Keith Whitworth, Field Technician Supervisor.

President Tate welcomed the Board members, staff, and members of the public to today's meeting.

**ELECTION OF 2014 OFFICERS**

A motion was made by Mr. Hopper and seconded by Mr. Beauchamp to re-elect the current Board officers to serve for 2014. They are Lynn Tate, President; James Powell, Vice-President; and Mike Beauchamp, Secretary-Treasurer. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

President Tate called on the Board to approve the consent agenda for today's meeting as follows:

- Approval of minutes of the Feb. 3, 2014 County Advisory Committee meeting at Lubbock.
- Approval of minutes of the Feb. 11, 2014 Board of Directors regular meeting at Amarillo.
- Approval of minutes of the Feb. 18, 2014 Farmers Co-op Gin meeting at Friona.
- Adoption of report on the financial status of the District from the General Manager for the month of February 2014.
- Approval of the bills incurred by the District for the month of February 2014 and travel vouchers for the Board members and eligible staff.

Mr. Heffington made a motion to approve the consent agenda—with a minor correction to the minutes as noted in the earlier work session. Mr. Beauchamp seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

No items were removed from the Consent Agenda. No action was taken.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR WATER WELL PERMITS**

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action on approval of applications for water well permits received during the month of February 2014. During the earlier work session, Permit Supervisor Juan Peña reported that there were 160 applications for water well permits in the Ogallala Aquifer and one application for a water well permit in the Dockum Aquifer received during the period of Feb. 1-28, 2014. There were 63 well completions in the Ogallala Aquifer.

The following water well applications were received for the Ogallala Aquifer: five for Bailey County; seven for Castro County; 17 for Cochran County; one for Crosby County; five for Deaf Smith County; 11 for Floyd County; 12 for Hale County; 30 for Hockley County; 26 for Lamb County; 23 for Lubbock County; nine for Lynn County; 11 for Parmer County; and three for Randall County.

It was noted that Permit # 9632, included on today's list, will require an exception and will be considered at a public hearing to be held in conjunction with the April 8, 2014 regular meeting. Therefore, the total number of water well applications for the Ogallala Aquifer will be reduced to 159.

There were 63 well completions for the Ogallala Aquifer during the period from Feb. 1-Feb. 28, 2014. This includes one for Bailey County; 18 for Castro County; five for Cochran County; two for Crosby County; one for Deaf Smith County; three for Floyd County; nine for Hale County; six for Hockley County; five for Lamb County; three for Lubbock County; six from Parmer County; one from Randall County; and three for Swisher County.

All permit applications comply with the rules of the District. There being no questions or comments on the report, Mr. Beauchamp moved the Board approve the applications for water well permits for the month of February 2014 as presented. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

There has been a total of 122 well completions in the Ogallala Aquifer, two well completions into the Edwards-Trinity Aquifer, and one completion in the Dockum Aquifer for the period Jan. 1-Feb. 28, 2014.

### **PRIVATE SALE OF PROPERTY IN HALE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEED**

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action to approve the private sale/purchase price of two properties in Seth Ward, Hale County as described in Hale County Sheriff's Deeds 2010-003806 and 2012-005261, pursuant to §34.05(i) of the Texas Tax Code. President Tate noted that Hale County has received a cash offer for \$1,200.00 for purchase of each respective property. Mr. Heffington made a motion to approve Hale County's request for approval of this private sale and the purchase price of \$1,200.00 per property. Mr. Hopper seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

President Tate noted that the district will likely have more of these Sheriff's Deed sales for approval. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Mr. Coleman to handle such items in the future and report his actions to the Board.

### **CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY**

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action regarding a customer satisfaction survey. Mr. Coleman stated that the staff is currently utilizing a general customer satisfaction survey developed by the McCormick Company. This survey allows feedback on general interaction with the district's personnel and services. However, a survey is needed to gauge feedback on HPWD presentations to civic clubs, professional organizations, and schools. Mr. McCain provided a draft survey similar to one used by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension for the Board's consideration and review. President Tate commended the staff for their efforts. He suggested some revisions to the draft document, including deleting some questions and providing contact information for Board members. No official action was taken on this agenda item.

### **COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action on County Advisory Committee members. No action was taken on this agenda item since there were no additions to the County Advisory Committees at this time.

### **GRANT APPLICATION TO TWDB AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSERVATION FUND**

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action to approve an application for a grant with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Agricultural Water Conservation Fund for the purchase of water measuring devices for agricultural water conservation monitoring. President Tate told the Board that the district is seeking grant funds for a cost-share program to install metering devices over a 2-3 year period on irrigation systems with different application methods. This will help district staff quantify the effects upon available water as it relates to application efficiencies as well as the amount of irrigation water applied per acre. It is important that district groundwater management policies be based upon the best scientific data available.

President Tate emphasized that participation in the metering program will be on a voluntary basis.

The TWDB will review the application and allocate available funds based upon scoring.

President Tate noted that the deadline for submitting the grant is March 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Mr. Bessent is traveling to Austin this evening to hand-deliver the district's application to TWDB staff in advance of the deadline. Based upon discussion at the earlier work session, a motion was made by Mr. Hopper to adopt a resolution authorizing HPWD submission of a grant application in the amount of \$1,500,000 to the TWDB. Mr. Beauchamp seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands.

#### **DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE REVISIONS TO HPWD RULES—INCLUDING RULE 5**

President Tate called on the Board to discuss possible revisions to the HPWD rules, including water use reporting provisions currently in Rule 5.

President Tate said the Board of Directors is considering a possible additional alternative reporting method criteria. If a producer certifies that his/her wells are only able to produce 0.93 gallons of water per minute or less—then it is mathematically impossible for production to exceed the allowable production limit (APR).

The current proposed working copy of the HPWD rules is under review by both legal counsel and the County Advisory Committees. President Tate said it is the Board's hope to have a draft version for public comment available in the next couple of months.

No action was taken regarding this agenda item.

#### **DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION FOR HPWD IN GMA # 1**

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action regarding a possible desired future condition (DFC) for the portion of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 in Groundwater Management Area # 1 (GMA# 1).

Mr. Coleman reviewed the handout materials for this agenda item. They included the 2010 MAG, the 2060 MAG, and the amount of irrigation water use in 2012 for the portions of HPWD within GMA # 1 (Armstrong, Potter, and Randall Counties). Other handouts included the total estimated recoverable storage for the Ogallala Aquifer by county within the water district as well as average changes in depth to water in feet for 1993-2013 for the counties within the HPWD service area

GMA # 1 is beginning the process to adopt a new DFC for its area. Groundwater Management Area # 2 (GMA # 2) has not yet started this process. The majority of the HPWD service area is in GMA # 2. The adopted DFC for that area is "50/50," or to have 50 percent of the saturated thickness available in 50 years. The deadline to adopt DFCs statewide is May 2016.

Mr. Coleman noted that the next GMA # 1 meeting is April 11, 2014 at the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission office in Amarillo. HPWD will have one more regular Board of Directors meeting prior to that meeting to discuss/determine a proposed DFC for submission to GMA # 1

President Tate then invited audience members to comment on the possible desired future condition for the portion of HPWD in GMA # 1. Mr. Adams, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Dawdy, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Leland Stukey, Mr. Young, and others offered comments and questions to which the Board responded.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

### **REPORTS ON STATUS OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS FROM THE MANAGER**

Mr. Coleman reported on the following:

- Recent meetings attended.
- February 19 recognition of outstanding teachers participating in the district-sponsored WaterWise conservation education program. In separate ceremonies, Mr. Hopper presented a plaque to Jan Reeves of Hillcrest Elementary School in Plainview and Mr. Heffington presented a plaque to Wendy Bates, Lisa Kelly, Melissa Lowe, Jessica Rangel, and Jackie Zahn of Littlefield Elementary School. The district appreciates Homer Marquez of the *Plainview Herald* and Joella Lovvorn of the *Lamb County Leader-News* for their front-page coverage of the presentations.
- Mr. Coleman asked Mr. Leibbrandt to discuss results of a survey of groundwater reporting methods used by GCDs in Texas. Mr. Leibbrandt compiled a list of the most-used methods and incorporated them into a map of the GCDs in Texas which shows the different reporting methods in various colors. The breakdown of reporting methods (paper, electronic, other) was obtained from data obtained from the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts web site, visits to individual GCD web sites, phone calls, and e-mails. The Board thanked Mr. Leibbrandt for compiling this information.
- Mr. Coleman asked Mr. Whitworth to discuss the district's Irrigation Assessment Program. HPWD is bringing back the former irrigation assessment program with a goal to serve at least 100 producers for the upcoming growing season. HPWD personnel will make water level measurements, obtain GPS well data on wells/well systems, and install flow meters for readings at the beginning, middle, and end of the season. Water samples will also be taken for water quality analysis. Mr. Whitworth said initial participants will be from the district's County Advisory Committee members; however, he invited those in attendance to contact the district if they are interested in participating in the program.
- Mr. Coleman asked Mr. McCain to update the Board on the progress of the district's electronic newsletter. Mr. McCain provided a memo in the Board notebooks which outlines past, present, and future efforts to transition from a print version to an electronic version of the newsletter. There was some discussion about how best to provide the newsletter to persons that do not have access to computers or e-mail. A postcard was sent earlier this month asking people to sign up at a web address if they wish to receive the digital newsletter. As of today's meeting, there are 1,404 persons receiving district information via e-mail as compared to more than 6,900 that received the print version of the newsletter. Mr. Hopper, as well as the staff, indicated that a second follow-up postcard to subscribers may be needed.

- Mr. Coleman called on Ms. Fox to report on the HPWD rainwater harvesting workshops to be held April 10 at the Mallet Event Center in Levelland; April 17 at the Ollie Liner Center in Plainview; April 24 at the Bailey County Electric Co-op in Muleshoe; and May 1 at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension’s Kuhlman Center in Canyon. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. The first 20 persons to sign up will receive a rain barrel, courtesy of HPWD. A rainwater harvesting workshop is scheduled within each District Directors’ Precinct—with exception of Precinct One. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is sponsoring a rainwater harvesting workshop in April at Lubbock. HPWD will provide door prizes and other support for the meeting.
- Former State Representative Joe Heflin of Crosbyton and White River Municipal Water District (WRMWD) Manager Tom Fulton shared a letter from the WRMWD Board of Directors stating their strong support of the current proposal to amend the HPWD rules. They support the proposal to maintain the annual 18” APR (1.5 ac-ft/year); alternate methods of reporting; and clarification of the meaning of contiguous acres. The White River MWD would also like the Board to consider adding pipeline easements as part of the contiguous property for public drinking water systems. Also, they would like consideration to include the area of the corporate limits of the cities they serve in Crosby County as well.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Tate invited those present to offer public comment. (*Only persons that completed a registration form indicating their desire to comment were recognized.*) Mr. Lewis, Ms. Griffin, Mr. Adams, Mr. Dawdy, and Mr. Young offered comments to the Board of Directors. Mr. Heflin submitted a completed comment card—but opted not to speak. For the record, President Tate noted that no other audience members submitted a completed comment registration form. All persons were given an opportunity to provide comment, if desired, and the agenda item concluded.

### **CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Tate then announced that the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District Board of Directors would begin a closed Executive Session at 12:05 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and personnel matters as authorized by Chapters 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code (Open Meetings Act).

President Tate adjourned the closed Executive Session at 12:50 p.m. and immediately reconvened the regular Board of Directors meeting.

### **ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Tate called upon the Board to consider any action needed following the Executive Session. There being none, no action was taken on this agenda item.

The Board of Directors revisited the earlier rules revision discussion, which included a timeline for legal counsel review, reporting alternatives, and County Advisory Committee member review.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Heffington seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Mike Beauchamp*

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Mike Beauchamp, Secretary-Treasurer