

**HIGH PLAINS UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 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 3:13 p.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; Nicole Brambila with the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*; Linda Cain; Kathy Cornett; J. O. Dawdy; Carol Griffin, Jerald Griffin; Robert Melcher; Dillon Pool; Dr. Dana Porter; Aunie Sellers, Joy Shadid; Linda Taylor; and Dr. Joseph 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; Juan Pena, Permit 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Approval of minutes of the March 11, 2014 Board of Directors regular meeting at Lubbock.
- Adoption of report on the financial status of the District from the General Manager for the month of March 2014.
- Approval of the bills incurred by the District for the month of March 2014 and travel vouchers for the Board members and eligible staff.

Mr. Hopper made a motion to approve the consent agenda. 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.

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.*) J. Collier Adams offered comments to the Board of Directors. Mr. Dawdy 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.

President Tate recessed the Board Meeting at 3:20 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO WATER WELL PROPERTY LINE SPACING EXCEPTIONS FROM 1) CITY OF RALLS AND 2) ROBERT MELCHER

President Tate convened the public hearing at 3:20 p.m. and called on the Board to discuss and take possible action on requests for exceptions to water well property line spacing requirements from 1) the City of Ralls (Crosby County) and 2) Robert Melcher (Lubbock County).

Aunie Sellers, director of public works for the City of Ralls, told the Board that an additional water well is needed to supply water to the town due to the drought conditions impacting White River Lake. The well is permitted for 165 gallons per minute production and must be a minimum 200 yards from the nearest well or proposed well site and 50 yards minimum distance from the property line. The City of Ralls is requesting an exception to the property line spacing requirement since the well is located 31 yards east of the accepted property line. Mr. Sellers noted that the City of Ralls phoned or mailed 62 landowners. Of these, 49 signed a consent or waiver. Of the 13 that did not respond, 12 have out of state addresses. President Tate thanked Mr. Sellers for attending today's hearing.

Robert Melcher of Lubbock told the Board that he has applied for a permit for a replacement irrigation well. The well is permitted for 165 gallons per minute production and must be a minimum 200 yards from the nearest well or proposed well site and 50 yards minimum distance from the property line. Mr. Melcher told the Board that the original well was drilled in 1968 and is now sanding in. He is requesting an exception from spacing from one of his own water wells in order to drill the replacement well. No other wells are located within 350 yards of the proposed well site. Four neighboring landowners were contacted regarding the exception and no objections were received. President Tate thanked Mr. Melcher for attending today's hearing.

President Tate adjourned the public hearing at 3:26 p.m.

President Tate reconvened the Board Meeting at 3:26 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO WATER WELL PROPERTY LINE SPACING REQUIREMENTS

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action on requests for exceptions to water well property line spacing requirements from 1) the City of Ralls (*Crosby County*) and 2) Robert Melcher (*Lubbock County*).

Mr. Heffington made a motion to approve the City of Ralls' request for exception to water well property line spacing requirements. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Powell made a motion to approve Robert Melcher's request for an exception to the district's water well property line spacing requirements. Mr. Hopper seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

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 March 2014.

Mr. Peña reported the following water well applications were received for the Ogallala Aquifer in March: eight for Bailey County; 15 for Castro County; 22 for Cochran County; 11 for Crosby County; one for Deaf Smith County; 6 for Floyd County; 22 for Hale County; 21 for Hockley County; 14 for Lamb County; 10 for Lubbock County; 16 for Lynn County; and 4 for Parmer County. This is a total of 150 applications.

There were 79 well completions for the Ogallala Aquifer during the period from March 1-31, 2014. This includes 15 for Castro County; one for Cochran County; two for Crosby County; two for Deaf Smith County; five for Floyd County; 12 for Hale County; six for Hockley County; 18 for Lamb County; seven for Lubbock County; six for Lynn County; three for Parmer County; and two for Swisher County.

There was one well completion in the Edwards Trinity aquifer in Lubbock County from March 1-31, 2014.

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 March 2014 as presented. Mr. Heffington seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

There have been a total of 201 well completions in the Ogallala Aquifer, three well completions into the Edwards-Trinity Aquifer, and one completion in the Dockum Aquifer for the period January 1 to March 31, 2014.

PRESENTATION ABOUT PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT “URBAN LANDSCAPE TURFGRASS SELECTION FOR WATER CONSERVATION”

President Tate welcomed Dr. Joseph (Joey) Young of the Texas Tech University Plant and Soil Science Department to give a presentation about proposed research into turfgrass varieties best suited for semi-arid climates.

Dr. Young said there are three primary objectives for the research:

1. Determine the precise amount of supplemental irrigation needed to sustain acceptable turfgrass quality in semi-arid climates.
2. Evaluate performance/survival of various turfgrass species under minimal supplemental irrigation.
3. Provide an educational site to guide homebuilders, realtors, organizations, and others in making turfgrass decisions.

The research plots, located at the 130-acre PSS Quaker Avenue Research Farm in Lubbock, will include both warm-season and cool-season turfgrass species.

Common bermudagrass, hybrid bermudagrass, Japanese lawngrass, Manilagrass, Buffalograss, Seashore paspalum, and Lady Bird Johnson native mix (*Buffalo, Curly Mesquite, and Blue Grama*) are the warm-season grasses to be tested. Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass are the cool-season grasses.

A portion of the research test plots will receive water through subsurface drip irrigation buried to a depth of five inches. Other research plots will receive overhead sprinkler irrigation. This is designed to simulate homeowner turf management practices—including mowing heights and general fertilizer applications.

Dr. Young is requesting financial assistance from HPWD for purchase of sod & freight as well as turf maintenance equipment and chemicals for an estimated total of \$6,000. Mr. Beauchamp moved that the Board approve the funding request. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

President Tate thanked Dr. Young for his presentation. He said the HPWD Board looks forward to the research results and future field demonstration days at the research site.

REQUESTS FROM SWCDs FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT IRRIGATION WELL METERING, DATA COLLECTION, AND DELIVERY OF VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS TO PRODUCERS IN THE REGION.

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action on requests from Soil and Water Conservation Districts for financial assistance to conduct irrigation well metering, data collection, and delivery of voluntary conservation programs to producers in the region.

HPWD has received requests from Blackwater Valley Soil and Water Conservation District in

Muleshoe, Lubbock County SWCD in Lubbock, Running Water SWCD in Dimmitt, Tierra Blanca SWCD in Hereford, and Tule Creek SWCD in Tulia. In previous years, HPWD has provided \$2,000 per district.

As discussed in the previous work session, it is important for each SWCD to use the funding for the best benefit possible. As in previous years, they will be responsible for reporting water conservation results obtained through the HPWD grant funding.

Mr. Beauchamp moved that the Board approve \$2,000 in funding for each SWCD. Mr. Hopper seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

COUNTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action on County Advisory Committee members. Mr. Powell recommended that Regan Ware of Ralls be appointed to the Crosby County Advisory Committee. President Tate asked if there were any other appointees to the district's County Advisory Committees. There being none, Mr. Powell moved that Mr. Ware be appointed to the Crosby County Advisory Committee. Mr. Heffington seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESIGNATION OF BAILEY COUNTY SECRETARIES

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action on accepting the resignation of Janet Morgan and Shani Nichols as Bailey County Secretaries. Ms. Morgan and Ms. Nichols have retired from the staff of Capital Farm Credit in Muleshoe. Mr. Hopper moved that the Board accept the resignation of Janet Morgan and Shani Nichols as Bailey County Secretaries. Mr. Beauchamp seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW BAILEY COUNTY SECRETARIES

President Tate called on the Board to discuss and take possible action on appointing Christina Gutierrez and Melissa Nichols as Bailey County Secretaries. Mr. Hopper moved that the Board appoint Ms. Gutierrez and Ms. Nichols as Bailey County Secretaries. Mr. Beauchamp seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was unanimously approved.

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.

No action was taken regarding this agenda item.

REPORTS ON STATUS OF DISTRICT PROGRAMS FROM THE MANAGER

Mr. Coleman reported on the following:

- Recent meetings attended.
- Mr. Coleman asked Mr. Whitworth to provide an update on the irrigation assessment program. The district has reinstated the program after a four-year absence. District personnel take flow meter readings on wells and well systems at the beginning, mid-point, and end of the irrigation season. In addition, water level measurements are made at the start and end of the season. Mr. Whitworth said there is good interest in the irrigation assessment program. At present, there are 46 producers (76 fields) enrolled in the program. He said he would like about 100 fields in the program, with a limit of 2 per producer.
- Mr. Coleman asked Ms. Fox to report on the upcoming rainwater harvesting workshops. She said about 20 have sent in their reservations for the workshops to be held in Levelland on April 10, Plainview on April 17, Muleshoe on April 24, and Canyon on May 1. The program will feature a discussion of rainwater harvesting principles by Ms. Fox and a discussion of xeric landscaping by Mr. McCain. The first 20 participants to RSVP will receive a free rainwater harvesting barrel.
- Mr. Coleman asked Ms. Fox to report on the redesign for the HPWD web site. She said the site is being redesigned to allow better access on mobile platforms, such as mobile phones and tablets. The information from the current site will be updated and made more user-friendly.
- Mr. Coleman reported that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recently conducted a geophysical logging survey of three wells in Deaf Smith, Parmer, and Randall Counties in March. The Parmer County well is completed into the Ogallala Aquifer and the other two wells are completed in the Dockum Aquifer. Mr. Coleman explained that fluid resistivity and temperature measurements help understand water quality as well as potential areas of ambient flow. The fluid resistivity data from the Ogallala well in Parmer County showed a stable, consistent pattern throughout the formation. The Dockum well in Deaf Smith County showed the same findings. However, there was a noticeable change in the water quality when logging the Dockum well in Randall County. Mr. Coleman said the bottom 65 feet of water contained substantially higher total dissolved solids (TDS) than the water above that point. Additional surveys are planned for the future.
- Mr. Sanders reported that staff is working to develop an interactive map for the HPWD website that will allow persons to locate their proposed well site and generate well spacing “buffer rings” for that location. This will make it easier to determine if a proposed well site will be in compliance with HPWD spacing requirements.

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 4:07 p.m. to discuss attorney-client matters 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 5:35 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.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Mr. Beauchamp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Powell seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative as expressed by a show of hands. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mike Beauchamp

Mike Beauchamp, Secretary-Treasurer