



## Minutes for Special Meeting/Hearing of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2017  
Time: 6:00 pm  
Place: Dripping Springs City Hall  
Located: 511 Mercer St., Dripping Springs, Tx. 78620

### 6:10 p.m.: Board Meeting Call to Order

**Board Present:** Linda Kaye Rogers - President, Jimmy Skipton – Vice-President (arrived at 6:13), Mark Hastings – Secretary-Treasurer, Greg Nesbitt & Doc Jones

**Staff Present:** Rick Broun-General Manager & Tressy Gumbert-Office Administrator

- **Board Roll Call:**

Rick Broun:

- Called Roll. A quorum is present

- **General Comments from Board & Staff & General Managers Report:**

**Board & Staff:**

Rick Broun:

- During Commissioners Court held, on August 15, 2017, the County Commissioners approved granting \$100K to HTGCD for adding additional dedicated monitoring wells within the District. I attended the meeting and have crafted a Thank You letter to present to the Commissioners.
- The District received an Operating Permit application from Easy Mix, a bulk loading cement company located within Single Member District 3. Notice was posted in the paper and on the District's website. The District office has received many phone calls and emails from concerned neighbors regarding the permit application. An informal neighborhood meeting took place at Trudy's last week. I was in attendance as was Mark Hastings and Tressy Gumbert. Also in attendance was Representative Jason Isaac, Linda Kinney with Commissioners Whisenant office and Eric Van Gassbeek with Hays County Development Services. I expect the permit application to be contested when the time period for contesting opens.
- The Skipton monitoring well is underway. A temporary fence was erected allowing both the drilling rig and water tank truck access to the property off the road. Drilling began Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. GeoProjects was selected to do the work in part due to their coring abilities. The Core Research Center with BEG will be analyzing and storing the collected core samples. BSEACD will be out tomorrow to take video and pictures of the bore hole using their down-hole camera. Ron Fieseler with BPGCD will be out next week to log the well. Joe Vickers will be in charge of the aquifer test. I notified the Constable to make them aware of the project and provide them contact information.
- Would like to have a press release and ribbon cutting ceremony once the well is complete.
- There were 54 new Public Water Connections submitted in July, 265 YTD, 250 Budgeted for the year.
- 41 RV water Connections YTD.
- There were 14 new well registrations submitted in July, 60 YTD, 100 new wells were budgeted for 2017.
- 301 Geothermal wells registered YTD.
- The District received one new TCEQ packet: it is for Camp Young Judaea.
- The District encourages the use of rainwater collection systems on all new homes, businesses and on existing buildings. We further promote artificial recharge of the aquifer through such means as proper brush management and re-establishing deep rooted native grasses. The District further promotes the use of surface water or other alternatives to groundwater in and around western Hays County.
- Reminded Board to inform staff of any meetings, tours, events or lectures they attend concerning groundwater.
- The District encourages the public to view the District's two educational videos which have been made available on the District's website.
- Presented to the Board copies of the Status of Drought Briefing report which includes the US Drought Monitor map the Palmer Drought Severity Index map, hydrographs and the Monitoring Well Water Level Table.
- The latest US Drought Monitor map indicates that our District is within "Abnormally Dry" and the Palmer Drought Severity Index map indicates "Near Normal" Drought Conditions. The maps have been collected and will be part of the District's 2017 Annual Report.
- As of August 15th, the District's drought trigger, the Pedemales River, indicates 1 day of flow within drought stage Alarm, the Blanco River indicates 60 plus days of flow above drought stage Alarm. Both Rivers must have 30 consecutive days of flow within drought stage Alarm in order to move the District into Stage 2 Alarm.

- The drought recommendation for western Hays County is to remain within drought stage 1, No Drought Voluntary Conservation.
- Comparing July to August, water levels north of Camp Ben McCulloch are down 5.5' and water levels south of Camp Ben McCulloch are down 1.4'

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- Was part of a panel discussion which took place last week at the San Antonio College regarding groundwater districts.
- Participated in a study last Friday which was conducted by a professor with South West Texas University regarding groundwater districts.

- **Public Comments Non-Agenda Items:** Louie Bond

**Consent Items:**

1. Approval of Bank Reconciliations & Monthly Invoices
2. Approval of Monthly Financial Report, Balance Sheet and Budget to Actual Report
3. Approval of July 19, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

**Board & Staff:**

Mark Hastings:

- I have reviewed all financials which appear to be in order. As of August 9, 2017 the savings account balance was \$590,295.70 and the checking account was \$113,045.33
- July's meeting minutes also look good.

**Motion:**

Mark Hastings: To approve the meeting minutes and financials as presented.

Greg Nesbitt: Seconded

Vote: 5-0 In favor (Linda Kaye Rogers, Jimmy Skipton, Mark Hastings, Greg Nesbitt & Doc Jones)

**Discussion and Possible Action:**

Item #4 – Science Project Updates

**Board & Staff:**

Rick Broun:

- The science projects were covered earlier in the meeting during General Comments.

**Public Comments:** None

Item #5 – Update on District's 3<sup>rd</sup> Court of Appeals: Judgment Rendered May 19, 2017 in favor of HTGCD

**Board & Staff:**

Jimmy Skipton:

- Plaintiffs filed an appeal; case will be going back before the courts.

**Public Comments:** None

Item #6 – Consideration to enact Drought Stage 2

**Board & Staff:**

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- The drought triggers have not been reached however it is very hot and dry. Recommends going into Drought Stage 2.

Doc Jones:

- Encourage all to water at appropriate times.

Greg Nesbitt:

- Doesn't agree that the District go into Drought stage 2 without hitting the approved triggers. Suggests the use of bill boards or electronic signs to encourage conservation.

Mark Hastings:

- The District needs a more comprehensive and effective way of making awareness to the general public.

**Public Comments:** None

Item #7 – Update on City of Dripping Springs Draft Settlement Agreement

**Board & Staff:**

Rick Broun:

- There are many different opinions on how strict the settlement could or should be. It seems the city has reached their limit on what they are willing to give. TCEQ is still responding to the many questions they received regarding the permit application. EPA withdrew their protest. I believe it would be reasonable for HTGCD to separate ourselves from the property owners.

**Public Comments:** None

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**Future Agenda Items:**

**Board & Staff:**

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- The next Board Meeting will be on September 20, 2017.
- Will be having a Rule Committee meeting within the next week or two to make the changes required by legislation.

Rick Broun:

- Requested the Rule Committee meeting be pushed back due to the time needed for dedicated monitoring well project.

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**7:11 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**

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Approved: Linda Kaye Rogers , President: 9-20 , 2017  
Linda Kaye Rogers

Approved: Mark Hastings , Secretary/Treasurer 9-20-2017  
Mark Hastings