Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Minutes for Open Meeting/Public Hearing of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Date: Thursday, February 6, 2020
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Camp Young Judaea
Located: 121 Camp Young Judaea Rd, Woodcreek, TX 78676

6:06 p.m.: Board Meeting Called to Order

Board Present: Linda Kaye Rogers - President, Holly Fults – Vice President, John Worrall – Secretary/Treasurer, Doc Jones

Board Absent: Jeff Shaw

Staff Present: Charlie Flatten – General Manager, Philip Webster - Hydrogeologist, Kayla Shearhart – Assistant General Manager, Keaton Hoelscher – Geo-Technician

Legal Council Present: Greg Ellis

- **Board Roll Call:**
  Kayla Shearhart:
  - Roll call, a quorum of the Board is present.
- **General Public Comment(s):** Frank Raymond
- **General Comments and Announcements from Board & Staff:** None.

6:09 p.m.: Jeff Shaw arrived

General Manager's Report:

Charlie Flatten:

- Started initiating new procedural and administrative practices to align staff works with management plan goals, such as a weekly staff meeting.
- Started meeting with management of County Commissioners, Water Supply Corporations, Legislators, Texas Alliance of Groundwater District Managers, and others to build relationships.
- Working with Southwest Travis County GCD as they are establishing themselves in order to align common practices and goals.
- Participating in the Regional Water Planning Groups in the Colorado and Guadalupe River Basins.
- 7 New Well Registrations in 2020 (all Domestic/Residential)
- 6 Public Water Supply Connections in 2020 (Aqua TX – 3; WWSC – 3)
- Administrative staff has been hard at work. Some of the completed tasks were completing the 2019 Pumpage Reports, 2019 Overages, etc.
- We are offering public education materials on numerous subjects such as rainwater harvesting, and aquifer storage and recovery at the sign-in table.
- The District always wants to encourage the use of rainwater collection systems on all new homes, businesses, and on existing buildings. The District also promotes proper brush management and reestablishment of deep-rooted, native grasses as a means of promoting infiltration into the aquifer.
- The District also encourages the public to view the District's educational videos available on the District's website.

Status of Drought Briefing:

Charlie Flatten:

- We are remaining in Drought Stage 1, "No Drought / Voluntary Conservation"
- Current drought triggers are the Blanco and Perdernales River flows.
- The Perdernales indicates drought, but the Blanco does not, so the District will remain in Drought Stage 1.

Science Update:

Philip Webster:

- Continuing the Burton Monitoring Well Project: just finished the Aquifer Test; still need to install the pump.
- Recently received the Camp Young Judaea Aquifer Test. Working on a Technical Report to give to the board next meeting.

Keaton Hoelscher:

- No report.

February 6, 2020

Consent Items

Item #1: Approval of January Bank Reconciliations & Monthly Invoices

Item #2: Approval of January Financial Report, Balance Sheet and, Budget to Actual Report

Item #3: Approval of January 8, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Board & Staff Discussion:

John Worrall:

- No bank reconciliations for January yet.
- Budget vs. Actual:
  - Total Income is about $76,000, but District budgeted $31,000. The income includes invoices sent out for Notices of Alleged Violation from 2019 in the amount of $64,000.

Linda Kaye suggested that staff prepare a report for the Board to view showing all of the calculated pumping overages and the associated fees.

John Worrall:

- Total Expenses came out to be about $47,000, but the District budgeted about $27,000. The primary reason for the difference was for legal fees.
- Suggests staff change budget to reflect quarterly legal expenses.
- Net income was about $29,000.
- Balance Sheet shows $915,000 in the Money Market account and $24,000 in the Checking Account, totaling $942,000 in current assets.

Jeff Shaw:

- Why does the budget show zeros under personnel items such as payroll taxes, SEP, etc

John Worrall:

- Because it was in the approved budget, it must be a bookkeeping mistake.
- We will have it amended and sent out for approval next meeting.
- Because the Board already had an opportunity to review the minutes, they should be ready for approval.

Motion:

John Worrall: Motion to approve the minutes.
Doc Jones: Seconded.

Vote: 5-0 In Favor (Linda Kaye Rogers, Holly Fults, John Worrall, Doc Jones, and Jeff Shaw); motion passes.

Public Hearing Items

6:23 p.m.: Public Hearing Open

Item #4: Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the HTGCD Rules – Rule 15 (Jacobs Well Groundwater Management Zone)

Public Comment(s): Eddie McCarthy, Jr., attorney representing Black Market Investments.

6:25 p.m.: Public Hearing Closed

6:25 p.m.: The Board recessed into Executive Session to consult with their Attorney (Texas Government Code Section 551.071).

7:38 p.m.: Reconvened from Executive Session.

No votes were taken and no decisions were made.

Discussion and Possible Action

Item #5: Adoption of proposed rule amendments heard during the public hearing – Rule 15: Jacobs Well Groundwater Management Zone

Public Comment(s): Joe Day, Malcom Harris of Wimberley Valley Watershed Association, Eddie McCarthy, Jr. representing Black Market Investments, and David Baker (Wimberley Valley Watershed Association)

Board and Staff Discussion:

Charlie Flatten:

- The purpose of Rule 15 and the Jacob's Well Groundwater Management Zone is to protect the Middle Trinity Aquifer. We have no control over the flow of Jacob's Well in the case of a drought. This rule is to protect the wells within the spring shed of Jacob's Well.

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- The spring is the "canary in the coal mine". It is an indicator for what is going on within the aquifer. It is certainly a goal to keep Jacob's Well flowing, but we know that even with this rule, it is not going to keep Jacob's Well flowing if we go into a drought.
- This rule is to protect the aquifer in an area with the most growth. To protect all of the water users.

Motion:

Jeff Shaw: Motion for a continuance until next meeting.
John Worrall: Seconded

Vote: 3 in favor (Holly Fults, John Worrall, and Jeff Shaw), 2 abstaining (Linda Kaye Rogers, and Doc Jones); motion passes.

Discussion Only

Item #6: Development of Education and Outreach Project – HTGCD Data Dashboard

Board and Staff Discussion:

John Worrall:

- Referred to the 2020 Budget special projects of Education and Outreach and Website Design.
- In order for us to make decisions, we need to know more about how much water is used, when it is used, and why it is used. We have most of that data available at the District now.
- Believes the first thing the District should do for Education and Outreach is to examine data and turn it into useful information to better inform the Board and public on how to use less.
- From the information, he would like the District to build Best Management Practices and conservation strategies that are best for Western Hays County.
- The Education and Outreach Committee would like to start building a plan on how best to invest the approved funds to give back to the community.
- Suggests the Board should be ready to hire consultants to reach some of these goals.

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- In addition to educating the public on what we have done, we should be educating the public on what we are doing, what we are mandated to do, and how we do it.
- Suggests expanding school programs and other programs outside of Board Meetings.
- Would like the Education and Outreach Committee, together with the General Manager, to make an Education and Outreach Plan.
- The District is participating in the Rainwater Revival on April 4, 2020. It is a great opportunity to figure out how we can better reach out to the community.

Jeff Shaw:

- Suggests reaching out to local high schools to possibly start an internship program.

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- Asks Board members to submit ideas and additional input on Education and Outreach to Charlie Flatten.

Future Agenda Items

- Next Board Meeting will be held March 5, 2020. Location TBD.
- Send all agenda items to the General Manager (Charlie Flatten) so he can start compiling and prioritizing items for future meetings.
- The State Climatologist has agreed to come give a presentation to the District in either March or April.

February 6, 2020

Adjournment

Motion:

Jeff Shaw: Motion to adjourn.
Doc Jones: Seconded.

Vote: 5-0 In Favor (Linda Kaye Rogers, Holly Fults, John Worrall, Doc Jones, and Jeff Shaw); motion passes.

8:07 p.m.: Meeting Adjourned

Approved: Linda Kaye Rogers, President; 5-12- ,2020
Linda Kaye Rogers

Approved: John Worrall, Secretary/Treasurer; April 21 ,2020
John Worrall