Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

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

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020
Time: 6:00 pm
Place: Camp Young Judaea
Located: 121 Camp Young Judaea Rd, Woodcreek, TX 78676

6:14 p.m.: Board Meeting Called to Order

Board Present: Linda Kaye Rogers - President, Doc Jones, and Jeff Shaw

Board Absent: Holly Fults – Vice President, and John Worrall – Secretary/Treasurer

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

- **Board Roll Call:**
  Charlie Flatten:
  - Roll call, a quorum of the Board is present.
- **General Public Comment(s):** AJ Gray
- **General Comments and Announcements from Board & Staff:**
  Linda Kaye Rogers:
  - Attended an Intergovernmental Working Group meeting with Charlie and Kayla, Friday, February 28th.

General Manager's Report:

Charlie Flatten:

- We have arranged for the State Climatologist, John Neilson-Gammon, to come speak at the next Board Meeting, April 2, 2020.
- Staff has been meeting with various sponsors of the Hays County Groundwater Modeling Taskforce.
- Staff has developed a District Cyber Security Policy, as required by legislation passed in the 86th Legislative Session (2019).
- Developing a report on the Water Supply Companies' Drought Contingency Plans in order to compare/contrast to see how they relate to the District's future policies.
- Staff has been updating forms to make sure they match current rules.
- Staff made changes on the website, and will continue to do so in the future.
- The District encourages the use of rainwater catchment systems on all new homes and businesses, and on existing buildings.
- The District also promotes brush management and establishment of native grasses to promote infiltration into the aquifer.
- The District has educational materials available for public consumption.
- 6 new public water supply connections in February, total of 12 for the year.
- 4 new well registrations in February.

Status of Drought Briefing:

Charlie Flatten:

- Currently, the District is in Stage 1, "No Drought / Voluntary Conservation".
- Looks like the southern half of the state is experiencing some drought, including part of Hays County.
- At least one of the Public Water Supplies within the District is in drought conditions.

Science Update:

Charlie Flatten:

- Public Water Supply Drought Contingency Plan overview.
- Working on District Drought indicators.
- Writing an Executive Report on the Burton Dedicated Monitoring Well, including information on cuttings, geophysical log, and water quality samples.
- Met with residents in the Crystal Creek area to talk about local geology and surface water/groundwater interactions.
- Working with County Commissioners in the Western Hays County on further developing a model.

Keaton Hoelscher:

- TCEQ Report: District received the Headwaters Office Project on February 14th, located at the corner of Kybo Ridge (sp?) and 290 West. The project is described as the addition of three office buildings and water detention facilities located next to the Headwaters main project. The District submitted a response to this project on February 26th.

March 5, 2020

- TCEQ Report: Received notice of the Walnut Springs Elementary School project on March 3rd, located at 111 Tiger Lane. Project described as building the facilities for the school, including buildings, detention ponds, parking lots, etc. The District was able to respond today, March 5th.

Consent Items

Item #1: Approval of Bank Reconciliations & Monthly Invoices

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

Item #3: Approval of February 6, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

Board & Staff Discussion:

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- Because the Secretary-Treasurer is absent, the financial reports will be pushed to next meeting

Motion:

Doc Jones: Motion to approve the minutes from February 6, 2020.
Jeff Shaw: Seconded.

Vote: 3-0 In Favor (Linda Kaye Rogers, Doc Jones, and Jeff Shaw); motion passed

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6:27 p.m.: The Board recessed into Executive Session to consult with their Attorney (Texas Government Code Section 551.071).

6:57 p.m.: Reconvened from Executive Session.

No votes were taken and no decisions were made.

Public Hearing Items

6:57 p.m.: Public Hearing Open

Item #4: Public Hearing on operating permit amendment application – Lost Springs Ranch

Public Comment(s): None

Board and Staff Discussion:

Charlie Flatten:

- Lost Springs Ranch WSC is currently approved for 16.25 acre-feet of annual production, and is requesting an additional 1.18 acre feet, for a total of 17.73 acre-feet.
- Proposed use: Public Water Supply
- District Staff recommends a two-year renewable operating permit for 17.73 acre-feet, quarterly reporting to the District on monthly metered production.
- Formal contested case letter deadline was February 26, 2020.
- The District has not received any contested case letters or other comments on this permit amendment application.

6:59 p.m.: Public Hearing Closed

Discussion and Possible Action

Item #6: Approval of operating permit amendment application for Lost Springs Ranch WSC.

Public Comment(s): None

Motion:

Jeff Shaw: Motion to accept the permit amendment for 17.73 acre-feet.
Doc Jones: Seconded.

Vote: 3-0 In Favor (Linda Kaye Rogers, Doc Jones, and Jeff Shaw); motion passed

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Public Hearing Items

7:00 p.m.: Public Hearing Open

Item #5: Public Hearing on operating permit amendment application – Camp Young Judaea

Public Comment(s): Doug Weirman

Board and Staff Discussion:

Charlie Flatten:

- Camp Young Judaea (CYJ) currently holds a12 acre-feet per year permit.
- CYJ told staff their original permit was undersized.
- The undersized permit caused them to incur overage fees from the District, but they have taken measures to improve their system.
- They are asking for an increase to 24 acre-feet to meet what they actually use annually.
- The purpose of the water on the permit is for a Public Water Supply.
- The deadline to submit a contested case letter was February 26, 2020. The District did not receive any contested case letters.

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- Voting for the CYJ permit will take place at the next regular board meeting.

7:04 p.m.: Public Hearing Closed

Item #7: Approval of Draft Rule 15 with amendments – Jacobs Well Groundwater Management Zone

Public Comment(s): Walter "Chip" Schwab, AJ Gray (Aqua Texas Customer), Robin Gary (Wimberley Valley Watershed Association), Malcolm Harris, David Baker

Board and Staff Discussion:

Jeff Shaw:

- Suggests amending 15.1.2: changing the effective date from November 1, 2019 to March 5, 2020.

Motion:

Jeff Shaw: Motion to make a minor amendment to change effective date from November 1, 2019 to March 5, 2020.
Doc Jones: Seconded.

Vote: 3-0 In Favor (Linda Kaye Rogers, Jeff Shaw, and Doc Jones); motion passes.

Motion:

Doc Jones: Motion to adopt Rule 15 as amended.
Jeff Shaw: Seconded.

Vote: 3-0 In Favor (Linda Kaye Rogers, Jeff Shaw, and Doc Jones); motion passes.

Item #8: Approval of HTGCD Cyber Security Policy

Public Comment(s): None

Board & Staff Discussion:

Charlie Flatten:

- The State Legislature passed HB 3834 last session stating all State Agencies must institute Cyber Security Policies.
- The policy involves training staff and board on how to prevent cyber attacks.

Motion:

Linda Kaye Rogers: Motion to accept the policy to be implemented by staff for cybersecurity for the HTGCD as mandated by the legislature.
Doc Jones: Seconded.

Vote: 3-0 In Favor (Linda Kaye Rogers, Jeff Shaw, Doc Jones); motion passes.

Discussion Only

Item #9: Science Presentation on Trigger Methodologies

Board and Staff Discussion:

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- This will be a portion of Rule 13 where are we looking to change the triggers within the Rule.

Charlie Flatten:
- Several of the public comments received indicated that they were not privy to the science behind the triggers, so I thought it would be a useful for the District Staff Geologist to present *"HTGCD Drought Triggers"*.

Linda Kaye Rogers:
- Suggests making presentation available on the District Website.

Philip Webster makes presentation on trigger methodologies titled "HTGCD Drought Triggers".

There was some discussion among members of the public and Philip on looking at historical data and how the proposed new drought trigger scheme would look against historical droughts.

There was some discussion on how the District correlated the Skipton Well (new) with the Henly Well (historic).

There was some discussion on how the District reconciles the different triggers to declare drought stages.

Linda Kaye Rogers:
- The District has discussed the possibility of splitting the District between Region K (northern portion) and Region L (southern portion) with separate triggers.

Jeff Shaw started a discussion on the benefit of drilling another Dedicated Monitor Well for a drought trigger, and what current Dedicated Monitor Wells could be used.

Linda Kaye Rogers:
- Asked Philip to create a chart showing the new trigger mechanisms and how last year would have been different with the proposed triggers.

Future Agenda Items

Linda Kaye Rogers:
- The next meeting will be held on April 2, 2020 at Camp Young Judaea starting at 5:30 pm.
- The District will be hosting a speaker, John Neilson-Gammon, the State Climatologist.

Charlie Flatten:
- The State Climatologist will start his presentation on climate and water supply at 5:30 pm, and the Board Meeting will start at 6:00 pm.

Linda Kaye Rogers:
- Next meeting the Board will discuss Notices of Alleged Violation for pumping overages in 2019

Adjournment

Motion:

Doc Jones: Motion to adjourn
Jeff Shaw: Seconded

Vote: 3-0 In Favor (Linda Kaye Rogers, Jeff Shaw, and Doc Jones); motion passes.

7:47 p.m.: Meeting Adjourned

Approved: Linda Kaye Rogers, President; May 12 ,2020
Linda Kaye Rogers

Approved: John A Worrall, Secretary/Treasurer; April 22 ,2020
John Worrall