

Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District Board Meeting: June 4, 2020 Minutes

6:00 p.m.: Board Meeting Called to Order

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

Board Absent: None

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

Legal Counsel Present: Greg Ellis

- **Board Roll Call:**
 - Charlie Flatten:
 - Roll call, a quorum of the Board is present.
- **General Public Comment(s):** None
- **General Comments and Announcements from Board & Staff:**
 - John Worrall:
 - DSWSC agreed to sign Stand-still Agreement.

General Manager's Report:

Charlie Flatten:

- Covid-19 response
- Monitoring well program
 - Staff will wear face mask and gloves for measuring monitoring wells
 - Staff has been in communication with monitoring well owners and have all been satisfied with resuming the monthly monitoring program.
 - Will start again in two weeks unless there is another Covid flare up
- Cyber Security training for the Board by June 15
- Permian Pipeline contamination well site visit
 - Staff collected samples for a water quality test, awaiting lab results
- Potential Contamination from a radioactive camera that fell in river
 - Camera was sealed in metal box
 - Recovered 5-days later
 - Currently no indicated of contamination
- Overview of meeting last month
 - TAGD Business meeting
 - Cypress Creek Project
 - Public Funds Investment
- Kayla Shearhart is now working for the TWDB
- District 2 and 4 are up for re-election, staff has started preparations
- Continue to make website changes
- Rule 13 Stakeholders process preparations will begin soon
- Rule 15 Stakeholders update
 - Have meet or planned a meeting with every permit holder in the Management Zone.
- 13 new registrations in May
- 92 Public Water Supply connections in May (includes DSWSCs PWS from January, February, and March)

Status of Drought Briefing:

Charlie Flatten:

- Pedemales and Blanco River are flowing above drought triggers
- JW is in 0-percent curtailment stage
- PDHI shows no drought for all of Hays County
- Forecast: average rainfall and above average temperatures
- District encourages rainwater collected and the use of surface water

Science Update:

Keaton Hoelscher:

- District did not receive any TCEQ notifications
- Gave update on Board elections and timeline of events

Discussion between Greg Ellis, Board, and Staff regarding elections process

Philip Webster:

- Update on Burton Monitoring well report

- May science-related meetings

Discussion between Board and Staff regarding the Kinder Morgan funded dye trace study in Blanco County

Consent Items

Item # 1: Approval of Bank Reconciliations & Monthly Invoices

Item # 2: Approval of April Financial Reports, Balance Sheets, and Budget to Actual Report

Item # 3: Approval of May meeting minutes, pending correction of typo in final motion.

Board and Staff Discussion:

John Worrall:

- Throughout previous months, District's income had been less than projected, but since DSWSC has paid their January through March connection fees, budget is back on track.
- Looking for ideas on what the District can cut back on if COVID-19 continues to get worse.
- Raised concern over the budgeted vs actual legal fees and cost of developing and implementing new rules.

Motion:

John Worrall: Motion to approve Items # 1 and # 2 on Agenda: Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation

Holly Fults: seconded

Vote: 5-0 in favor (John Worrall, Doc Jones, Jeff Shaw, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers); motion passed

Motion:

Holly Fults: Motion to approve May 2020 meeting minutes, pending correction of typo in final motion.

Jeff Shaw: Seconded

Vote: 5-0 in favor (John Worrall, Doc Jones, Jeff Shaw, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers); motion passed

Discussion and Possible Action

Item # 4: Order #199 to change JWGMZ Drought Stage to 0%

Board and Staff Discussion:

Charlie:

- The flow at JW Spring indicates we are moving from 20-percent to 0-percent curtailment.

Motion:

Doc Jones: Motion to approve Order 199 to apply 0% Drought Curtailment to JWGMZ for the month of June 2020.

John Worrall: Seconded

Vote: 5-0 in favor (John Worrall, Doc Jones, Jeff Shaw, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers); motion passed

Item # 5: WaterSmart Grant: DOI Bureau of Reclamation Grant Resolution to act

Board and Staff Discussion:

Venessa Puig-Williams (Environmental Defense Fund):

- Background on the WaterSmart (Drought Response Program) Grant
- Grant is for Drought Resiliency focused projects
- Bureau is eager to fund more projects in Texas
- Currently exploring the details of the projects, budget, and roles of each agency

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- Could Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer conservation District and HTGCD apply together

Venessa Puig-Williams:

- Does not think we can apply for the grant as co-applicants

- If a project were done in our District and BSEACD was the applicant, they would contract HTGCD and receive the funding for that project.

Jeff Shaw:

- Reminded Staff to document all in-kind expenses.

Motion:

Linda Kaye: Motion to authorize GM and Staff to pursue WaterSMART Grant from the Bureau of Reclamation

Jeff Shaw: Seconded

Vote: 5-0 in favor (John Worrall, Doc Jones, Jeff Shaw, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers); motion passed

Item # 6: Authorization of Mr. Flatten as potential HTGCD representative to the RFPGs

Board and Staff Discussion:

Charlie Flatten:

- Background information and importance of Regional Flood Planning Groups
- Spent a lot of time when at the HCA working with the TWDB on the RFPG process
- District would be in Lower Colorado and Blanco-Guadalupe group
- Would allow the District to have influence on regional surface water planning

Motion:

Jeff Shaw: Motion to allow Charlie Flatten to move forward as a potential representative for the Regional Flood Planning Board.

Doc Jones: Seconded

Vote: 5-0 in favor (John Worrall, Doc Jones, Jeff Shaw, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers); motion passed

Item # 7: Nomination and appointment of HTGCD representative on the 2020-2021 Dripping Springs Utility Commission

Board and Staff Discussion:

Jeff Shaw:

- HTGCD appoints two rotating positions, one position ends at the beginning of July.
- Need to have a nominee before next meeting.

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- Concern over the amount of time it will take for the Dripping Springs Utility Commission to interview the potential representative and will be receptive to our nominee.

Jeff Shaw:

- Should not have as much as an issue compared to last year, also recommends only nominating one applicant instead of two.

Discussion between Board regarding last year's election and strategies on what to do if position is not filled before next Dripping Springs Utility meeting

Motion:

No motion was made.

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Discussion Only

Item # 8: Review of budget and financial position

Board and Staff Discussion:

John Worrall:

- Concern over COVID-19 impacts on revenue
- Budget was written with a deficit due to multiple special projects
- Only item we have control over are the legal fees
- Budgeted \$1,000 per month but have spent \$21,800 (year to date)
- For the future when budgeting, District needs to be aware that rules have legal cost

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- The 2020 budgeted legal fees did not consider the development of Rule 13 and Rule 15.
- Had expenses that we did not account for.

Jeff Shaw:

- Asked if the legal costs have decreased in the recent months

John Worrall:

- Expenses were mostly from the first quarter but have since decreased
- Legal fees are not expected to increase again

Jeff Shaw:

- o Asked for details of our lease agreement to save money

Linda Kaye Rogers:

- o May consider buying our own property
- o Asked when our lease is up next

Charlie Flatten:

- o The lease was signed in June of 2020 for one year
- o Monthly cost is \$2,450 per month

Jeff Shaw and Doc Jones:

- o Recommends looking around at properties starting end of this year.

Item # 9: Review of AQUA's JWGMZ drought response

Item # 10: Review of personnel vacancy

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7:22 p.m.: The Board recessed into Executive Session to Discuss Agenda Item # 9 and 10 (Texas Government Code Section 551.071).

8:02 p.m.: Reconvened from Executive Session.

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Future Agenda Items

Discussion and Possible Action: 2019 Annual Notice of Alleged Violation Actions

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Adjournment

Motion: 8:10pm

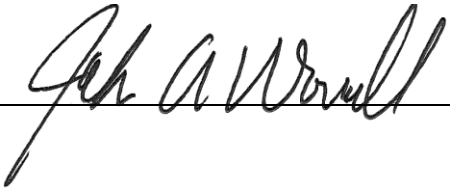
Doc: Motion to adjourn.

Jeff: Seconded.

Vote: 5-0 in favor (John Worrall, Doc Jones, Jeff Shaw, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers); motion passed.

8:10 p.m.: Meeting Adjourned

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Approved:  , President
Linda Kaye Rogers

Approved:  , Secretary/Treasurer
John Worrall