Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm
Via Teleconference

Pursuant to notice posted January 4, 2021, the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors met in a Public Meeting and was called to order by the President, Holly Fults, at 6:00 p.m.

The initial quorum call was answered as follows: Holly Fults, President; Linda Kaye Rogers, Vice President; John Worrall, Secretary/Treasurer; Doc Jones, Director.

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Charlie Flatten, General Manager; Philip Webster, Hydrogeologist; Keaton Hoelscher, Geo-Technician; Laura Thomas, Office Administrator.

Public Comment(s): None

Announcements: GM Flatten noted the Rathgeber donation of a 300-acre parkland tract to the City of Dripping Springs.

General Manager's Report, Charlie Flatten:

- Dripping Springs Utility Commission (DSUC) possible wastewater and water expansion for Driftwood and the Big Sky Phase 2 development.
- DSUC plans to appeal the TCEQ permit denial to discharge effluent into Onion Creek.
- GMAs 9 and 10 Desired Future Condition statements and Explanatory Report preparations underway.
- District "bridge" website almost ready while new website is being developed this year.
- 2021 Strategic Water Vision info on District website is updated.
- December 2020: 10 new well registrations, 9 new single-family public water supply connections. In 2020, 117 total well registrations out of a projected 100, and 495 total public water supply connections.
- Quarterly investment report provided.

Status of Drought Briefing: As of January 3, drought triggers at:

- Pedernales River at Johnson City and the Blanco River at Wimberley are currently running in drought stage. Staff recommends the District remain in 20% Alarm Drought Stage.
- Jacob's Well Spring 10-Day average discharge rate as of December 31, 2020 is .98-cfs thus remaining in a 30% curtailment for the JWGMZ by rule.
- The Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (NOAA) shows Severe and Extreme Drought conditions for all of Hays County and most of central Texas. NOAA Weather forecasts below average rainfall and above average temperatures through the end of the year. We remain in the grip of a La Nina weather pattern. Recently reported Polar Vortex may drive weather events.

- The District encourages a variety of groundwater conservation measures, including deep rooted native grasses. Check haysgroundwater.com for more conservation practices.

Science Update, Keaton Hoelscher:

- TCEQ notifications – Headwaters at Barton Creek Phase 5 project. Staff response underway.
- Monitor Well levels across the District saw stable levels from the previous month.
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Science Update, Philip Webster:

- Completed reports are now on District website: *District Recharge Characteristics on a Watershed Scale* and *Trinity Aquifer Response Under Current Production Levels at 2011 Drought Conditions*. District encourages public to read these new reports.

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Consent Items

1. **Approval of Bank Reconciliations & Monthly Invoices**
2. **Approval of November 2020 Financial Reports, Balance Sheets and, Budget to Actual Report**
3. **Approval of November 20, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**
4. **Approval of December 3, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**
5. **Approval of November 17, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

After brief discussion and Secretary/Treasurer Worrall noting that the District is still on track to end the year in the black, the following motions were made:

Vice President Rogers moved to approve Consent Items 1 and 2. Director Jones seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall
Nay: None
Absent: James "Toby" Shelton.

Director Jones moved to approve Consent Item 3. Vice President Rogers seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall
Nay: None
Absent: James "Toby" Shelton.

Vice President Rogers moved to approve Consent Item 4. Director Jones seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall
Nay: None
Absent: James "Toby" Shelton.

Director Jones moved to approve Consent Item 5. Vice President Rogers seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall
Nay: None
Absent: James "Toby" Shelton.

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Discussion and Possible Action

6. Pay for 1/9th of SwTCGCD's GMA-9 Explanatory Report

After brief discussion, the following motions were made:

Vice President Rogers moved to provide $611.11 for HTGCD's portion of the cost of the SwTCGCD GMA 9 explanatory report. Director Jones seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall
Nay: None
Absent: James "Toby" Shelton.

7. Allow SwTCGCD to delay payment of GMA-9 Explanatory Report

No action taken.

8. District Staff and Board Surety Bond Approval

Secretary/Treasurer Worrall moved to approve the District Staff and Board surety bond. Director Jones seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall
Nay: None
Absent: James "Toby" Shelton.

9. To be considered after item 11.

10. To be considered after item 11.

11. Recycling Policy Approval

Board and Staff Discussion:

Vice President Rogers moved to approve the District Recycling Policy as put forth. Secretary/Treasurer Worrall seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall
Nay: None
Absent: James "Toby" Shelton.

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Executive Session

At 7:00 pm, on Direction of the President and Pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 551, including Section 551.071 and 551.074, the Board, Attorney Greg Ellis, and GM Flatten moved into Executive Session to discuss item 9. Proposed draft amendments to the District Enabling Act and impact of potential litigation, and item 10. Proposed revisions to the Personnel Policy.

No Action was taken.

8:46p.m.: Reconvened from Executive Session.

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Discussion and Possible Action, continued

9. **Proposed draft amendments to the District Enabling Act and impact of potential litigation.**

President Fults instructed HTGCD attorney and legislative liaison Greg Ellis to develop a menu of legislative options that Directors can use to consult with District stakeholders on preferences, particularly with regard to funding mechanisms, with the goal to develop a legislative proposal for the 87th Legislature.

10. **Proposed revisions to the Personnel Policy**.

Vice President Rogers moved to set an incentive policy for the General Manager and for the GM to manage same for staff. Secretary/Treasurer Worrall seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall
Nay: None
Absent: James "Toby" Shelton.

Discussion Only

12. Standstill Agreement with DSWSC status report:

President Fults advised that all parties are standing still. The goal has been to meet once a month with at least two representatives from Dripping Springs Water Supply Corp Board. DSWSC had not been available to meet in November or December, but on January 7, a meeting was held.

13. Strategic Water Vision 2021 status report:

President Fults gave update. Final report is under review by consultants. The full presentation of the 2021 Strategic Water Vision should be scheduled for the February board meeting. Secretary/Treasurer Worrall expressed interest in following up with all who participated to thank them and sharing with them the results of our findings.

Future Agenda Items:

Strategic Water Vision 2021: Ledbetter/Carollo Reports and Presentation.

The Board discussed dates for a special meeting relating to legislation for the 87th Texas Legislature.

Motion to Adjourn:

Director Jones moved to adjourn. VP Rogers seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, John Worrall, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers
Nay: None
Absent: James "Toby" Shelton.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:15 p.m.

Approved: Holly Fults 2/04/2021
Holly Fults
President

Approved: John A Worrall 2/04/2021
John Worrall
Treasurer/Secretary