Minutes for Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm
Via Videoconference

Pursuant to notices posted March 10 and 25, 2021, the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors met in a Public Hearing & Meeting and was called to order by the President, Holly Fults, at 6:01 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, Toby Shelton, Director.

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Charlie Flatten, General Manager; Philip Webster, Hydrogeologist; Laura Thomas, Office Administrator.

Public Comment(s): Radu Boghici; Doug Wierman.

Invited Comment: Greg Ellis, Lawyer

Announcements: None.

General Manager's Report, Charlie Flatten:

- March 2021: 12 new well registrations, 3 new single-family public water supply connections.
- Thorough update to Board on Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9)
- BRATWURST update: The Blanco River Aquifer Tool for Water and Understanding Resiliency and Sustainability Trends modeling project has achieved funding goals and will commence operations soon.
- Q1 Investment Report Reported

Status of Drought Briefing: Our drought triggers at:

- As of March 31, Pedernales River at Johnson City and the Blanco River at Wimberley are currently running in drought stage. Staff recommends the Board remain in 20% Alarm Drought Stage.
- Jacobs Well Spring 10-Day average discharge rate as of March 31, 2021 is 1.13 cfs -- remaining in a 30% curtailment for the JWGMZ by rule.
- The Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (NOAA) shows persistent moderate to severe drought conditions for all of Hays County. NOAA 3-month weather forecast predict below average rainfall and above average temperatures.
- The District encourages a variety of groundwater conservation measures, including the cultivation of deep-rooted native grasses and robust rainwater storage systems.

Monitor Run and Science Update: Philip Webster

- March Monitoring Run: March 17 & 18. Most wells showed stability from previous month.

- Presented 2 Pager report showing District historical water level percentiles for the current month, and past year of months, with a brief description and explanation. Also assesses surface water and springs flow health with a brief description and explanation.
- Continuing to develop studies about Trinity recharge from Barton Creek watershed.
- Finishing up pumping scenario modeling tool.
- Investigating potential surface water contributions to the Trinity Aquifer throughout Goldenwood and neighboring areas.
- Assessing details of our monitoring network with goal is to add 2 more transducer monitoring wells.

Consent Items

1. **Approval of March 2021 Bank Reconciliations & Monthly Invoices**
2. **Approval of February 2021 Financial Reports, Balance Sheets and, Budget to Actual Report**
3. **Approval of February 25 and March 4, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

After brief discussion, the following motions were made:

VP Rogers moved to approve Consent Items 1 through 3. Director Jones seconded.
The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, , John Worrall, Director Shelton
Nay: None
Absent: None.

Public Hearing

6:55 PM Public Hearing Open

1. **Proposed Rule 15 Amendments**
   Public Comment: None

7:12 PM Public Hearing Closed

Discussion and Possible Action

2. Approval of Proposed Rule 15 Amendments:

Following the public hearing and board and staff discussion about adjustments to Rule 15, the following motion was made:

VP Rogers moved to accept proposed amendments to Rule 15. Director Jones seconded.

The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall, Toby Shelton
Nay: None
Absent: None.

3. Consider and possible action favoring or opposing legislation currently pending before the Texas State Legislature:

Greg Ellis gave an update on groundwater related bills moving through the 87th Tex. Legislature. Following board and staff discussion, the following motion was made:

VP Rogers moved that the Board direct Lobbyist Greg Ellis to express the Board's positive support of HB 3883 (87R) by State Representative Kyle Biederman. Director Jones seconded.

The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall, Toby Shelton
Nay: None
Absent: None.

4. Resolution on Sawyer Ranch TCEQ Direct Discharge Permit (1st TCEQ effluent discharge permit issued into Barton Creek):

Following board and staff discussion, the following motion was made:

Secretary/Treasurer Worrall moved that the Resolution be adopted and submitted as an official comment to express the Board's concerns to TCEQ. Director Jones seconded.

The motion prevailed by the following vote:
Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall, Toby Shelton
Nay: None
Absent: None.

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Discussion Only

5. Report on new RV park on RR 12 near the Kinder Morgan pipeline

Vice President Rogers described a development located within the JWGMZ. The Board discussed ensuring the developer has an understanding of District guidelines and looked forward to answering any questions they may have and being of service where necessary to the owners and the County in working through any applicable District requirements.

6. Administration, Conservation Credits, and Waivers for Proposed Production Fees (emergency use, line flushing, meter replacement, infrastructure repair, etc.)

Vice President Rogers presented possibilities for adjustments to proposed production fees due to a variety of potential circumstances. Director Worrall expressed desire that there always be an amount of "free" water.

7. Legislative Update No more discussion followed Item 3, earlier.

8. Standstill Agreement with DSWSC status report Communications continuing, speaking each other's language, discussed need to better understand growth estimates and infrastructure.

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Future Agenda Items:

1. 2020 Annual Report presentation
2 .HCMN Water Wise presentation
3 .Science Program presentation
4 .NOAV Settlement Agreement Discussions
5. Connection Fee Adjustment

Motion to Adjourn:

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

Meeting Adjourned, 9:05 p.m.

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Approved: Holly Fults 05/06/2021
Holly Fults
President

Approved: John A Worrall 05/06/2021
John Worrall
Secretary/Treasurer