



Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

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

Pursuant to notices posted June 28, 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 6:03 p.m.

The initial quorum call was answered as follows: Holly Fults, President; John Worrall, Secretary/Treasurer; Doc Jones, Director; James “Toby” Shelton, Director.

A quorum was present.

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

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General Public Comment(s): Ray Don Tilley.

Invited Comment: John Nielsen-Gammon, Greg Ellis.

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6:05pm Linda Kay Rogers now present.

Water Wise Speaker Series: John Nielsen-Gammon, the State Climatologist of Texas, gave a presentation on climate patterns and trends with a particular focus on drought and *Extreme Weather in Texas, 1900 - 2036*. This was the third of the District’s bimonthly speaker series.

Public Comment: Ray Don Tilley.

General Manager’s Report:

- June 2021: 8 new well registrations, 19 new single-family public water supply connections.
- Quarterly Investment Report
- Website project: RFP process complete- local firm Sustainable Sources chosen for website development.
- NOAV Updates: Serenity Farmhouse Inn and Creek Road Ranch
- Permit Amendment Update: Fall Creek Vineyards

Status of Drought Briefing: Our drought triggers:

- As of July 1, drought triggers at Pedernales River at Johnson City and the Blanco River at Wimberley are still running in drought stage. Staff recommends District remain in 20% Alarm Drought Stage.
- Jacobs Well Spring 10-Day average discharge rate as of June 29, 2021 is 4.43 cfs – remain at 20% curtailment for the JWGMZ, by rule.

- The Palmer Hydrologic Drought Index (NOAA) shows a state of no atmospheric or agricultural drought conditions through September 2021 for Hays County. NOAA 3-month weather forecast predicts a 33% chance that average rainfall rates will be similar or higher to those typically observed and average temperatures will be similar to those typically observed at that time of year.
- 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:

- June Monitoring Run: June 16 and 17. Most wells saw increase in levels, with NW area of District showing averages of 8 feet above historically low levels. The Roman well, which has been dry since August 2020, had 4’ of water in it.
- Combining Unit 3 mapping with flow measurements, water quality, and water level data to investigate the relationship between Barton Creek and the Trinity Aquifer.
- Regional Recharge Study Zone: Regional Recharge Study Zone Document outlines projects we have completed, are currently conducting, and have planned for 2022-2025.
- Investigating potential surface water contributions to the Trinity Aquifer throughout Goldenwood and neighboring areas.
- June 4th, the District received notification of the ‘Dripping Springs RV Resort’ project. The site is located south of 290 just west of the McGregor Lane and Hwy 290 intersection, above Onion Creek. It is described as a daily-use RV development that will exist on an 85-acre tract of land. The resort will have 335 daily-use RV pads with an amenity center planned for the future. Water from DSWSC (outside CCN) via pipe connecting from Creek Rd. The District sent its response to the TCEQ for this project.

Consent Items

- 1. Approval of May 2021 Bank Reconciliations & Monthly Invoices**
- 2. Approval of April 2021 Financial Reports, Balance Sheets and, Budget to Actual Report**
- 3. Approval of May 6, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

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

Discussion and Possible Action

- 4. Support of Proposed Desired Future Conditions/Relevant Aquifer Designations as Presented by GMA-9**
 An update was given by GM Flatten on the Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9) Joint Planning Committee process including a summary of comments received from the public. Directors expressed a desire for more conservative planning due to rapid growth within District and more involvement earlier in the next cycle. After much board and staff discussion, no action was taken.
- 5. Adjustment of NOAV (Notice of Alleged Violation) assessments:**
 After Board and staff discussion with Gary Finley for Serenity Farmhouse Inn, the following motion was made:

Treasurer/Secretary Worrall moved that the District and Serenity Farmhouse Inn continue with the 2019 payment plan to which half of the 2020 amount due will be added, the other half forgiven, and meet with District staff for a site visit to address the causes of overages and work on solutions including right-sizing of the permit if necessary. VP Rogers seconded.

The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: Doc Jones, Holly Fults, Linda Kaye Rogers, John Worrall

Nay: Toby Shelton

Absent: None.

6. DSWSC Status Report

Director Shelton and President Fults gave an update on payments received from DSWSC and remaining build-out numbers. Board discussed positive conversations, ongoing non-compliance, Hays County growth.

7. Drought Status Changes: No change in drought status. Not taken up.

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Discussion Only

8. Future Board Meeting Venues: With the expected end of the Governor’s Orders suspending portions of the Open Meetings Act pertaining to in-person meetings and the expected resumption of in-person meetings, Board and Staff discussed possible locations for future in-person Board meetings. Board amenable to meetings beginning at 5pm in an effort to adjourn before 8pm. The Board discussed intention that meetings occur in Dripping Springs and Wimberley areas as equally as possible given location availability.

9. Special Study Zone Science Program: Philip Webster gave update on project underway focusing on recharge and water quality in southwest section of District.

10. Redistricting Rules and Information: update provided by General Counsel Greg Ellis.

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Future Agenda Items:

Motion to Adjourn:

Director Jones moved to adjourn. Vice President Rogers 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, 9:47p.m.

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Approved: Holly Fults 08/05/2021

Holly Fults
President

Approved: John Worrall 08/05/2021

John Worrall
Secretary/Treasurer