

**Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District
Minutes of the Board of Directors
September 12, 2023
Regular Board Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District (the District) was called to order. Present for the meeting were directors: Mr. Bruce Tieken, Mr. Barry Miller, Mr. Kermit Thiele, Mr. Mark Ainsworth, and Mr. Mike St. John. Also present for the meeting was General Manager, Laura Martin, and legal counsel Greg Ellis. Other Attendees included: (See Attached List)

Call to Order.

The President of the Board, Mr. Tieken called the meeting to order at 6:14 PM. after the Public Hearings.

Public Comments. Limit to 3 minutes per person.

Ms. Sally Ploeger, landowner, Mr. Mark Ploeger, landowner, and Mr. Ben Buhler made a public comment. A recording of the board meeting and comments received are filed at the District office, and on the District website.

Consent Agenda (Note: These items may be considered and approved by one motion of the Board. Directors may request to have any consent item removed from the consent agenda for consideration and possible action as a separate agenda item):

Approval of minutes of August 08, 2023 Workshop

Approval of minutes of August 08, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

Approval of the Financial Report.

Approval of the District's bills to be paid.

Approval of the Mitigation Fund bills to be paid.

Approval of District Manager, Administrative Staff, Board Member, Field Technician, and Mitigation Manager Expenses.

Approval of Manager's Report (monthly report, transporter usage, drought index).

Approval of Well Mitigation Manager's Report (well mitigation progress).

Approval of Field Technician's Report (well registrations, water levels, water quality).

The consent agenda was reviewed by the Board of Directors and Mr. Mark Ainsworth made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Barry Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly take action on any item removed from Consent Agenda.

None.

Discuss and possibly take action on setting the tax rate for the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year.

The Board then discussed and took action on setting the tax rate for the District. Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt a 2023-2024 Fiscal Year proposed tax rate of \$0.003174 of each \$100.00 value for the District. THIS TAX RATE WILL RAISE MORE TAXES FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS THAN LAST YEAR'S TAX RATE. Mr. Mike St. John seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly take action on revisions to the District's fiscal year 2022 – 2023 budget.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take action on revisions of the District's fiscal year 2022-2023 budget. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the amended District's fiscal year 2022-2023 budget. Mr. Kermit Thiele seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly take action on the District's fiscal year 2023 – 2024 Budget.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take action on the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Operating Budget for the District. The Board of Directors and Ms. Martin discussed line items of the District Budget. Also discussed

was a donation given to the Gonzales County Under Groundwater Conservation District by the DeWitt-Gonzales River Association. There were suggestions to use said donation for water quality sampling. Mr. Ainsworth made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 District Operating Budget as presented, with the exception of the water quality parameters in the Water Fair Project.

Discuss and possibly take action on the District's Western Mitigation Fund fiscal year 2023 – 2024 budget.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take action on the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Operating Budget for the Western Mitigation Fund. The directors and Ms. Martin discussed line items of the Budget. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Western Mitigation Budget. Mr. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly take action on the District's Eastern Mitigation Fund fiscal year 2023 – 2024 budget.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take action on the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Operating Budget for the Eastern Mitigation Fund. The directors and Ms. Martin discussed line items of the Budget. Mr. Thiele made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Eastern Mitigation Budget. Mr. St. John seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly take action on setting a date for public hearing for District Rule amendments.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take action on setting a date for public hearing for District Rule amendments. Mr. Ainsworth made a motion to set the public hearing date for District Rule amendments on October 10, 2023 at 5:30 PM. Mr. St. John seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly take action on the Groundwater Management Area (GMA13) budget share.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and take action on the Groundwater Management Area (GMA13) budget shares. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the Groundwater Management Area (GMA13) budget share. Mr. Thiele seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly take action on the permit amendment for Canyon Regional Water Authority.

No action taken at this time.

Executive session pursuant to § 551.074 Government Code for personnel matters.

No action taken at this time.

Discuss and possibly take action on the review and update of the Personnel Policy.

This item was tabled for next month's meeting. No action taken at this time.

Discuss and possibly take action on the permit renewal request for a Wilcox irrigation permit for Mr. Jose Cruz.

Next, the Board of Directors discussed and took action on the permit renewal request for Mr. Cruz. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the permit renewal for Mr. Cruz. Mr. St. John seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly take action on the permit renewal request for a Queen City irrigation permit for Mr. Jordan Beeman.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss and possibly take action on the permit renewal request for a Queen City irrigation permit for Mr. Beeman. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve Mr. Beeman's permit renewal. Mr. Ainsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discuss and possibly take action on the contract renewal with Halff Associates, Inc.

Next, the Board discussed and took action on the contract renewal with Halff Associates Inc., the District's

