
SUTTON COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Board Meeting
October 8, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.
Edwards Plateau Soil & Water Conservation District Board Room
301 S. Crockett Ave.
Sonora, Texas

Minutes

Directors Present: Robert Mayer, Erika Campbell, Max Howorth and James Archer

Directors Absent: Butch Taylor

District Staff Present: Meredith Allen, Sofia Galindo and Lana Tolleson

Regular Board Meeting

1. Call Regular Meeting to Order

Board Chairman Robert Mayer called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Recognize Visitors—Any person or group wishing to speak to the Board on any item on the Agenda will be allowed 5 minutes

Cindy Cawley – Showed 2024 WeatherMod flight paths for Schleicher & Sutton Counties. She informed the Board she would bring data from meetings to Board, if we choose to stay in the program.

Ralph Mayer

Cole Ruiz

3. Recognize Pump Installers & Drillers—Any person or group wishing to speak on any item on the Agenda will be allowed 5 minutes

None Present

4. Water Level and Rainfall Report

Technician Sofia Galindo presented the water level and rainfall report for September.

5. Quarterly Well Registration Report

Galindo and Consulting Manager Meredith Allen reviewed the quarterly well registration report and answered questions from the Board.

6. Action, Discuss, or Consider Approval of Minutes of the September 10, 2024 Public Hearing & Board Meeting.

Director Erika Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024 Public Hearing & Board Meeting with a second by Director Max Howorth. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Action, Discuss, or Consider Approval of Bills and Financial Statements for September 2024

Operations Manager Lana Tolleson reviewed the revenue and expenditures for September 2024.

Howorth made a motion to approve the September 2024 bills and financial statements. The motion was seconded by Director James Archer and passed unanimously.

8. Action, Discuss, or Consider Approval of Quarterly Investment Report – 4th Quarter FY 2023-2024

Tolleson reviewed the Quarterly Investment Report for the 4th Quarter of FY 2023-2024. A discussion was held about the CDs that will be up for renewal at various times in November. The Finance Committee will review available interest rates at the time of renewal and select the best option. Howorth made a motion to approve the report with a second by Archer. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Action, Discuss or Consider Agreement with West Texas Weather Modification Association

After months of consideration and further discussion from all Directors present, Howorth made a motion

for the District to no longer participate in the West Texas Weather Modification Association program and to send the required notification to other members as stated in the Association's Bylaws and Interlocal Participation Agreement. The motion was seconded by Archer. The roll call vote was as follows:

Director Max Howorth – For

Director James Archer – For

Board Chair Robert Mayer – For

Director Erika Campbell – Against

Director Butch Taylor was not present

The motion passed.

10. Action, Discuss or Consider Property Struck off to the Taxing Jurisdictions for Delinquent Property Taxes. The Property being identified as R100621

After a brief discussion, Campbell made a motion to accept the bids received for property R100621 and property R100221 (Agenda item 11). The motion was seconded by Archer and passed unanimously.

11. Action, Discuss or Consider Property Struck off to the Taxing Jurisdictions for Delinquent Property Taxes. The Property being identified as R100221

See above action

12. Action, Discuss or Consider Increase in Rates from Blue Cross Blue Shield for Employee Health, Dental and Vision Insurance

Tolleson presented information on the rate increases from Blue Cross Blue Shield for employee health and dental insurance effective December 1, 2024. There will not be an increase in vision rates this plan year. Howorth made a motion to accept the new rates and increase the Insurance line item on the budget with a budget amendment at next month's meeting. Campbell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

13. Executive Session: Deliberations about Personnel Matters. In accordance with Texas Government Code 551.074

The Board of Directors convened into Executive Session at 10:35 a.m.

14. Reconvene into Open Session and Consider Action, if any, regarding decisions discussed in Executive Session

The Board of Directors reconvened into Open Session at 11:02 a.m. Howorth made a motion that along with health coverage for all District employees, the District will pay up to 58% of the dependent premium for employees' dependents enrolled in the insurance program beginning with this fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Archer and passed unanimously.

15. Consulting Manager's Comments

- a. Legislative Update – Allen gave the Board a brief legislative update.

16. Operations Manager's Comments

- a. Update on District Activities – Tolleson reported that she has begun working with Kuntz, Smith & Co., P.C. on the FY 2023-2024 audit.

17. Director Comments/Directives to Staff

- a. Put budget amendments on the November agenda for changes to Insurance and Weather Modification line items
- b. Send certified letters to Weather Modification members as required

18. Action, Discuss, or Consider Responses to Legal Services RFQ and Interview with Potential Legal Representative

Attorney Cole Ruiz, Principle with Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C. presented information about himself and his firm and took questions from the Board of Directors regarding potential legal representation for the District. After discussion, Howorth made a motion to retain Cole Ruiz as legal counsel for the District. The motion was seconded by Archer and passed unanimously.

19. Action, Discuss, or Consider meeting adjournment

Archer made a motion to adjourn at 11:05 a.m. with a second by Howorth. The motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer

Date

Attesting Signature