

PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

November 16, 2020

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District (the "District" or "Prairielands GCD") met in a regular board meeting, open to the public, but held via a publicly accessible webinar/telephone conference call, at 208 Kimberly Dr, Cleburne, TX.

CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARE REGULAR MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

President Charles Beseda presided and called to order the regular Board of Directors Meeting at 9:13 a.m., announcing the meeting open to the public.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called of the members of the Board of Directors, to wit:

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|----------------|-----------------|
| Charles Beseda | Maurice Osborn |
| John Curtis | Kent Smith |
| Randy Kirk | Marty McPherson |
| Paul Tischler | |

All members of the Board were present. Also, in attendance at said meeting were Kathy Turner Jones, General Manager; Brian Sledge, General Counsel; District staff; and members of the public. *Copies of the public sign-in sheet(s) received and video conference attendee list are attached hereto as Exhibit "A".*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Director Smith to approve the consent agenda. Director McPherson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all those who were present.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIALS – Kathy Turner Jones

a) Update on current administrative and financial activities of the District. Ms. Jones reported within the last month District staff sent all Historic Use Permit applicants and permit holders payment option letters reminding them that beginning January 1, 2021, the fee payment

structure for water use fees for non-exempt wells will allow an option to prepay annually or submit quarterly or monthly payment of fees. She added the notice also included a reminder of the requirement to submit monthly water production reports, meter readings and meter logs for non-exempt wells. She also reported the final invoices based on the applicant and/or permit holder's payment election were scheduled to be sent out that day, per the District Rules' requirement they be sent no less than 45 days from the end of the year.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – Maurice Osborn, Chair

- a) Discuss, consider, and take action as necessary to approve Resolution #20-009 reviewing and adopting FY 2021 Operating Budget and authorize the General Manager to take any and all action necessary for the implementation of this Resolution. Copy of Resolution #20-009 attached hereto as Exhibit "B". Ms. Jones stated the Budget and Finance Committee had met on several occasions to work on identifying all of the anticipated District revenues, expenses and activities for the January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 budget cycle. Based on the committee's consideration of those factors, Ms. Jones reported the committee had developed a proposed 2021 budget for consideration by the Board. Director Osborn made a motion to approve Resolution #20-009 reviewing and adopting FY 2021 Operating Budget. Director Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b) Consider and act on Resolution #20-010 establishing administrative fee schedule and authorize the General Manager to take any and all action necessary for the implementation of this Resolution. Copy of Resolution #20-010 attached hereto as Exhibit "C". Ms. Jones stated that following the adoption of the rule amendments earlier that day, the Board authorized establishing certain administrative fees previously set forth in the rules instead by resolution. She explained how this approach would allow for a more practical and less costly use of public funds to set or amend fees as necessary. She confirmed the Budget and Finance Committee met on November 3rd and approved recommendation of the Administrative Fee Schedule. Director Osborn made a motion to approve Resolution #20-010 establishing an administrative fee schedule and authorizing the General Manager to take any and all action necessary for the implementation of this resolution. Director McPherson seconded the motion.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS – Sinclair Newby

Ms. Newby reported she had released the Fall 2020 issue of the Prairielands eLine newsletter, and had given a presentation to the staff of Fossil Rim Wildlife Center on November 4th. She also discussed a meeting she had with Ms. Ally Tello of Hill College to talk about potential partnerships for educational programs. Ms. Newby briefly discussed some upcoming events and presentations and an overview of the District's social media and digital platforms. She

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 8 – UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO JOINT PLANNING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS – Charles Beseda

Ms. Jones reported she represented the District at the October 27, 2020 GMA 8 meeting, and that one of the main discussion points in the meeting was the discussion of proposed DFCs for adoption by the GMA. She explained that no later than May 1, 2021 GMA 8 is required to develop proposed DFCs considering groundwater availability models and other data or information for the management area. She stated after developing proposed DFCs for the 2021 planning cycle, GMA 8 representatives held a joint planning meeting virtually on October 27th and unanimously approved the DFCs for public comment and hearing. Mr. Beach then provided a brief overview of the approved DFCs and the planning process. He confirmed the 90-day period for public comment and to hold a public hearing on the proposed DFCs would begin today. Ms. Jones added the District will take a summary of any public comment and potential revisions back to the GMA for the development of the explanatory report, and the GMA would be meeting again in June 2021 before the finalization of the planning in January 2022.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND UPDATE – Kathy Turner Jones

Ms. Jones reported the legislative session was approaching and the pre-filing of bills has begun before the 87th legislative session convenes on January 12, 2021. She discussed Senate Bill 152 filed by Senator Perry related to the regulation of Groundwater Conservation Districts in terms of attorney fees, petition for rulemaking, and notification to affected landowners. The other bill she discussed was House Bill 271 by Murr which relates to the procedure by which a state agency may issue an opinion that a watercourse is navigable. Ms. Jones also notified the Board of a House State Affairs Committee meeting on November 18 relating to taxpayer funded lobbying.

She briefly discussed the year-to-date groundwater production numbers through October 31, 2020, and highlighted that although the numbers were not final, groundwater production reports were projecting over 4.9 billion gallons. She also reported that field staff had been working on Historic Use Permit applications and gathering more information from applicants and verifying well information. She added that there seemed to be potential for more Operating Permits to begin being submitted by the start of the new year.

Lastly, Ms. Jones reported on two enforcement items relating to payment of late fees and production reports and stated she and staff would be meeting later that day to discuss more information and potential solutions for the situations.

There being no further discussion, President Beseda announced, "At this time, 10:13 a.m., the Board will recess into a Closed Executive Session to consult with legal counsel on items on today's agenda under Government Code Section(s) 551.071 for consultation concerning attorney-client matters. No action will be taken in closed session. At the conclusion of the closed session, the Board will reconvene in open session with the public."

The Executive Session concluded at 10:40 a.m., and at 10:44 a.m. President Beseda announced the meeting was reconvening into an open session and was open to the public.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT – THE DISTRICT'S LEGAL COUNSEL WILL BRIEF THE BOARD ON PERTINENT LEGAL ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS IMPACTING THE DISTRICT – Brian Sledge

None.

OPEN FORUM / DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Director McPherson made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Director Smith. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 21th DAY OF DECEMBER 2020.



Charles Beseda, President



Maurice Osborn, Secretary/Treasurer