

PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 15, 2021

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 9:12 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:

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

All members of the Board were in attendance, with the exception of Director Kirk, thus constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors. 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 District staff had been busy communicating with permittees regarding unpaid water use fees, sending out monthly invoices, and preparing for quarterly payments.

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

Ms. Newby discussed the recent Groundwater Awareness Week social media campaign the District participated in online, as well as the Leadership Cleburne County Government day event the District sponsored. She briefly discussed a list of upcoming educational events and presentations scheduled for the Water Education Trailer.

- a) Review and possible action to accept 2020 Annual Report for the Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District for publication and distribution. Ms. Newby provided a background summary of the District's Annual Report and highlighted key information from the 2020 Annual Report. Director Curtis made a motion to approve the 2020 Annual Report for publication and distribution. Director Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further discussion, President Beseda announced, "At this time, 9:24 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."

At 10:18 a.m. President Beseda announced the meeting was reconvening into an open session and was open to the public.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO OFFER A SETTLEMENT TO THE FOLLOWING PERMITTEES, OR THEIR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE, FOR ALLEGED MAJOR VIOLATIONS OF THE DISTRICT'S RULES

Mr. Sledge discussed a list of permittees who had been categorized into different categories of Major Violations according to the District Rules. He stated that although some had been resolved prior to the meeting, he recommended the General Manager be authorized to offer settlement to the remaining permittees or their designated representative. Director Osborn made a motion to authorize the General Manager to offer settlements to the permittees listed under Item 7 of the meeting agenda. Director McPherson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND UPDATE – Kathy Turner Jones

- a) Historic Use Permit Applications. Ms. Jones reported 89 applications had been withdrawn, bringing the total number of applications to 180. She explained that staff would begin finalizing recommendations and sending those recommendations to the permittees for review. She added that the District nearing ready internally to issue proposed permits for applicant review.
- b) Update - Request for Qualifications for Hydrogeology Services Related to Groundwater Management. Ms. Jones stated that on February 9, a Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") for Hydrogeology Services related to Groundwater Management was distributed to 11

consulting firms to solicit information regarding their skills, abilities, experience, and credentials relevant to providing professional services related to groundwater management and hydrogeology, and by the March 9 deadline the District had received two responses. She discussed how the selection process would be completed in accordance with the Texas Water Code, and the Professional Services Procurement Act, of the Texas Government Code.

- c) Professional Services Committee. Ms. Jones discussed how the RFQ for Hydrogeology Services anticipates a committee of the board of directors to review the statements and qualifications and evaluate the responses based on the evaluation criteria established in the RFQ, and that after discussion with President Beseda, she recommended an ad hoc committee of 2-3 be created for reviewing the submittals. President Beseda announced that a Professional Services Committee would be temporarily established and that he was appointing Director(s) Tischler, Curtis, and Smith to the temporary committee.

Ms. Jones also provided an update on a recent presentation that was given to the board of directors and management staff at the Johnson County Special Utility District offices on March 2. The presentation covered general information about the District, as well as recent District Rule amendments, historic use and operating permits, and desired future conditions and was provided by Ms. Jones, Ms. Newby, and Director Tischler. In addition, Ms. Jones also discussed with the Board updated pumpage amounts for the four counties within the District, a summary of well registrations since the previous meeting, and recent work completed by field staff. She added that staff and two directors had participated in the Texas Water Conservation Association's virtual annual conference held from March 3-5.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT – Brian L. Sledge

Mr. Sledge reported he had been working on historic use permits, enforcement items, and staying abreast of legislative updates. He also discussed a meeting he was involved in with the District's Rules and Bylaws Committee regarding how to address excessively high water loss in water systems.

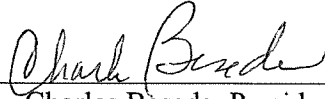
OPEN FORUM / DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS

None.

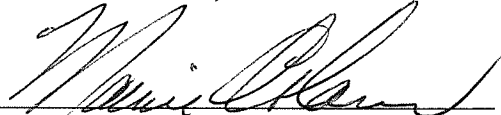
ADJOURN

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 10:30 a.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 15th DAY OF MARCH 2021.



Charles Beseda, President


Maurice Osborn, Secretary/Treasurer