

PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

September 18, 2023

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, within the boundaries of the District at 208 Kimberly Dr, Cleburne, TX, on September 18, 2023.

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 9:49 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	John Curtis
Brad Daniels	Maurice Osborn
Barney McClure	Marty McPherson
Paul Tischler	Kathy Tucker

All members of the Board were in attendance, with the exception of Director McPherson, thus constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors. Also present 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) are attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Director McClure to approve the consent agenda. Director Curtis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all those who were present.

FINANCE REPORT – Brian Watts, Comptroller

- a) Presentation of unaudited financials for the month of August 2023. – Mr. Watts reported ending cash balances for August 31, 2023, of \$1,983,105.39. Compared to the ending cash balances on August 31, 2022, totals reflect a 10.32% increase in cash, which continues to be a positive indication of the overall financial health of the District. The Profit & Loss Report for the month of August reflects gross revenue of \$45,001.47 with a refund

allowance of \$1,709.69 making our “net” revenue \$43,291.78. Mr. Watts highlighted that August is a month in which the District only invoices monthly payers.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND TAKE ACTION FOR APPROVAL TO EXTEND WELL REGISTRATION FOR WELL ID 2703 (BUENA VISTA BETHEL) – Kathy Turner Jones

Motion was made by Director Osborn to approve the extension of the well registration for Well ID 2703 (Buena Vista Bethel). Director Curtis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all those who were present.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND TAKE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF CONTROLLED GATE ACCESS AND PERIMETER FENCING – Kathy Turner Jones

Ms. Jones requested authorization from the Board to negotiate and approve installation of perimeter fencing with solar powered controlled access for a cost not to exceed \$23,500.

Motion was made by Director Tischler to approve the purchase and installation a controlled gate access and perimeter fencing not to exceed \$23,500. Director Curtis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all those who were present.

POLICY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Marty McPherson, Committee Chair

In Director McPherson’s absence, Ms. Jones updated the Board on the Policy and Personnel Committee meeting held September 11, 2023.

- a) Review and action as necessary regarding Texas County District Retirement System’s Plan Assessment for Plan Year 2023-2024 – Kathy Turner Jones – Ms. Jones explained each year TCDRS provides a plan assessment containing the District’s current contribution rate information as a resource document for the District to use in reviewing rates and considering any benefit adjustments. She stated based on the assessment, the District’s plan indicates an overfunded balance of \$19,515 and is eligible to decrease its elected funding rate from 10.64% to 10.24% for 2024. Ms. Jones said it is the Personnel Committee’s recommendation to retain the 2023 employer funding rate of 10.64% for 2024 along with employee deposit rate of 5%. Based on the Policy and Personnel Committee recommendation, Director Tischler motioned to continue the employer 2023 funding rate of 10.64% and the current employee deposit rate of 5% for 2024. Director Daniels seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all who were present.
- b) Report and recommendations from Board’s Policy and Personnel Committee to consider adoption of Resolution #23-010 authorizing revisions to the District’s personnel policies and procedures and the further authorize the General Manager to take any and all action necessary for the implementation of this resolution – Kathy Turner Jones – Ms. Jones reported that the Policy and Personnel Committee reviewed and recommends proposed changes to the District’s Personnel Policy Procedures Manual identified in Appendix A of the of the manual. Director McClure made a motion to adopt Resolution #23-010 authorizing proposed revisions to the District’s Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual and further authorize the General Manager to take any and all action necessary for the

implementation of the resolution. Director Curtis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all those who were present *Copy of Resolution #23-010 attached hereto as Exhibit "B"*.

- c) Discuss, consider, and take action as necessary to approve changes to General Manager's compensation package and performance review – Director Tischler requested discussion and action be postponed following executive session. Following executive session and reconvening of open session, Director Curtis moved to approve changes to the General Manager's compensation package as discussed in executive session. Director Osborn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all who were present.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS – Kaylin Garcia, Public Relations and Education Director

Ms. Garcia highlighted several educational and outreach initiatives occurring in the District since the last board meeting including special recognition the District received as a 2023 Signature Sponsor from the Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors. In addition, she briefed the Board on her meeting with Tinker LLC to discuss the current Fall Semester recruiting progress. She concluded her update by discussing social media interactions and upcoming events.

ENGINEERING REPORT – Wade Oliver, INTERA, Inc.

- a) Update on District involved activities. – Mr. Oliver reported the construction and drilling of the District's monitoring well has been completed, and the geophysical well logging process had begun. Also highlighted were the drought conditions currently impacting the District.
- b) Update on activities related to Groundwater Management Area 8 joint planning and the development of desired future conditions – Mr. Oliver stated he would be meeting with GMA 8 technical committee members to provide a technical update on the GMA 8 Northern Trinity Groundwater Availability Model later in the day.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – John Curtis, Committee Chair

- a) Discuss, consider, and take action as necessary to adopt Resolution #23-011 authorizing a percentage increase of groundwater production under Rule 5.10 due to extreme drought – Director Curtis made a motion to approved Resolution #23-011 authorizing a percentage increase of groundwater production under Rule 5.10 due to extreme drought. Director McClure seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all who were present. *Copy of Resolution #23-011 attached hereto as Exhibit "C"*.

UPDATE ON WELL MONITORING AND FIELD OPERATIONS – Michael Heath, Field Operations Coordinator

Mr. Heath reported on field activities since the last board meeting. Mr. Heath concluded his report saying field staff has been in contact with several well owners regarding the inclusion of their wells in the expansion of the District's Monitoring Program.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT AND UPDATE – Kathy Turner Jones

- a) Update on current administrative activities of the District. – Ms. Jones reported on the efforts staff is making to ensure the data available in the online Groundwater Management System is accurate and up to date. Staff is also continuing to monitor production reported to the District due to the drought. Ms. Jones points out that production is down when comparing years 2022 and 2023, though August 2023 is higher than the previous year.
- b) Monthly update on well registrations and groundwater production reports. – Ms. Jones reported the month of August water usage reported totaled 903,518,210 gallons, with year-to-date production totaling 4,763,638,577 gallons. 2023 production through August 2023 is down 9.3% from 2022. Ms. Jones noted that in total, the District has issued 214 permits with a over-all permitted authorization of 9,575,106,962 gallons.
- c) Drought Monitoring – Discussed earlier under agenda item 11 (a), Ms. Jones reiterated August of calendar year 2023, a large area of the District was categorized as being in “extreme drought” under the U.S. Drought Monitor resulting in increased groundwater pumping by many well owners.
- d) Enforcement. – Ms. Jones stated that staff is managing those currently on enforcement and no formal board action is required at this time.

At this time 10:43 a.m., the Board recessed into a closed executive session under Sections 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code to receive legal advice and discuss personnel matters regarding Agenda Item 8(c). No final action was taken during closed session. At the conclusion of the closed session, the Board will reconvene in an open public session.

At 11:04 a.m. President Beseda announced the meeting was reconvening into an open session and was open to the public.

GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT – Brian L. Sledge

Mr. Sledge provided an update on the current work, which included amendments to the District Rules and drafting resolutions since the last board meeting. Sledge noted a special legislative session is expected to be announced soon; however, it is not expected to impact the District. Mr. Sledge added his firm is continuing to monitor agency rule making for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Railroad Commission .

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION AS NECESSARY TO ELECT OFFICERS (2.4 Bylaws)

Director Curtis made a motion to retain current officers in current positions. Director Tucker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all who were present.


OPEN FORUM / DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Director Osborn made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Director Curtis. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF OCTOBER 2023



Maurice Osborn, Secretary/Treasurer