

PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

November 13, 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 November 13, 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 09:07 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, 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 October 2023. – Mr. Watts reported ending cash balances for October 31, 2023, of \$1,962,137.77. Compared to ending cash balances for October 31, 2022, totals reflect a 5.65% increase in cash. The Profit & Loss Report for the month of October reflects gross revenue of \$31,412.45 with a refund allowance of \$2,022.06 making our “net” revenue \$29,390.39.

- b) Review of cash flow and cash projection for year end 2023 – Mr. Watts provided an overview of the cash flow for the District and reported the District had collected \$286,361.49 in cash balances for the month of October and dispersed cash of \$213,604.17 creating a net cash flow of \$72,757.32 for the month. Mr. Watts reported the increase in cash brought the ending cash balance to \$1,961,937.77.
- c) Discussion and possible action authorizing General Manager to close Wells Fargo checking account (inactive) ending in 2526 – Mr. Watts briefed the Board of Directors that this account is no longer being used by the District and has carried the same balance since 2021. Furthermore, Mr. Watts proposed monies from the dormant bank account be transferred into the District’s CNB money market account. A motion was made by Director Osborn to authorize General Manager to close the account. Director Curtis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all present.

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

Ms. Garcia discussed the fall 2023 issue of the Prairielands eLine newsletter that was released on October 24 and the variety of topics discussed in the issue. The Wildlife Habitat certification was recently awarded to the District rainwater garden. In addition, District staff presented to Fathom Realty regarding well ownership and recent legislative changes. Ms. Garcia concluded her update discussing her participation in an Educational Collaborative with various GCDs to discuss diverse techniques in education.

ENGINEERING REPORT – Wade Oliver, INTERA

Mr. Oliver provided an overview of District involved activities since the last board meeting. He stated INTERA is still working on the GAM update for GMA 8 and anticipates completion by summer of 2024. He concluded his report with an update on the monitoring well expansion by stating we are still working towards having wells in each aquifer layer in every grid.

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

Mr. Heath reported on field activities since the last board meeting. He stated the Texas Water Development Board is scheduling the last monitoring equipment upgrade in Ellis County. Field staff is preparing monitoring equipment for the newly drilled monitor well in Hill County. He concluded his report with the addition of a Woodbine well in grid 33-43in Ellis County as part of the ongoing expansion of the monitor well program.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT AND UPDATE – Kathy Turner Jones

- a) Update on current administrative activities of the District. – Ms. Jones attended Region C and D meeting for planning and water management, and reports planning for 2026 has already begun. Following meetings with representatives from the City of Whiney, Ms.

Jones reported it is likely the City will be interested in entering into an interlocal agreement with the District to review groundwater availability certifications within their platting area.

- b) Monthly update on well registrations and groundwater production reports. – Ms. Jones reported that production continues to grow; however, groundwater production is still behind year-to-date compared to 2022 production. Drilling has slowed down in the District. Year to date, the District has approved 247 well registrations compared to 273 registrations approved in 2022.
- c) Drought Monitoring. – Ms. Jones stated U.S. Drought Monitor reports indicate the District has been reduced to “moderate drought” status as of November 7, 2023.
- d) Enforcement. – Ms. Jones stated staff is managing those currently on enforcement and no formal board action is required at this time.

At this time, 9:38 a.m., the Board recessed into a closed executive session under Section 551.071, Government Code, to receive legal advice from our attorney regarding items on today’s agenda. No final action will be taken in executive session. At the conclusion of the closed session, we will re-convene in open session.

At 10:52 a.m., President Beseda announced the meeting is reconvened in an open session and the Board meeting is again open to the public.

AUTHORIZE GENERAL MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO REPRESENT THE DISTRICT IN CERTAIN INSTANCES

Following executive session and reconvening of session, Director Tischler moved that the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into contracts to retain legal counsel to provide legal services to represent the General Manager and/or the District in situations where the District’s General Counsel is unable to, or as otherwise authorized under the General Manager’s expenditure authority. Director McPherson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all who were present.

GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT – Brian L. Sledge

Mr. Sledge provided an update on ongoing work for the District. He reviewed how Senate Bill 2440 going into effect January 2024 could impact county platting authorities and what that might look like for the District. Additionally, Mr. Sledge reported that he and his office have updated the simplified rules summary following the latest amendments to the rulebook.

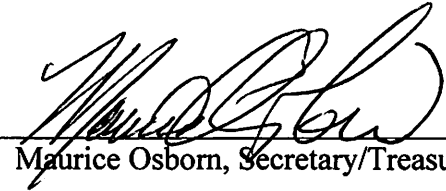
OPEN FORUM / DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Director McPherson made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Director McClure. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.



Maurice Osborn, Secretary/Treasurer