

PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

February 18, 2025

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 February 18, 2025.

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 9:15 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
Brad Daniels
Barney McClure
Paul Tischler

John Curtis
Maurice Osborn
Marty McPherson
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 sheets are attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PRESENTATION ON TEXAS FFA FORD LEADERSHIP SCHOLAR PROJECT – Madison McClure (Cleburne FFA)

Ms. McClure presented to the District’s Board of Directors, outlining her Texas FFA Ford Leadership Scholar Project titled “First Responders First.” Her initiative aims to revamp the courtyard at the Johnson County Sherriff’s Dispatch Center, transforming it into a wellness and relaxation space for the dispatchers to promote stress relief and well-being.

CONSENT AGENDA

A 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 January 2025. – Mr. Watts reported ending cash balances for January 31, 2025, of \$2,552,562.64. This represents an 8.24% increase compared to the ending cash balances for January 31, 2024. The Profit & Loss Report for January reflects gross revenue of \$1,197,001.86.
- b) Review of 4th Quarter Investment Report for 2024. Mr. Watts presented the Quarterly Investment Report for the 4th Quarter of 2024 detailing banking and investments transactions for all funds of the District. He reported that for the 4th Quarter, the funds of the District were being held across five accounts within three separate depositories. Mr. Watts noted, as summarized in the report, that all District funds are adequately collateralized by a combination of FDIC insurance and pledged securities, ensuring compliance with the District's Investment Policy. A motion was made by Director Osborn to accept the 4th Quarter Investment Report. Director McClure seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by all those who were present.

RULES AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT – Paul Tischler, Chair

Mr. Tischler informed the board that the committee has met several times with legal counsel and staff discussing proposed revisions to the rules. The committee's plans are to present the revisions for the board's review at the March meeting.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND POSSIBLY TAKE ACTION ON GRANTING THE GENERAL MANAGER AUTHORIZATION TO SELECT AN ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING FIRM OR LICENSED HYDROGEOLOGIST QUALIFIED TO REVIEW GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY CERTIFICATION APPLICATIONS – Kathy Turner Jones, General Manager

Ms. Jones reported that consultant costs associated with reviewing Groundwater Availability Certification ("GAC") applications are regularly exceeding the \$1,000 application fee currently assessed to applicants. This GAC Review Fee is intended to cover the costs incurred by District staff and contracted hydrogeologists when reviewing Certification Statements and preparing reports. She requested that the District's general counsel review the current interlocal agreements executed with participating authorities to determine whether the District has the authority to increase the application fee or if new agreements will need to be executed to implement any fee adjustments.

Additionally, INTERA expressed concerns regarding the District's requirement to complete its review and deliver the report within five (5) business days after receiving the final documentation and GAC Review Fee. Due to current workload demands, INTERA noted that this timeline may be too restrictive to ensure the quality and accuracy of the reviews.

Given these challenges, Ms. Jones requested authorization to allow her, as General Manager, to engage additional qualified professionals as needed to support the timely and thorough evaluation of GAC applications, in alignment with the District's mission to protect and manage groundwater resources effectively.

Director Osborn made a motion to approve authorization for the General Manager to seek outside GAC assistance as needed. Director Tucker seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously by all those present.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL, AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS – Kaylin Garcia

Ms. Garcia updated the board on her progress in compiling the 2024 Annual Report for their review. She also shared that Tinker has successfully secured schools in Glen Rose and Burleson for the 2025 Spring recruitment efforts.

Additionally, Ms. Garcia attended the Grandview Chamber Luncheon, where the city's infrastructure and recent discussions on biosolids were highlighted. She also presented to the NCTCOG alongside Upper Trinity GCD and Northern Trinity GCD, providing a discussion on "The Whys and How's of Groundwater".

Ms. Garcia concluded her update with social media analytics and upcoming events scheduled in the District.

UPDATE ON WELL REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING ACTIVITIES – Kaylin Garcia, Permitting Director

Ms. Garcia reported that the well registration and permitting activities are on trend compared to last year, but still lower than 2023.

In January 2025, the District approved 14 Well Registrations. Following today's permit hearing, the District now has 241 permits, with an authorized allocation of 9.7 billion gallons.

Ms. Garcia concluded her report by noting that 472 million gallons were reported in January, reflecting a 6.41% decrease compared to January 2024.

UPDATE ON WELL MONITORING AND FIELD OPERATIONS – Michael Heath

Mr. Heath provided a brief update of recent field activities since the last board meeting, noting field staff continues to collect annual water level measurements.

Mr. Heath also reported that the City of Midlothian contacted the District about a potential open-hole large diameter well in the northeast portion of Johnson County. The landowner is actively working on capping the well, with plans to complete this work by the next Board meeting.

Additionally, the District has identified three wells in the northern part of Johnson County with damaged casing, believed to have resulted from improper sealing during installation, leading to casing deterioration. Mr. Heath concluded his report by affirming that the District will continue monitoring these issues and working with landowners to ensure proper well maintenance and compliance.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND UPDATE – Kathy Turner Jones

Ms. Jones provided the Board with an update on current drought conditions, noting that all counties remain in dry conditions, with Ellis County still classified under moderate drought. While rain is expected in the spring, it's not anticipated to be a particularly wet season.

Ms. Jones also shared information regarding a UIC monitoring injection well in Ellis County, confirming that the injection well has been reviewed by consultants and is in compliance, and therefore, no action is needed for the District to protest.

Additionally, she reported that the Johnson County Commissioners Court adopted a disaster declaration to become eligible for federal assistance to aid landowners affected by significant damage caused by biosolids containing PFAS.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT — Brian L. Sledge

Mr. Sledge reiterated that the Rules Committee has met several times to discuss proposed amendments, with plans to present them for the Board's review at the March board meeting.

He concluded his report with updates from Austin and the legislative session, noting that, as expected, water issues as a major focus. The new Speaker of the House has appointed key staff and committees, including the House Natural Resources Committee, which now consists of many new members. Several bills related to groundwater, water audits, and foreign investments have been filed.

Other legislative updates included a push for \$5 billion in funding for water supply projects and advocacy for long-term funding solutions such as water imports, desalination, and treated wastewater, while also addressing concerns over brackish groundwater management.

OPEN FORUM / DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS

None.

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

There being no further business, Director McClure made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Director Daniels. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 17TH DAY OF MARCH 2025.


Maurice Osborn, Secretary/Treasurer