

# **PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**July 21, 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 July 21, 2025.

### **CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARE REGULAR MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

In the absence of President Beseda, Vice-President Tischler assumed the role of Presiding Officer, and called the public hearing to order at 9:11 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 President Beseda and Director(s) Osborn and McClure, thus constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors. Also present at said meeting were Kathy Turner Jones, General Manager; District staff; and members of the public. Brian Sledge, General Counsel, attended via videoconference. *Copies of the public sign-in sheets are attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Director Curtis to approve the consent agenda. Director Daniels 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 June 2025. – Mr. Watts reported

ending cash balances for June 30, 2025, of \$2,300,192.01. This represents a 15.55% increase compared to the ending cash balances for June 30, 2024. The Profit & Loss Report for June reflects a gross revenue of \$370,462.08, with a refund allowance of \$114,984.88, resulting in a net revenue of \$1,921,958.95.

- b) Review 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Investment Report for 2025. Mr. Watts presented the Quarterly Investment Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2025 detailing the banking and investments transactions for all funds of the District. He reported that for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, the funds of the District were being held across three accounts in two separate depositories. Mr. Watts noted that in the summary section of the report, all the District's funds are adequately collateralized by a combination of FDIC insurance and pledged securities, and all funds are in compliance with the PGCD Investment Policy. Director Daniels made a motion to accept the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Investment Report and Director Curtis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by all those who were present.

#### **UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS RELATED TO GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 8 JOINT PLANNING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS – John Ellis, District Hydrogeologist**

Mr. Ellis updated the Board on the progress of the joint planning process for GMA 8 since the last board meeting. The meetings held February 25 and June 24 covered six of the nine factors including aquifer uses and conditions, management strategies, hydrogeologic conditions, environmental and subsidence impacts, and property rights. Two groundwater model runs are being developed; one projecting anticipated use through 2080 and another using 2024 groundwater use as a baseline extended to 2080. These scenarios were structured in the Technical Committee meetings on April 22 and May 21, and both were approved by a two-thirds vote on June 24. INTERA is currently finalizing the collection of groundwater use data from each district with plans to present the results at the next GMA 8 meeting scheduled for August 29, which will then be discussed with each district.

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

Ms. Garcia provided a permit update to the Board, highlighting progress on the system water loss audits. Of the 112 audits submitted by retail public utilities, 61 required deficiency letters due to questionable data. To date only 13 remain outstanding. Permitting staff plans to update the audit form and supporting guidance materials to minimize deficiencies in future submissions.

Ms. Garcia concluded her report noting the District remains steady, with 14 new water well registrations received in June, mirroring the total for June 2024. Year-to-date production has slightly increased, showing a 1.3% rise over 2024 levels. No new operating permits were issued this month; however, one permit was voluntarily waived following the closure of a restaurant, bringing the total number of permits to 245.

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

Ms. Garcia provided a brief update on the public relations and education activities since the last board meeting, noting that she and Ms. Jones recently presented the District's 2024 Annual Report to the Johnson County Commissioners Court, outlining permitting trends and registration updates. A site visit is planned for early August in collaboration with Rain Ranchers and the Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm to potentially install a grant-funded rainwater harvesting system with educational signage.

Outreach for 2024-2025 school year events is underway, with emails sent to Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers across the District promoting water education programs. Ms. Garcia shared social media analytics, reporting that five Facebook posts reached 1,400 users and three LinkedIn posts reached 222 users.

## **UPDATE ON WELL MONITORING AND FIELD OPERATIONS – Michael Heath**

- a) Overview of field related activities. Mr. Heath provided a brief update on recent field activities since the last board meeting, including meter verifications and compliance on non-permitted wells. Following last month's report on a few abandoned and deteriorated wells, a complaint was submitted to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation ("TDLR") to initiate an investigation. Chris Hooyboer, Hydrologist with TDLR, conducted inspections and met with landowners to ensure compliance. In Ellis County, staff replaced a deteriorated 10-year-old cable to maintain the integrity of the monitoring network. Additionally, a potential Glen Rose well was identified in Hill County that may be added to the monitoring program.

Ms. Jones added that during TDLR's site visit, Mr. Hooyboer praised District staff for their professionalism, particularly in how enforcement notices are issued and how abandoned wells are handled. TDLR has begun adopting the District's enforcement format as part of their own process.

- b) Update on quarterly water levels. Mr. Heath highlighted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025 water level data, showing positive changes in monitor wells across all four counties: Ellis County showed slight increases of approximately 2.5 to 3 inches, with transducer data indicating a modest rebound of a few feet overall. Hill County showed two wells with slight decreases of one to two feet, while one well with long-term data showed a notable increase of 2.7 feet. Johnson County wells also showed increases, with the Hosston well rising 3.1 feet and others by about one foot. All wells in Somervell County recorded minor increases of around a foot or less.

Mr. Heath concluded his report stating field staff are continually evaluating abandoned or deteriorated wells for potential use in the monitoring network to help reduce drilling costs, and the data collected continues to provide valuable insight into aquifer trends across the region.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND UPDATE – Kathy Turner Jones**

Ms. Jones briefed the Board, noting that Governor Abbott has called a special session of the Texas Legislature beginning Monday, July 21, that includes several flood and water-related priority items. Chairman Harris of the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing in Austin on July 15 regarding high-capacity and large volume groundwater production in the Neches & Trinity Valleys Groundwater District. The hearing raised concerns about groundwater exports and highlighted regulatory gaps in areas without a groundwater district, prompting broader legislative discussions about the authority of groundwater districts.

Ms. Jones reported that drought conditions in the District remain free from Extreme (D3) or Exceptional (D4) classifications, with Johnson and Ellis counties currently classified as Abnormally Dry (D0) or experiencing Moderate Drought (D1) conditions due to persistent high temperatures.

Ms. Jones informed the Board that Kathy Tucker announced her resignation from the Board effective after today's board meeting. The Ellis County Commissioner's Court is expected to appoint Bob Beakley to fill her seat. Additionally, Brad Daniels was reappointed by Hill County, and Paul Tischler was reappointed in Johnson County. The District will present its 2024 Annual Report to Somervell County in August.

## **GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT — Brian L. Sledge**

Mr. Sledge apprised the Board of a significant legislative discussion that arose during the regular session regarding large-scale groundwater export projects, first brought to attention during the Texas Water Fund infrastructure financing discussions. As part of the legislation, the Legislature made funds ineligible for projects exporting fresh groundwater from rural areas.

Mr. Sledge also reported on a separate but related matter involving a proposed East Texas groundwater project spanning over five counties west of Tyler. This project would pipe groundwater across multiple counties, potentially utilizing a substantial portion of the region's MAG. In response, House Natural Resources Chair Cody Harris held a 10-hour hearing, attended by both House and Senate members, including Senator Perry, to examine groundwater law and export concerns. Mr. Sledge stated that it is unlikely it will be addressed in the current special session but anticipates the topic to be a major focus during the legislative interim.

Mr. Sledge concluded his report highlighting House Bill 29 that will require municipal-owned utilities with over 150,000 connections to take stronger action on water loss. Those who fail to meet loss standards set by the Texas Water Development Board must complete additional audit procedures. Non-compliance can result in fines of up to \$25,000 from TCEQ.


## **OPEN FORUM / DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDAS**

None.

## **ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING**

There being no further business, Director McPherson made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Director Daniels. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2025.**

  
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Maurice Osborn, Secretary/Treasurer