

# PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

January 20, 2026

## 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 January 20, 2026.

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

President Charles Beseda presided and called the public hearing to order at 9:09 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  
Gary Farmer

All members of the Board were in attendance with the exception of Director Tischler, thus constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors. Also, in attendance at said meeting were Kathy Turner Jones, General Manager; District staff; and members of the public. Brian Sledge, General Counsel and Wade Oliver, EKI Environment & Water, 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 McClure to approve the consent agenda. Director Farmer 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 December 2025. – Mr. Watts reported ending cash balances for December 31, 2025, of \$2,714,239.73. This represents a 23.68%

increase compared to the ending cash balances for December 31, 2024. The Profit & Loss Report for December reflects a gross revenue of \$18,686.02, with a refund allowance of \$175,132.29, resulting in a net revenue of \$2,467,015.00.

- b) Review 4th Quarter Investment Report for 2025. – Mr. Watts presented the Quarterly Investment Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2025 detailing the banking and investments transactions for all funds of the District. He reported that for the 4<sup>th</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 Osborn made a motion to accept the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Investment Report and Director McPherson 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. – Wade Oliver, EKI Environment & Water, Inc.**

Mr. Oliver provided an update on the GMA 8 Desired Future Conditions (DFC) development process, including the proposed timeline, required statutory factors, and the balancing test used to evaluate conservation of groundwater resources against the highest practicable level of production. He noted the process is nearing completion, with proposed DFCs due by May 1, 2026, followed by a 90-day public comment period. Mr. Oliver concluded his report by stating further discussion and review of additional model runs and metrics are expected at the January 29, 2026, GMA 8 meeting.

**UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES, EDUCATIONAL, AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS – Dillon Bybee**

Mr. Bybee provided an update on outreach and public relations activities, noting that December was slower due to the holidays, with activity resuming in early 2026, including upcoming events scheduled with Hill College and First Christian Day School in Waxahachie. He reported that staff have begun compiling information for the 2025 Annual Report. The completion of the rainwater harvesting system at the Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm, including installation and information signage has been completed. Mr. Bybee concluded his report with an update on the Tinker program, which achieved its highest participation to date, with 18 schools, 20 teachers, and more than 1,300 students enrolled across all four counties, representing a 23 percent increase from the prior year.

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

Ms. Garcia provided an update on permitting activities since the last Board meeting noting the City of Alvarado was sent a letter regarding the District’s concern with them waiving their Historic Use Permit and did not receive a response back. She also reported another permittee waived their operating permit since the well is no longer being used for construction purposes.

Additionally, compliance efforts remain ongoing, with notices of violations issued for overpumpage and outstanding meter calibration requirements.

Ms. Garcia reported that well registration activity slowed during the holiday period, with eight applications received since the last meeting, with no new registrations in Hill or Somervell Counties. For 2025, a total of 209 well registrations were submitted, representing a 24 percent increase over the prior year. Preliminary 2025 production totaled approximately 6.5 billion gallons, a decrease of roughly 170 million gallons from 2024, with one permittee not yet reported.

Ms. Garcia concluded her report stating the District has 253 active permits totaling approximately 9.7 billion gallons of permitted allocation, with actual use representing about 67 percent of that total. During 2025, approximately 37 million gallons of new allocation were approved. Lastly, upon completion of the 2025 permit renewal cycle, with nine of ten permits renewed and total authorized production reduced from 315 million gallons to 304 million gallons due to acreage verification and groundwater rights adjustments.

#### **UPDATE ON WELL MONITORING AND FIELD OPERATIONS – Michael Heath, Director of Field Operations**

Mr. Heath provided a field operations update, reporting staff conducted water level measurements, meter verifications, located and registered existing wells, and verified pump capacity for permit compliance. Staff also met with the Texas Water Development Board in Somervell County to assist with water level measurements. Mr. Heath noted a previously identified deteriorated well was confirmed as properly plugged, and an open well in Johnson County was secured with a cap following coordination with the landowner.

Mr. Heath concluded his report stating staff continue to contact landowners to add additional wells to the monitoring program and provided an update on monitoring well planning and grid coverage goals for 2026. He noted that most grids are already covered, with remaining gaps primarily in parts of Hill and Ellis Counties.

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

Ms. Jones shared with the Board that the District has been in discussions with Somervell County officials regarding proposed data centers developments. She noted that while the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) oversees most air and environmental permitting, water use is often not fully considered during the early stages of these projects. She explained that water availability is one of several key factors, along with electricity capacity and site suitability. However, the proposed projects have generally provided limited information regarding their anticipated water demands.

Ms. Jones concluded with the U.S. Drought Monitor report, noting continued dry conditions. She also reminded the Board of the upcoming GMA 8 on January 29, and the next Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, due to office closure in observance of President’s Day.

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

Mr. Sledge reminded the Board that the District rules will require revisions to be in compliance with new laws, noting discussions with the Rules Committee will continue before presenting the changes to the Board.

Mr. Sledge reported progress with the Texas Real Estate Commission (“Commission”) on including groundwater and surface water disclosures in contracts. The broker-lawyer committee has approved the updated language, which will return to the Commission for publication to enhance transparency and minimize enforcement issues.

Mr. Sledge concluded his report noting legislative activity remains limited ahead of the March primaries. He advised that a February 10<sup>th</sup> hearing on groundwater issues is scheduled, along with anticipated interim charges addressing groundwater policy.

**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 Farmer. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026.**

  
Maurice Osborn, Secretary/Treasurer