



## GCGCD MINUTES



### MEETING OF THE GUADALUPE COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Thursday, March 14, 2024 @ 4:30 PM**

**200 N. Austin St. Ste. # 301**

**Seguin, TX 78155**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Starcke called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

**DETERMINE A QUORUM**- Verified. Board members present: Hil Starcke, Robert Raetzsch, Bill Jones, Mark Gustafson, Jeff Schuehle, and Rebecca Clark.

**OTHERS IN ATTENDEANCE**- Kelley Cochran, Caroline Hrcir, Tiffany Willrich, Bill Klemt, Christina Criss, Mike Andrews, Andrew McBride, Randy Schwenn, Humberto Ramos, and Marisa Perales (executive session only – video).

- 1. Invitation of citizens or Directors to speak in advance of District’s regular business (limited to 3 minutes each – agenda items/non-agenda items).** No comments received.
- 2. Oath of Office – Director District 2 – Rebecca Clark** – Notary Tiffany Willrich administered the Oaths of Office to Rebecca Clark.
- 3. Approve Minutes of regular meeting held on February 8, 2024.** Rebecca Clark pointed out a correction to item #9 – Ms. Clark received her bachelor’s degree from TLU and her master’s degree from Texas State University. Motion to approve the corrected minutes from the meeting held on February 8, 2024 by Jeff Schuehle. Second by Robert Raetzsch. Motion passed.
- 4. Review Palmer Drought Index, TWDB Drought Report and Rain Fall in GCGCD area.** Reviewed. Current annual rainfall total for the District is 7.52 inches. Tiffany added that all of the TexMesonet sites have been visited recently by GCGCD staff and the desiccant beads replaced. A new full station is scheduled for installation in the Luling area to complete coverage in Guadalupe County. Once online, we will add that station to our monthly reports. TWDB may decide to remove the SHWSC station at the office due to extra coverage in that area near GBRA’s site on the river.
- 5. Review Production data February 2024.** Reviewed. Graphic representation of annual production by aquifer and by entity to date were displayed as well as total production by aquifer by entity’s permit term. Additionally, graphs representing the Carrizo APC/2030 MAG/Total permitted water/total produced water for calendar year 2023 and the Wilcox 2030 MAG/total permitted/total produced for 2023 were discussed.
- 6. Public Funds Investment Report – Kelley Cochran, PFIO** – The District transferred \$25,000 from cash account to TexPool on February 8, 2024. Interest earned on investment account this fiscal year thus far averages about + \$4500/month. Kelley shared with the Board the District’s financials as of February 29, 2024, the Weighted

Average Maturity of cash and TexPool investment accounts, the most recent TexPool newsletter reflecting beginning and ending book market value of investments, along with the percentage of the total portfolio that each type of investment represents in accordance with PFI 2556.023.

7. **Discussion and possible action re: donation/disposal of previous conference table chairs.** The District purchased new chairs to replace the broken chairs and requested board input/direction on proper way to dispose of District property. Previous chairs total cost \$519.86 for 8 chairs (\$64.99/each). Two chairs broke and were discarded. The remaining six chairs are currently in storage. Motion to donate chairs by Bill Jones. Second by Jeff Schuehle. Motion passed.
8. **Discussion and possible action to approve Financial Reports for February 2024.** Mr. Jones reviewed the financials and commented that our CPA invoice was higher due to tax time which is expected. Motion to approve the financials by Bill Jones. Second by Mark Gustafson. Motion passed.
9. **Discussion and possible action to amend FY 2023-2024 budget** – Budget Committee met on February 20<sup>th</sup> and approved the submitted amendments to the FY 22-23 budget, recommending approval by the full board. Summary of amendments: Add a new category ‘Education/Outreach Coordinator’ to reflect Caroline’s new title. Transfer the remaining funds from the part-time/intern category (now vacant) to the new ‘Education/Outreach Coordinator’ category; Increase Furniture category by \$500 to cover cost of replacing board table chairs; Increase insurance category by \$100 to cover cost of additional bonds; Zero out the ‘Election’ category; Fund remainder of payroll and retirement expenses with available funds unused from canceling the election. This amendment does not use funds from the anticipated budget surplus. Motion to approve the amendments to FY 22-23 budget by Jeff Schuehle. Second by Robert Raetzsch. Motion passed.

## 10. REPORTS

### A. Kelley Cochran: General Manager Report

- **Association updates** – TCEQ named new Executive Director Kelly Keel – keynote at TWCA - Update on TWCA Conference in Lost Pines (March 6-8); GMA 13 next scheduled meeting April 19<sup>th</sup> to review updated GAM for Southern portion of CWQCS aquifers for approval and submission to TWDB for review and public comments. Once approved by TWDB – GMA 13 can begin utilizing the updated GAM to model the next DFC cycle scenarios for consideration; GMA 13 meeting notice not yet posted – waiting on data to input into model calculations. TWDB created slides titled ‘Joint Groundwater Planning: the Basics’ geared to help board members and the public better understand the process – we have posted the presentation, along with the updated DFC flowchart on the GMA 13 website; TWDB is holding stakeholder meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss implementing newly created Texas Water Fund to assist in financing water projects across Texas; TAGD will be releasing updated version of Cyber Security Training – District staff will complete required training, and course links can be provided to

interested board members to watch the instructional video, however the certification is not required of board members; Registration is open for the TAGD annual summit (Aug. 20-22); GCGCD will once again sponsor the Spring Geronimo/Alligator Creeks clean up to be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> and also this year's Earth Day Celebration in Seguin on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

- **Other District business** – Working with TMLIRP insurance for new rates; Update on Kiteboard permit REC-2022-WX-01 – landowner anticipates equipping permitted wells within next six months. The system will be connected to SCATA for remote controlling levels and reporting to the District; The District completed the 2024 Carrizo Water Rights model calculations, and the allocations were posted on District's website Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> by parcel ID and by owner. Kelley outlined issues related to the frequency in which the Appraisal District is updating parcel/shape files impacting the Carrizo model calculations. Discuss possible Resolution for board consideration at an upcoming meeting to outline model runs and procedures for requesting updates from GCGCD.

**B. Tiffany Willrich – Administrative Report**

Tiffany worked on the verification of the 2024 Carrizo Water Rights model calculations. The District recently updated all production permit forms for calendar year 2024 and is working on transferring all information to new permits with the goal of reissuing the newly designed updated production permits to each respective permit holder. Tiffany attended the Region L meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> and shared updates. The next Region L meeting is scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- C. Caroline Hrcir – Education & Outreach** – Caroline discussed her revision of the rain barrel flier and its upload to our website. Caroline shared the preparations for Seguin's Earth Day event which will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. She announced our organization of interactive activities, and that our sponsorship of the event will include our logo in a medium size in all color print advertisements, in news releases, announcements made during the event, on signage at Earth Day, and printed on the reusable shopping bags given to all attendees. Last, Caroline announced that the 4-H Water Ambassador program is open for applications, for which we are an advocate sponsor. She announced the District will once again participate in the Spring Geronimo/Alligator Creeks cleanup event. Registration opens on March 18<sup>th</sup> – the event will be April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**William B. Klemt, PG - follow up from Wilcox Rule Workshop held January 11, 2024** – Kelley began by stating the District has been researching the public comments received from the January workshop and plans to present multiple options for board consideration. No action will be taken on this topic today. Option #1 considers a proposed rule edit that would eliminate the current well spacing requirements for large capacity well fields by establishing an offset from inside the well field property boundaries where

production wells could not be drilled.

Kelley Cochran shared examples of rule edits that would define well field spacing and setting maximum drawdown thresholds at adjacent property boundaries to protect landowners that do not lease/sell their water rights from excessive drawdown. This proposed option would establish additional rules for permit applicants related to drilling a test well, monitoring well, and pumping tests. The current spacing for single well permit applications would remain the same.

Mr. Klemt presented the Theis computer model simulations to demonstrate the drawdown impacts over time. The applicant's pumping test will be important to learn the layer of the aquifer impacted and understand whether or not there is communication between the layers. Determining the allowable drawdown will be the key for this scenario.

Humberto Ramos asked questions about how current permit holder's leases and leasing patterns might be impacted, and how well spacing and property boundaries will be addressed. Mr. Ramos stated his agreement that monitor wells are needed. Mr. Starcke stated that the District's lawyers will be involved in the drafting of any rules and consideration will be given to address current and future permit holders with any rule change.

- D. **CRWA** – Randy Schwenn announced that CRWA hired a new General Manager, Kerry Averyt, an engineer formally with SAWS and SARA, will start March 25<sup>th</sup>. Wells Ranch working to hook up generators at site. Received permit from GCUWCD for 920 AF of Carrizo water and updating well to be able to pump the extra water. Lake Dunlap – evaluating membrane filters to determine quantity of water that can be produced through. Alliance Water pulled pipe from under river and working on engineering design to hook it up to Lake Dunlap. Hays Caldwell approved tanks for construction about a year's worth of construction.
- E. **SSLGC** – Andrew McBride reported theft at plant of electrical wires – \$150,000 worth of copper and \$30,000 - \$40,000 worth of labor - delaying project 30-45 days, working to get new wires ordered and dealing with insurance. Temporary testing can still be done in the interim.
- F. **SHWSC** – Mike Andrews reported SHWSC is very interested in leasing Carrizo water. Efforts continue to educate customers on importance of conservation and how to achieve a 10% reduction in water use with mailouts and flyers and issuing warnings for violations of Stage 2 water restrictions. New accounts continue to request new meters, 112 meters in one month not related to subdivisions. Mr. Andrews shared rainfall data from SHWSC on site gauges. Well production from Mesa Wells, one well offline part of February because pump went out. Mesa #1 has been maintained and a new pump has been added. Well 2 will be going through maintenance next month. Well 3A – GVEC is making final electrical adjustments – should be on line soon. New property off Hwy 46 will have a

pump station to move water towards Navarro ISO and subdivisions near NISD. Acquired 11.55 acres on Gamecock Rd. to construct two - one million gallon capacity ground storage tanks. SHWSC is currently in active negotiations in obtaining additional water rights and will be looking to work with other entities to purchase water for their current and future customers.

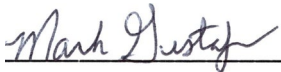
- G. **CCS D** - No updates within GCGCD boundary but CCSUD is working on building an elevated storage tank at Hwy 123 near FM 1979 that will replace Zorn Standpipe and also working on the AWRA connection at their Windmill Facility on Hwy 123 to take their ARWA water.
- H. **CSW** - No updates received. I have been contacted by Gene Montes, CSWR's Austin based attorney, asking if the District could provide a list of specific landowners interested in selling their water rights. The District only provides the full list of all parcels located over the Carrizo Aquifer.

11. **Possible items for discussion/consideration at next meeting**- none.

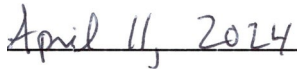
12. **Lloyd Gosselink law firm/Perales, Allmon & Ice, P.C. (Executive Session Recommended)**. Mr. Starcke paused the regular meeting at 5:41 PM to enter executive session at 5:45. Marisa Perales joined via video conference. Mr. Starcke closed executive session at 5:53 PM to re-open the regular meeting at 5:54 PM.

13. **Discussion and possible action re: TCEQ lawsuit in Travis County court** - Motion by Bill Jones to discontinue moving forward with the lawsuit. Mark Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

14. **ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.



Mark Gustafson, Secretary



Date