

**Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting**  
**700 Kennedy Court**  
**Belton, TX**  
**Wednesday, November 11, 2020**  
**Minutes**

In accordance with Governor Abbott's declaration of the COVID-19 public health threat, action to temporarily suspend certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, and Executive Order, a quorum of CUWCD's Board of Directors held a regular Board meeting by telephonic conference call and, for redundancy, video conference on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting originated from the Clearwater UWCD Building, located at 700 Kennedy Court, Belton, Texas.

**Board Members Present:**

Leland Gersbach, President, Pct. 1  
David Cole, Vice President, At Large  
Gary Young, Secretary, Pct. 2  
Jody Williams, Director, Pct.  
Scott Brooks, Director, Pct. 4

**Absent:**

**Staff:**

Dirk Aaron, General Manager  
Shelly Chapman, Admin. Manager

**Guest: (remote)**

Bill Schumann – Bell County Commissioner  
Sandra Blankenship – WCID 1 – Director

**Workshop convened with President, Leland Gersbach at 1:30 p.m.**

**Workshop Item #1. Receive information related to Groundwater Management Area 8, related to Joint Planning and Development of the Desired Future Conditions.**

Dirk Arron gave a brief update on GMA8. He informed the Board that he and Gary attended the virtual meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup>. He commented that they are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of DFC planning based on original legislation. The deadline to complete round 3 is May 1, 2021. Attorney, Ty Embry, gave a presentation laying out the path moving forward to approve the DFC.

**Workshop Item #2. Receive information related to the Salado Salamander proposed rule for Critical Habitat.**

Dirk briefed the Board on the media event coordinated by Judge Blackburn related to the Salado Salamander proposed rule for Critical Habitat. The Federal Government will be accepting comments (for and against) until November 16<sup>th</sup>. Dirk has worked with NRS to draft a letter to be formally submitted. Dirk stated that the District's attorney, Cole Ruiz, has reviewed it as well. Dirk asked the Board to allow him to work with the Board President and have him sign the letter to be submitted as required. Dirk informed the Board they would address this on agenda item #7 of the regular Board meeting.

**Workshop closed at 2:07 p.m. and Board Meeting convened with President, Leland Gersbach at 2:10 p.m.**

**1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.**

Vice President, David Cole, gave the invocation.  
Secretary, Gary Young, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Public Comment.**

No public comments.

**3. Approve minutes of the October 14, 2020 Board meeting and Workshop.**

Board members received the minutes of the October 14, 2020 Board meeting and workshop in their Board Packet to review prior to the meeting.

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020 Board meeting and Workshop.  
Vice President, David Cole, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**4. Discuss, consider and take appropriate action if necessary, to accept the monthly Financial Report for October 2020 as presented.**

Board members received the monthly financial report for October 2020 in their Board Packet to review prior to the meeting.

Vice President, David Cole, moved to accept the monthly financial report for October 2020 as presented. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**5. Discuss, consider and take appropriate action if necessary, to accept the monthly Investment Fund Account report as presented.**

Board members received the monthly investment fund account report for October 2020 in their Board Packet to review prior to the meeting.

Director, Jody Williams, moved to accept the monthly investment fund account report for October 2020 as presented. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**6. Discuss, consider and take appropriate action if necessary, to approve the FY20 line item budget amendments as requested.**

Shelly Chapman and Dirk Aaron presented the request for final amendments and adjustments for FY20 budget and explained the needs for the requests. See budget amendment and adjustment requests below:

Vendor	Line Item	Over Budget	Amount Requested	New Balance	From	Available Funds	New Balance
<b>IN-HOUSE Line item adjustments for FY20 Close Out</b>							
Payroll	52010 Ed Coordinator	\$0.04	\$0.04	\$0.04	52015 General Mgr	\$0.04	\$0.00

40010 BellCAD Current Year Tax **-\$26,435.27**  
 40015 BellCAD Delinquent Tax **-\$4,365.02**  
**(uncollected taxes) -\$30,800.29**

**Adjst line item 53760 - Reserves for uncollected taxes - AMEND budget from \$20,000 to \$30,800.29**

53760 - Reserves for uncollected tax (original budget) **\$20,000.00**  
 (adjustment for uncollected tax) **-\$30,800.29**  
 (return to Contingency Fund) **-\$10,800.29**

50250 Current Contingency Fund **\$0.00**  
 Return to Contingency Fund **-\$10,800.29**  
 Adjusted Contingency Fund **-\$10,800.29**

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to approve the line item budget amendments and adjustments for FY20 as requested. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**7. Discuss, consider and take appropriate action if necessary, to close out FY20 budget year as presented.**

Dirk presented the final close out information for FY20 budget year.

Original Budget set for FY20: \$793,499.00 (projected income and expenses)  
 Original from Reserve Funds FY20: \$ 27,114.00 (from Reserve Funds to balance budget)  
 Additional amendment from Reserves: **\$105,000.00** (Endangered Species-BCAMC)  
 Total Amended Budget: **\$925,613.00** (total projected expenses and income)

The following describes the year end closeout for FY20:

Actual income: \$ 742,001.06 (Tax Revenue, Permit Fees, and Delinquent Taxes Collected)  
 Reserve Funds: \$ 27,114.00 (to balance budget)

Additional Reserve Funds: \$ 105,000.00 (ESA/BCAMC)

Adjusted Income: \$ 874,115.06

**Total Expenses:** \$ 783,771.68

**Return to Fund Balance:** \$ 90,343.38

(from current year operation)

Reduction in Balance of prior  
year's reserve funds: \$ 41,770.62

Dirk requested the Board approve budget close out as presented, closing the year with \$90,343.38 returned to Reserve Fund balance, and the reduction of \$41,770.62 in the previous year's Reserved Fund balance.

Director, Jody Williams, moved to approve the FY20 yearend close out as presented. Vice President, David Cole, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

8. *Discuss, consider and take appropriate action if necessary, to approve the FY21 line item budget amendments as requested.*

No budget amendments requested. No action needed.

9. *Discuss, consider and take appropriate action if necessary, to direct General Manager to submit formal comments related to proposed Critical Habitat for the Salado Salamander.*

Information regarding the submittal of formal comments related to proposed Critical Habitat for the Salado Salamander was presented and discussed in workshop item #2.

Vice President, David Cole, moved to direct the General Manager to submit formal comments related to the proposed Critical Habitat for the Salado Salamander. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

10. *Hold public hearing on the proposed adoption of amendments to the District Management Plan:*

*a. Call to Order*

*b. Summary presentation of the proposed amendments to the CUWCD Management Plan as required by Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code and Chapter 356 of the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) rules contained in Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code.*

*c. Public Comment on the Groundwater Management Plan proposed for adoption.*

*d. Adjourn.*

As presiding officer, President Leland Gersbach, called to order the public hearing at 2:28 p.m.

General Manager, Dirk Aaron, gave a narrative of the timeline leading up to this point and summarized the proposed amendments as required by TWDB.

Leland opened the hearing for public comments. Sandra Blankenship, Director WCID #1, commented that the plan looks good. Leland thanked her for her comments.

Hearing no other comments, Leland closed the public hearing at 2:45 p.m.

11. *Discuss, consider and take appropriate action if necessary, to adopt the amended Management Plan by Resolution.*

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to adopt the amended Management Plan by resolution. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

12. *General Manager's Report concerning office management and staffing related to District Management Plan<sup>3</sup>.*

- Due to COVID-19 the District will not have its annual Christmas reception this year.

- Dirk has been approached by a couple of different individuals representing different interests requesting amendments to an existing permit for additional water. Another inquiry is for a rural subdivision needing water. They are going through the planning process now.
- Tristin is working on the annual newsletter. Dirk has asked consultants and Directors to submit articles.

**13. Receive monthly report and possible consideration and Board action on the following:**

- Drought Status Reports***
- Education Outreach Update***
- Monitoring Wells***
- Rainfall Reports***
- Well Registration Update***
- Aquifer Status Report & Non-exempt Monthly Well Production Reports***

(Copies of the Monthly Staff Reports were given to the Board Members to review. No action required. Information items only.)

**14. Director comments and reports<sup>3</sup>.**

- **Gary Young:** Thanked Dirk and staff for continuing to be involved in the Coalition. He has learned a lot from sitting in on the some of the meetings. He feels he has a better understanding and handle on what is going on.
- **David Cole:** Commented that Brad Buckley has come along way. He thanked Dirk for continuing to carry on at the level he does.
- **Jody Williams:** Acknowledged the Veterans and thanked them for their service. Encouraged Dirk to keep up the good work. Appreciates the job Dirk has done with the COVID protocols. Encouraged every to stay safe and not let their guards down.
- **Scott Brooks:** Agreed with Jody's comments.
- **Leland Gersbach:** Agreed with the Director's comments. He informed everyone that he finally has a camera for his computer. It's been on backorder for a long time.

**15. Discuss agenda items for next meeting.**


- Oaths of office for elected officials
- Working on possible permit hearings

**16. Set time and place of next meeting.**

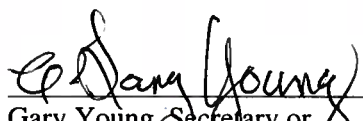
Wednesday, Dec 9, 2020

**17. Adjourn.**

**Board meeting adjourned and Workshop convened with President, Leland Gersbach, at 3:12 p.m.**

  
Leland Gersbach, President

**ATTEST:**

  
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Gary Young, Secretary or  
Dirk Aaron, Assistant Secretary