

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting
700 Kennedy Court
Belton, TX
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Minutes

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) held a Workshop and Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at the Clearwater UWCD building located at 700 Kennedy Court, Belton, Texas.

Board Members Present:

Leland Gersbach, President, Pct 1
Gary Young, Secretary, Pct 2
Jody Williams, Vice President Pct 3
Scott Brooks, Director, Pct 4
James Brown, Director, At-Large

Absent:

Staff:

Dirk Aaron, General Manager
Shelly Chapman, Admin Manager

Guests

Patrick Wagner – MTGCD	Vince Clause – LRE Water	Mike Keester – KTG
Whitney Ingram – CEA	Sandra Blankenship – WCID#1	Peter DiLillo

Workshop convened with President, Leland Gersbach, at 1:32 p.m.

Workshop Item #1: Receive updates related to GMA8 DFC determination, per TWC section 36.108, and plans for the next round.

Mike Keester presented an update on the GMA8 DFC determination and steps moving forward.

Workshop Item #2: Receive updates related to the 2023 Bell County Water Symposium.

Whitney Ingram presented the results of the survey related to the 2023 Water Symposium and things to consider for next year.

Shelly Chapman presented the financial statement for the event.

Workshop Item #3: Receive information related to potential amendments to establish a transport fee of \$0.20 per 1,000 gallons of water transported out of the district effective this year.

Dirk Aaron presented information related to the possible increase in transport fees for water transported out of the district and how it would affect the water supply corporations.

Workshop Item #4: Receive information related to understanding the relationship of all layers of the Trinity Aquifer in our jurisdiction.

Received a presentation from Mike Keester related to understanding the relationship of all layers of the Trinity Aquifer.

Workshop closed and regular Board meeting convened with President, Leland Gersbach, at 3:08 p.m.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

General Manager, Dirk Aaron, gave the invocation.
Secretary, Gary Young, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment.

Peter DiLillo commented that he attended the water symposium this year. He enjoyed it and thought the topics were good.

3. Approve minutes of the December 13, 2023, Board meeting.

Board members received the minutes of the December 13, 2023, Board meeting and workshop in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

(Vice President, Jody Williams, was not present at the December meeting and abstained from the vote on this agenda item.)

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023, Board meeting and Workshop as presented. Director, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 abstained).

4. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to accept the monthly Financial Report for December 2023 (FY24) as presented.***

Board members received the monthly financial report for December 2023 in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to accept the December 2023 financial report as presented. Vice President, Jody Williams, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

5. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to accept the monthly Investment Fund account report for December 2023 (FY24) as presented.***

Board members received the monthly investment Fund account report for December 2023 in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Vice President, Jody Williams, moved to accept the monthly Investment Fund account report for December 2023 as presented. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

6. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to accept the Quarterly Deferred Compensation Employee Retirement Program account report as presented.***

Board members received the quarterly report in the their packets to review prior to the meeting.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to accept the quarterly report as presented. Vice President, Jody Williams, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

7. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to approve the FY24 line-item budget amendments as requested.***

Shelly presented the request for a line-item budget amendment to cover additional expenses for the Bell County Water Symposium.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to approve the line-item budget amendment as requested. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

8. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to approve the sponsorship level of the Texas 4-H Water Ambassador Program.***

Dirk presented the request for sponsorship of the 2024 Texas 4-H Water Ambassador program. He gave the Board a copy of their annual report for 2023. Dirk commented that for the past 4 years, the district has sponsored this program at the @2,500 Legacy level and reimbursed registration fees when the Bell County participants completed the program.

Whitney Ingram also commented on the program and thanked the Board for their continued support every year.

Vice President, Jody Williams, moved to support the Water Ambassador Program at the \$2,500 Legacy level and reimburse registration fees for the Bell County participants. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

9. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to review and adopt the District Investment policy by resolution for calendar year 2024.*

Dirk presented the District Investment Policy to the Board. He explained that this policy is to be reviewed and readopted annually. The strategies in place are to participate in the TexPool Participant Services funds (TexPool & TexPool Prime). Both funds meet the required criteria. Dirk summarized the operations and internal controls of the district.

Dirk recommends that the Board re-adopt (by resolution) the current Investment Fund Policy and name the General Manager and the Board president as the Investment Officers for the calendar year 2024.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to re-adopt the current Investment Fund Policy and name GM and Board President as the investment officers. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

10. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to elect officers of the Board for the calendar year 2024.*

Dirk explained that an election of officers is required annually by Chapter 36 Groundwater Code. The Directors are to elect the officers and name an assistant secretary.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to keep the current officers and assistant secretary in place. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

(2024 officers: Leland Gersbach – President, Jody Williams – Vice President, Gary Young – Secretary, Dirk Aaron – Assistant Secretary)

Motion carried 5-0.

11. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to extend a professional services agreement with Mike Keester, Principal Hydrogeologist and owner of KT Groundwater LLC located in Round Rock, Texas.*

Dirk explained that Mike Keester was no longer with R.W. Harden & Associates. Mike introduced his new company, KT Groundwater, LLC, to the Board. He explained that his agreement upon leaving R.W. Harden was that he would be able to keep CUWCD as a client since he brought the district with him when he joined R.W. Harden.

Mike presented a proposal for continued services and tasks to be accomplished.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to extend professional services agreement to Mike Keester – KT Groundwater, LLC. Director, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

12. *General Manager's report concerning office management and staffing related to District Management Plan.*

- The District will hold 2 public hearings, one in Williamson County and one in Bell County, related to the ACA petition for possible annexation.
- Dirk gave an update on Victory Rock.
- Rockwool has an existing well and was operating without a permit. No one was aware that the well existed. Taking steps to remedy the issue.

- Tomas Reynoso brought in a new survey in order to get an operating permit for his existing well. It is NOT an approved plat. Corey went to investigate. Mr. Reynoso broke the seals and has been using his well. He is in violation.
- Amber Dankert and Session Harrell have sold their property.
- The district has received 3 applications related to the job posting. Dirk will begin the process of setting up interviews.

13. Review 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 is required. Information items only.)

14. Director's comments and reports.

- **Leland Gersbach:** None
- **Jody Williams:** None
- **Gary Young:** None
- **Scott Brooks:** None
- **James Brown:** None

15. Discuss agenda items for the next meeting.

- Audit presentation
- Draft of annual report
- Mustang Springs – evidentiary hearing

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

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. – Tenroc Ranch, Salado


17. Adjourn.

Board meeting closed with President, Leland Gersbach, at 4:57 p.m.



 Leland Gersbach, President

ATTEST:



 Gary Young, Secretary or
 Dirk Aaron, Assistant Secretary