

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting
640 Kennedy Court
Belton, TX
Wednesday, August 28, 2024
Minutes

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) held a Workshop and Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, in the Clearwater UWCD Board Room located at 640 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
Jim Brown, Director, At-Large

Absent:

Staff:

Dirk Aaron, General Manager
Whitney Ingram, Asst. General Manager
Shelly Chapman, Admin. Manager

Guests

Toluwaleke Ajay – Baylor	Neil Deeds – Intera	Ricky Garrett – WCID 1
Dr. Joe Yelderman – Baylor	Spencer Smith – Harker Heights	

Workshop convened President, Leland Gersbach, at 1:34 p.m.

(Leland requested the Board begin with Workshop #2)

Workshop Item #1: Receive presentation from Baylor University Geology Department Edwards BFZ study.

Baylor student, Toluwaleke Ajay, presented the aim, objectives, and results of the Edwards BFZ study.

Workshop Item #2: Receive ASR Studies update from Intera.

Dr. Neil Deeds gave an update on the current ASR studies being conducted. He presented findings and discussed the next steps.

Ricky Garrett (WCID #1) commented that he is a proponent of ASR. The County has been through several big droughts and there needs to be a strategy in place for the next one.

Workshop Item #3: Receive information on rainwater catchment options.

Dirk Aaron commented that he hasn't had an opportunity to work on this yet, but it is definitely something we need to look at moving forward.

Workshop closed and Board meeting convened with President, Leland Gersbach, at 2:52 p.m.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President, Jody Williams, gave the invocation.
Secretary, Gary Young, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment.

There were none.

3. Approve minutes of the August 14, 2024, Board meeting.

Board members received the minutes of the August 14, 2024, Board meeting and workshop in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2024, Board meeting and Workshop. Vice President, Jody Williams, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

4. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to select a firm to build and host a new website for CUWCD.

Whitney Ingram addressed the Board and recapped the discussions she and Dirk had with the 2 firms that presented their proposals to build and host a new website for the district. They were able to gain a deeper understanding of what each company offered and discussed general concerns from each presentation.

After evaluating both bids based on qualifications and site references, staff ranked Presley Design Studios first.

Vice President, Jody Williams, moved to select Presley Design Studio to build and host the new website. Director, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

5. *Hold Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for tax year 2024.*

President, Leland Gersbach opened the public hearing at 2:18 p.m.

Leland asked if anyone wished to make public comments. There was none.

Dirk mentioned that the tax rate hearing had been properly noticed in the Temple Daily Telegram and Killeen Daily Herald.

Dirk presented the facts of the hearing on the proposed tax rate noting that the Board set the proposed tax rate at \$0.00225/\$100 valuation at the August 14th Board meeting. Dirk also stated that the No New Revenue tax rate is \$0.00223/\$100 valuation and the Voter Approval tax rate is \$0.002629/\$100 valuation. Dirk commented that he had the budget to justify setting the tax rate at \$0.00225/\$100 valuation and presented the draft budget reflecting that the district can maintain current services and protect fund balance.

Dirk presented the estimated budget framework based mostly on current costs of administration, salaries and benefits, operating expenses, research, proposed studies, and cloud-based monitor well enhancements with projected increases on cost. He recommends the Board review the proposed budget for potential changes and corrections, and then approve the budget for FY25 prior to setting the tax rate.

The Board discussed their thoughts and concerns related to the tax rate and budget.

Leland closed the public hearing at 2:45 p.m.

6. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to adopt the District Budget for FY2025.*

Leland asked for a motion to adopt the District Budget for FY2025.

The Board discussed changes to the proposed FY25 Budget related to the proposal of \$44,500 for the Clearwater Groundwater Management Model recently submitted by Mike Keester and not factored into the FY25 proposed budget.

The Board members presented their thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed FY25 Budget and tax rate.

Vice President, Jody Williams, moved to adopt the proposed budget for FY2025 changing the target in the proposed budget to \$856,220.00 and moving \$44,500 as income from reserves to balance the deficit. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

7. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, by resolution to adopt the district tax rate for tax year 2024.*

Leland asked for a motion to adopt the district tax rate.

The Board members presented their thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed tax rate of \$0.00225 vs. \$0.00223.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to set the district tax rate, by resolution, at the “No New Revenue” rate of **\$0.00223/\$100 valuation**. Vice President, Jody Williams, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1 (Secretary, Gary Young opposed).

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

Shelly Chapman presented the line-item budget amendment requests as follows:

1. 50615-GMA8 GAM Development – to cover additional GMA 8 cost share expenses related to the GAM Development incurred by North Texas GCD.
2. 55200-Electricity – cover increase in electric usage for August and anticipated bill for September.

	Line Item	Invoice \$	Available Funds	Amount Requested	New Balance	From	Available Funds	New Balance
NTGCD	50615-GMA8 - GAM de	\$15,394.30	\$0.00	\$2,550.00		50410-Director Fee - Pct 1	\$2,550.00	\$0.00
				\$2,550.00		50425-Director Fee - Pct 4	\$2,550.00	\$0.00
				\$3,325.00		53110.4-Spring Shed (Baylor)	\$3,325.00	\$0.00
				\$1,500.00		53150-Water Quality	\$2,401.76	\$901.76
				\$1,100.00		53615-Promotional Items	\$1,106.94	\$6.94
				\$1,000.00		50610-GMA8 Admin fee	\$2,404.42	\$1,404.02
				\$3,369.30		50250-Contingency	\$9,571.56	\$6,202.26
				\$15,394.30				
FreePoint Energ	55200-Utility Electric (Au	\$351.70	\$267.05	\$84.65		53785-Mobile Classroom	\$853.98	\$769.33
FreePoint Energ	55200-Utility Electric (Se	\$375.00 estimate	\$0.00	\$375.00		53785-Mobile Classroom	\$769.33	\$394.33

Vice President, Jody Williams, moved to approve the line-item budget amendment as requested. Director, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

9. General Manager’s report concerning office management and staffing related to District Management Plan.

- Still getting a lot of calls related to Mustang Springs that are not within the CUWCD authority. He is kicking those calls over to Brad Buckley’s office and to TCEQ.
- Issued a drilling permit for a well under old rules for Belton Partners a few years ago. The permit is renewed each year. Billy Gamblin is drilling pilot holes for the project now.
- City of Temple has completed the well for the data center.
- Next month there will be a drilling permit presented for JSWSC.
- UMHB will begin drilling their well soon.
- Nothing new to report on the RV Park northeast of Temple.
- The election will be cancelled next month.

10. Director’s comments and reports.

- **Jody Williams:** Thanked Dirk and his staff for pulling everything together for the budget preparation.
- **Gary Young:** None
- **Scott Brooks:** None
- **James Brown:** None
- **Leland Gersbach:** Thanked Shelly for keeping everyone straight at the Water Summit. He also spoke to Commissioner Schumann about the Village of Salado. They have signed an MOU with Bell County for the review of all plats moving forward. Leland will not be at the October meeting.

11. Discuss agenda items for the next meeting.

- Drilling Permit – JSWSC
- Cancel November 5th election

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

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 1:30 – CUWCD Board Room – 640 Kennedy Court, Belton

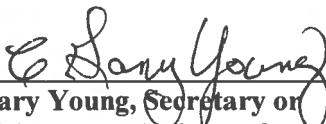
13. Adjourn.

Board meeting closed with President, Leland Gersbach, at 4:44 p.m.



Leland Gersbach, President or
Jody Williams, Vice President

ATTEST:



Gary Young, Secretary or
Dirk Aaron, Assistant Secretary