

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting
640 Kennedy Court
Belton, TX
Tuesday, January 14, 2025
Minutes

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) held a Workshop and Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, in the Clearwater UWCD Board Room located at 640 Kennedy Court, Belton, Texas.

Board Members Present:

Leland Gersbach, President, Pct 1
Jody Williams, Vice President, Pct 3
Gary Young, Secretary, Pct 2 (arrived late)
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:

Stephanie Wong – LRE Water
Sherril Perhach

Board Meeting convened with President, Leland Gersbach, at 1:50 p.m.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President, Jody Williams, gave the invocation.
Director, Jim Brown, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment.

John Asbury submitted public comments in writing with thoughts and recommendations related to PFAS.

3. Approve minutes of the December 11, 2024, Board meeting and workshop.

Board members received the minutes of December 11, 2024, Board meeting and workshop in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to approve the minutes of December 11, 2024, Board meeting and Workshop as presented. Vice President, Jody Williams, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

4. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to accept the monthly Financial Report for December 2024 (FY24) as presented.

Board members received the monthly financial report for December 2024 in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Vice President, Jody Williams, moved to accept the December 2024 financial report as presented. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

5. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to accept the monthly Investment Fund account report for December 2024 (FY24) as presented.

Board members received the monthly investment Fund account report for December 2024 in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to accept the monthly Investment Fund account report for December 2024 as presented. Vice President, Jody Williams, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

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 their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to accept the quarterly report as presented. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

7. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to approve the FY25 line-item budget amendments as requested.*

Shelly Chapman noted that there were no FY25 budget amendments to present.

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

Whitney presented a request from the leadership of the Texas 4-H2O program asking the Board to consider supporting this program again in 2025. Whitney gave a brief recap of the program and highlighted events of the program from the 2024 Year in Review. Since its inception in 2017, 218 high school youth representing 89 counties have participated in this program.

Dirk recommended the Board continue sponsoring this program at the Legacy level of \$2,500 again this year.

Vice President, Jody Williams, moved to sponsoring the Texas 4-H2O program at the \$2,500 Legacy level and to work with Bell County 4-H program to reimburse some of the fees incurred to attend the annual training academy of \$250 per Bell County participants. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

9. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to review and adopt the District Investment Policy by resolution for calendar year 2025.*

Dirk presented the District Investment Policy for review by Board members. Board members received a copy of the policy in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting. Dirk noted that the policy is to be reviewed and re-adopted by resolution confirming the continuance of the policy.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to re-adopt the District Investment Policy by resolution for calendar year 2025. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

(Note for the record: Secretary Gary Young, arrived for the remainder of the meeting.)

10. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to elect officers of the Board for the calendar year 2025.*

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to nominate Jody Williams as President, Leland Gersbach as Vice President, and stated that he would like to stay on as Secretary. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion/nomination.

Under current Investment policy, the signatures of new Officers and Asst GM will need to be filed with Candence Bank and former President Leland Gersbach to be removed. New signatures to include:

President: Jody Williams
Secretary: Gary Young
Gen. Manager: Dirk Aaron
Asst. Gen. Mgr: Whitney Ingram

Motion carried 5-0.

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

- Dirk presented information and findings related to the Heidelberg well (formerly Victory Rock).
- Dirk discussed possible permit review for February.
- Dirk commented that the new website build is continuing and going well.
- Dirk and Whitney will be attending TAGD and Water for Texas at the end of the month.
- Dirk is working on signage and pictures for the new building.
- TCEQ will be holding a public hearing in Salado related to Mustang Springs issues.

12. Review monthly report and possible consideration and Board action on the following:

- a) Drought Status Reports** – Dirk discussed drought status issues and concerns.
- b) Education Outreach Update**
- c) Monitoring Wells**
- d) Rainfall Reports**
- e) Well Registration Update**
- f) 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.)

13. Director's comments and reports.

- **Jody Williams:** He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and commented that this is his 7th year. He has big shoes to fill and thanked Leland for his tenure with the District.
- **Scott Brooks:** Thanked Leland for his many years of great leadership on the Board.
- **James Brown:** Commented that things are just getting started in Austin and the Senate already has interim charges related to water.
- **Gary Young:** Commented that he has been on the Board for 10 years and has learned a great deal in that time.
- **Leland Gersbach:** Commented that he will be attending the upcoming Conservation Conference in Austin. There will be a lot of water related topics.

14. Discuss agenda items for the next meeting.

- FY24 Audit presentation
- 2024 Annual report (draft)

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

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 1:30 – CUWCD Board Room – 640 Kennedy Court, Belton

16. Adjourn.

Board meeting closed with President, Jody Williams, at 2:36 p.m.

Workshop convened with President, Jody Williams, at 2:45 p.m.

(Note for the record: Director Scott Brooks had to leave at 2:30 for another commitment.)

Workshop Item #1: Discuss steps to establish policy for annual review of Administrative Fee Schedule and transport fee.

Whitney presented steps to establish a policy for annual review of the Administrative Fee Schedule. She spoke with district counsel, Cole Ruiz. He stated that this should be reviewed annually before the budget is set. The District will need to hold a public hearing on the topic. Whitney sent a notice to the Water Supply Corporations informing them of the increase to come. Whitney and Dirk recommend the Board discuss an annual review and associated hearing of the Administrative Fee Schedule and transport fees to take place before the adoption of the District budget. For any proposed rate changes the District will properly notice and hold a public hearing. They also recommend holding a public hearing on August 13, 2025, to increase the District's transport fee to \$0.20/1,000 gallons of water exported effective for the calendar year 2025.

Workshop Item #2: Receive information related to the 89th Legislative Session and Groundwater Legislation.

Dirk stated that the 89th Legislative Session is beginning. He noted that nothing was happening today. Bills are being submitted. Ty will provide reports for the Board to follow as things gear up.

Workshop Item #3: Discuss steps to establish a task force to develop and direct a baseline study for PFAS presence in groundwater in Bell County.

Recent headlines have brought about a concern of PFAS contamination in groundwater. This has brought about a local need for a strategy of understanding PFAS contamination, ensuring the health and safety of residents, livestock and agricultural operation through education, best practices and collaborative efforts. The mission would be to develop and establish a baseline for PFAS contamination of Bell County's groundwater through monitoring.

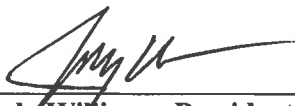
It is recommended that a task force be established to develop and direct the study. Recommendations for the Task Force Members include:

- Whitney Ingram, CUWCD Asst. GM (Chairman)
- Dr. Gretchen Miller, LRE Water (Consultant)
- Dr. Stephanie Wong, LRE Water (Consultant)
- Leland Gersbach, CUWCD (Board VP)
- Jody Williams, CUWCD (Board President)
- Bill Schumann, Retired Bell County Commissioner (Pct 3)
- Floyd Ingram, County Extension Agent (Agriculture)
- Dr. John Asbury, Retired Pediatrician (Medical Science)
- Matt Stellbauer, Texas Water Resources Institute (Research Specialist).

Dirk recommends the district incur the lab costs and consulting costs for the study. He has asked Dr. Gretchen Miller to prepare and present a scope of work to include all fees associated with sampling costs, collection, memo development, and presentation on findings for consideration at the February board meeting.

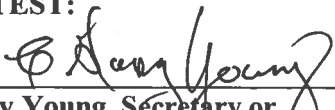
Workshop Item #4: Receive updates related to GMA8 DFC determination, per TWC section 36.108, and plans for the next round.

Nothing new to report.



Jody Williams, President or
Leland Gersbach, Vice President

ATTEST:



Gary Young, Secretary or
Dirk Aaron, Assistant Secretary