

**Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting**  
**640 Kennedy Court**  
**Belton, TX**  
**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**  
**Minutes**

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) held a Workshop and Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, in the Clearwater UWCD Board Room located at 640 Kennedy Court, Belton, Texas.

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Absent:**

**Staff:**

Dirk Aaron, General Manager  
Whitney Ingram, Asst. General Manager  
Shelly Chapman, Admin. Manager  
Corey Dawson, Field Tech

**Guests:**

Joyce Jones – WCID #1  
Mike Keester – KTGW  
Amber Dankert

Cole Ruiz – Lloyd Gosselink  
Peter DiLillo  
Session Harrell

Ted Smith – Salado ISD  
Scott Carlson

**Board Meeting convened with President, Jody Williams, at 1:30 p.m.**

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

Director, Jim Brown, gave the invocation.  
Secretary, Gary Young, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***2. Public Comment.***

None.

***3. Approve minutes of the February 12, 2025, Board meeting and workshop.***

Board members received the minutes of February 12, 2025, Board meeting and workshop in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to approve the minutes of February 12, 2025, Board meeting and Workshop as presented. Vice President, Leland Gersbach, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

***4. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to accept the monthly Financial Report for February 2025 (FY25) as presented.***

Board members received the monthly financial report for February 2025 in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to accept the February 2025 financial report as presented. Secretary, Gary Young, 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 February 2025 (FY25) as presented.***

Board members received the monthly investment Fund account report for February 2025 in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to accept the monthly Investment Fund account report for February 2025 as presented. Vice President, Leland Gersbach, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

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

Shelly Chapman presented a request for FY25 line-item budget amendments for accounting services. She explained that since Leland retired from BGFN, the district would no longer receive complementary services. Kerri Myer will continue to provide services as needed with the understanding that those services will be billed. Kerri provides “as needed” support for Shelly and handles the year end filings.

Shelly requests the Board increase line item 53010 (Accounting/Bank Services) to cover the “as needed” fees for continued support from BGFN.

	Line Item	Invoice \$	Available Funds	Amount Requested	New Balance	From	Available Funds	New Balance
	53010-Accounting/Bank Svc Exp		\$350.00	\$650.00	\$1,000.00	50250-Contingency Fund	\$9,927.00	\$9,277.00

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to approve the line-item budget amendment as requested. Director, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**7. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to accept the Annual Report for 2024.**

Whitney explained to the Board that the Annual Report was not complete at this time. The Salamander report from Pete Diaz is not ready yet. The Salado Springs quarterly water quality tests were not done so there is no data for 2024. This task will be unsatisfied. There is still plenty of time to get the Annual Report submitted before the deadline. Dirk suggested this be tabled until the April meeting.

Vice President, Leland Gersbach, moved to table agenda item 7 until the April Board meeting. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**8. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to approve building signage and design.**

Dirk presented information related to signage in the new building. He has been working with a designer to create a 5x7 wall sign for the Board room with the Clearwater logo. The price discussed by the designer will not exceed \$2,800. A budget amendment will need to be made.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to approve indoor signage for the Board room not to exceed \$2,800 and to amend the budget accordingly. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

Shelly was instructed to add this to her budget amendments in agenda item #6 and move funds from contingency.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**9. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to approve the pilot study of cloud-based meter program for agricultural irrigators.**

Dirk has not been able to get the details sorted out with McCrometer yet. He suggests the Board table this until he has worked through the weeds of it all. Jody presented his thoughts on this program.

Vice President, Leland Gersbach, moved to table agenda item 9 indefinitely. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**10. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to approve PFAS Study proposal by Dr. Gretchen Miller.**

Dirk commented that there was a lot of discussion on this topic at TWCA. Dirk thinks it may be premature for the district to weigh in on it at this time. Dirk presented his thoughts and concerns and suggested the district stand down for now and revisit the study for the next budget year.

No action taken.

**11. Hold Public Hearing on the following applications:**

- a) Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the application submitted by Ted Smith, on behalf of Salado ISD, for a drilling permit to drill and complete a new well (N3-25-001P) for irrigation at the new high school currently under construction. The proposed new well will be completed to the Middle Trinity Aquifer and equipped with a maximum 2-inch column pipe at a maximum pumping rate of 75 gallons per minute in the Stillhouse Management Zone on a 54.69-acre tract located at 3689 Williams Road, Salado, Texas 76571. The proposed new irrigation well would be aggregated into a two-well system with an existing operating permit not to exceed 21.41 acre-feet or 6,976,470 gallons per year. No additional groundwater will be contemplated by this application above the existing operating permit.**

President, Jody Williams, began the public hearing by offering members of the public an opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed drilling permit from Salado ISD. There were none.

Jody officially opened the hearing at 1:35 p.m. and gave a summary of the application submitted by Ted Smith on behalf of Salado ISD for a drilling permit for a new well to be completed in the Middle Trinity aquifer and aggregated into a two well system with an existing operating permit not to exceed 21.41 acre-feet.

Jody reviewed the procedures that would apply to the hearing and noted that the hearing had been properly noticed, and the application had undergone administrative, legal, and technical review by district staff, general counsel, and geoscience consultants.

As presiding officer, Jody will take evidence and sworn testimony, and rule on any procedural issues. He laid out the procedures for the preliminary portion of the hearing.

Jody administered an oath to all parties speaking on the application. Taking the oaths were:

Dirk Aaron – CUWCD General Manager, Mike Keester – KT Groundwater Geoscience Consultant, and Ted Smith – Salado ISD.

Jody proceeded with the evidentiary phase of the hearing and received testimony from related parties.

Jody addressed the applicant, Ted Smith. Ted laid out the application and presented his request and the needs for a drilling permit for a new well. He presented an overall site-plan and that will include rainwater catchment, native plants and grasses, condensation collection from HVAC system, and artificial turf athletic fields.

Dirk Aaron (CUWCD) presented his executive summary noting the administrative requirements and any special provisions/requirements that were agreed upon. Dirk stated that the application is administratively complete, and the applicant has met all requirements.

Mike Keester (KTGW), the district's geoscience consultant, presented his analysis of the application. He commented that there would be no meaningful difference in drawdown. He recommended the application be approved with special provisions as laid out in the general manager's executive summary, collection of formation samples at time of drilling, geophysical logs, and pump test.

Jody offered the applicant an opportunity for rebuttal for earlier testimony. The applicant had no rebuttal.

Jody asked the Board's legal counsel, Cole Ruiz, if he was satisfied that the application for drilling permit has met its legal burden. Cole replied yes contingent on the special conditions agreed to.

Jody asked if there were any additional questions or discussions. There were none.

Jody concluded the evidentiary portion of the hearing.

Jody asked for a motion to grant or deny the request for a drilling permit that includes all special provisions offered by the Board which are outlined by the general manager and district's geoscience consultant and affirmed by the district's legal counsel.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to approve the request for a drilling permit to include all special provisions/requirement as laid out by the general manager and district consultants. Director, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Public hearing concluded at 2:26 p.m.

- b) Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the application submitted by Ted Smith, on behalf of Salado ISD, for an operating permit for three existing wells (N3-23-006G, N3-23-007G, N3-23-008G), and an amendment to aggregate these operating permits to a current HEU and operating permit for well N2-03-004G. The existing wells are completed to the Edwards BFZ Aquifer and are equipped with a maximum 1¼ -inch column pipe at a maximum pumping rate of 10 gallons per minute. An operating permit of 1.5 acre-feet per year is being contemplated for three existing wells. These permits would be aggregated with the current 1.5 acre-feet per year HEU permit and 0.71 acre-feet per year operating permit for a total of 6.71 acre-feet or 2,186,463 gallons per year as a four-well aggregated system to produce groundwater for irrigation of the Salado ISD student athletic fields located on contiguous tracts of land (PID 102187 and PID 102190) totaling 45.593 acres, at 575 Salado School Rd, Salado, Texas 76571.*

President, Jody Williams, began the public hearing by offering members of the public an opportunity to provide public comment on the application for 3 operating permits and amendment to aggregate permits from Salado ISD. There were none.

Jody officially opened the hearing at 2:39 p.m. and gave a summary of the application submitted by Ted Smith on behalf of Salado ISD for 3 operating permits and amendment to aggregate permits for Salado ISD.

Jody reviewed the procedures that would apply to the hearing and noted that the hearing had been properly noticed, and the application had undergone administrative, legal, and technical review by district staff, general counsel, and geoscience consultants.

As presiding officer, Jody will take evidence and sworn testimony, and rule on any procedural issues. He laid out the procedures for the preliminary portion of the hearing.

Jody administered an oath to all parties speaking on the application. Taking the oaths were:

Dirk Aaron – CUWCD General Manager, Mike Keester – KT Groundwater Geoscience Consultant, and Ted Smith – Salado ISD.

Jody proceeded with the evidentiary phase of the hearing and received testimony from related parties.

Jody addressed the applicant, Ted Smith. Ted laid out the application and presented his request and the needs for a operating permits and amendment to aggregate the permits.

Dirk Aaron (CUWCD) presented his executive summary noting the administrative requirements and any special provisions/requirements that were agreed upon. Dirk stated that the application is administratively complete, and the applicant has met all requirements.

Mike Keester (KTGW), the district's geoscience consultant, presented his analysis of the application. He commented again that there would be no meaningful difference in drawdown. He recommended the application be approved with special provisions as laid out in the general manager's executive summary,

Jody offered the applicant an opportunity for rebuttal for earlier testimony. The applicant had no rebuttal. He thanked the Board for their time and consideration on these applications.

Jody asked the Board's legal counsel, Cole Ruiz, if he was satisfied that the application for operating permits and the amendment to aggregate wells has met its legal burden. Cole replied yes contingent on the special conditions agreed to.

Jody asked if there were any additional questions or discussions. There were none.

Jody concluded the evidentiary portion of the hearing.

Jody asked for a motion to grant or deny the request for a 3 operating permits and amendment to aggregate permits and include all special provisions offered by the Board which are outlined by the general manager and district's geoscience consultant and affirmed by the district's legal counsel.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to approve the request for 3 operating permits and aggregate permits to include special provisions/requirements specifically laid out in the general manager's executive summary (see page 6) and agreed to by the applicant. Vice president, Leland Gersbach, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Public Hearing concluded at 3:14 p.m.

- c) *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on the application submitted by Session Harrell and Amber Dankert for an operating permit on an existing well (N3-25-002P) to authorize the withdrawal from the Edwards BFZ Aquifer for domestic use not to exceed 1.0 acre-feet or 325,581 gallons per year. The existing well is equipped with a maximum 1 ¼-inch column pipe at a maximum pumping rate of 10 gallons per minute in the Edwards BFZ Management zone on a 3.6-acre tract located at 9652 Stinnett Mill Road, Salado, Texas 76571.*

President, Jody Williams, began the public hearing by offering members of the public an opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed operating permit. There were none.

Jody officially opened the hearing at 3:22 p.m. and gave a summary of the application submitted by Amber Dankert and Session Harrell for an operating permit to authorize withdrawal for the Edwards BFZ aquifer for domestic use not to exceed 1 acre-foot per year.

Jody reviewed the procedures that would apply to the hearing and noted that the hearing had been properly noticed, and the application had undergone administrative, legal, and technical review by district staff, general counsel, and geoscience consultants.

As presiding officer, Jody will take evidence and sworn testimony, and rule on any procedural issues. He laid out the procedures for the preliminary portion of the hearing.

Jody administered an oath to all parties speaking on the application. Taking the oaths were:

Dirk Aaron – CUWCD General Manager, Mike Keester – KT Groundwater Geoscience Consultant, and Session Harrell – Applicant.

Jody proceeded with the evidentiary phase of the hearing and received testimony from related parties.

Jody addressed the applicant, Session Harrell. Session laid out the application and presented his request and reasons for an operating permit for their existing well.

Dirk Aaron (CUWCD) presented his executive summary noting the administrative requirements and any special requirements that were agreed upon. Dirk stated that the application is administratively complete, and the applicant has met all requirements.

Mike Keester (KTGW), the district's geoscience consultant, presented his analysis of the application. Mike noted that there would be negligible drawdown from this well. He recommended the application be approved with special provisions as laid out in the general manager's executive summary.

Jody offered the applicant an opportunity for rebuttal for earlier testimony. The applicant had no rebuttal.

Jody asked the Board's legal counsel, Cole Ruiz, if he was satisfied that the application for an operating permit has met its legal burden. Cole replied yes contingent on the special conditions agreed to.

Jody asked if there were any additional questions or discussions. There were none.

Jody concluded the evidentiary portion of the hearing.

Jody asked for a motion to grant or deny the request for an operating permit for the existing well that includes all special provisions offered by the Board which is outlined in the General Manager's executive summary and affirmed by the district's geoscience consultant and legal counsel.

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to approve the request for an operating permit on an existing well not to exceed 1 acre-foot per year, to include all special provisions as laid out in the General Manager's executive summary, and to meter and report production monthly. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Public hearing closed at 3:46 p.m.

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

- Baylor deliverables are not ready yet. Working with Dr. Joe to set up time for presentation/updates.
- Pilot hole for Mustang Springs has been plugged.
- The Baird's have hired an attorney to address issues/concerns related to Heidelberg well.
- Thomas Reynosa finally paid his penalty fee. Corey continues to check periodically to make sure the well has not been hooked back up or in use.

***13. 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.)

***14. Director's comments and reports.***

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

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

- 2024 Annual report final approval
- Legislative updates
- Update on Central Texas Water Alliance

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

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 1:30 – CUWCD Board Room – 640 Kennedy Court, Belton

**Workshop Item #1: Receive information related to the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session and Groundwater Legislation.**

Ty Embry presented information on Bills submitted related to groundwater issues.

**Workshop Item #2: Receive information related to the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts' 2025 Groundwater Summit.**

Whitney updated the Board in information regarding the TAGD Groundwater Summit this summer. The event will be August 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. She asked the Board to let Shelly know if they would like to attend so she can book the rooms and get them registered.

**Workshop Item #3: Receive update on Web-site development progress.**

Whitney updated the Board on the progress of the new website.

**Workshop Item #4: Receive update related to TDLR training and surface completion issues on 12 Edwards BFZ wells drilled by local driller.**

Dirk explained that a representative from TDLR came to the office for field training. After discussion, the group did a site visit on several wells. Dirk informed the Board of issues they found regarding the completion of several wells by a local driller. TDLR will be looking into these issues. A formal complaint will be issued against the driller.

**Workshop Item #5: Receive updates related to GMA8 DFC determination, per TWC section 36.108, and plans for the next round.**

Mike Keester updated related to GMA8 DFC determination related to the North Texas GAM. Intera presented the final draft of the model. It covers a large area. Still working through the information.

**17. Adjourn.**

**Board meeting & Workshop closed with President, Jody Williams, at 5:40 p.m.**



Jody Williams, President      or  
Leland Gersbach, Vice President

**ATTEST:**



Gary Young, Secretary or  
Dirk Aaron, Assistant Secretary