

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting
640 Kennedy Court
Belton, TX
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
Minutes

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

Board Members Present:

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

Absent:

Leland Gersbach, VP, Pct 1

Staff:

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

Guests:

Mike Keester, KTGW
Marvin Ee, UMHB
Hunter King, Collier
Joyce Bateman

Scott Carlson, Met Water
Cole Ruiz, Lloyd Gosselink
Scott Hodde, City of Belton

Matthew George, UMHB
Brad Cross, Collier
Peter DiLillo

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

(President, Jody Williams, noted for the record that Vice President Leland Gersbach was absent.)

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2. Public Comment.

Dr. John Asbury was recognized for public comments. He thanked Dirk for all the time and effort he has put into Clearwater over the years and wished him well in his retirement. Bell County was lucky to have him.

3. Approve minutes of the April 9, 2025, Board meeting and workshop.

Board members received the minutes of April 9, 2025, Board meeting and workshop in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to approve the minutes of April 9, 2025, Board meeting and Workshop as presented. Director, Scott Brooks, 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 April 2025 (FY25) as presented.

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

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to accept the April 2025 financial report as presented. Director, Jim Brown, 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 April 2025 (FY25) as presented.

Board members received the monthly investment Fund account report for April 2025 in their Board packet to be reviewed prior to the meeting.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to accept the monthly Investment Fund account report for April 2025 as presented. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

6. Hold a public hearing on the following application:

Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, on an application submitted by the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor for an operating permit for existing well #N3-23-005P. The permit would authorize groundwater production for golf course irrigation not-to-exceed 37.1 acre-feet or 12,089,072 gallons per year, at a maximum pumping rate of 270 gallons per minute. The well is completed to the Lower Trinity Aquifer (Hosston), in the Belton Lake Management Zone, with a maximum 4-inch column pipe, on a 28.12-acre tract located at 900 College St., Belton, Texas.

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

Jody officially opened the hearing at 2:35 p.m. and gave a summary of the application submitted by UMHB for an operating permit for an existing well completed in the Lower Trinity aquifer not to exceed 37.1 acre-foot/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, Matthew George – UMHB, Marin Ee – UMHB, Brad Cross – Collier, Hunter King – Collier.

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

Jody addressed the applicant, Marve Ee. Marve laid out the application and presented his request and the needs for an operating permit for their existing well. He presented an overall site-plan. He noted steps UMHB is taking to minimize water use throughout the campus and athletic fields. Matt George presented the irrigation/maintenance plan for the golf course.

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 and pump test. He commented that there would be negligible drawdown in the nearest lower trinity well. Water levels are declining at about 4 ft per year. He recommended the application be approved with special provisions as laid out in the general manager's executive summary to include long-term monitoring with Eno-Science equipment.

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 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, Scott Brooks, moved to approve the request for an operating permit to include all special provisions/requirements as laid out by the general manager in his executive summary and by the district consultants. Director, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

Public hearing concluded at 2:35 p.m.

7. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, discontinue the WellIntel Program.*

Dirk reminded the Board that the District has been using WellIntel for on-site continuous monitoring. He commented that the District has evolved away from WellIntel due to the cost, the need for on-site internet, sounder has a short life, and the data is erratic and not compatible with LRE DMS. The District has integrated Eno-Scientific devices which are more durable/reliable and compatible with LRE and signal fire.

Dirk asked the Board to allow him to cancel the 3 remaining WellIntel devices and download the 2024-2025 data and order Eno-Scientific 670s for Scott Brooks, Jim Brown, Hidden Springs Park, and Hidden Springs Entrance wells. Dirk also would like to include the Eno-Scientific 700 on the UMHB well.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to approve the cancellation/removal of the WellIntel program and move forward with the Eno-Scientific equipment as recommended by the General Manager. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

8. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to adopt the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Bell County and CUWCD regarding the Clearwater Boardroom, 640 Kennedy Court, Belton, Texas.*

Dirk presented the ILA for the CUWCD Boardroom at 640 Kennedy Court. He noted that there were some revisions to the original agreement the Board received. Dirk noted the changes to the ILA and the Board discussed other changes for consideration. Once the Board approves the ILA it will be submitted to the Commissioners' Court for their approval.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to approve the ILA with changes as discussed. Director, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

9. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to approve IT upgrades for District office.*

Whitney explained that the District's workstations, server, and backup repository needs to be replaced due to age and Windows 10 ending support. Engineer Austin manages the District's IT needs and provided a quote to meet the needs of the District and staff. Whitney asked the Board to consider moving funds from reserves to meet the financial need for the upgrade to the system.

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to approve upgrades needed to the District's server, backup, and workstations. Director, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

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

Shelly presented the request for line-item budget amendments as follows:

1. Line item 53780-Subscriptions: Annual and monthly subscription prices have increased. This includes subscriptions for Temple Daily Telegram, Killeen Daily Herald, Austin American Statesman, Drop Box, and Adobe. The QuickBooks annual Payroll Subscription increased by \$281.00. Staff requests \$438.72 to cover the monthly subscriptions for the Austin American Statesman, Drop Box, and Adobe for the remainder of FY25.

2. Due to changes and upgrades with Microsoft, Engineer Austin, the District's computer and IT consultants, have advised us of the need to upgrade the server and backup system as well as several computers. These upgrades were discussed in agenda item #9. Staff recommend the Board approve \$22,321.15 to be taken from reserve funds and a new line item created for IT Network and System Upgrades. (As discussed in agenda item #9.)

3. LRE has submitted a request for modification to the 2024-2025 agreement, to add \$2,000.00 to the existing Task 1.2. System Break/Fix 53317-Management Tool Sustainment. This task was originally budgeted for \$2,500.00, and this modification would require an increase to \$4,500.00 to adequately provide funding for the remainder of the FY25 budget needs.

	Line Item	Invoice \$	Available Funds	Amount Requested	From	Available Funds
QB/Intuit	53780-Subscriptions	\$1,081.42	\$642.70	\$438.72	53785- Mobile Classroom exp	\$2,000.00
Eng. Austin	65202-IT Network/System & Server	\$22,321.15	\$0.00	\$22,321.15	Reserve Funds	\$1,384,337.88
	Upgrade					
LRE	53317-Management Tool Sustainmen	\$2,000.00	\$448.25	\$2,000.00	Contingency	\$9,277.00

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

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

11. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to accept General Manager's Letter of Retirement.

Dirk commented that he had contacted each Board member individually to discuss his plans for retirement. He has also informed other key personnel associated with the groundwater world. He submitted his letter of retirement to the Board on April 26th to be effective August 30, 2025. He stated that he is confident in Whitney's ability to continue to run the District in his absence. Dirk spoke about his time here and his plans moving forward into retirement. He asked that the Board accept his letter of retirement.

Board members each commented on Dirk's pending departure from the District. They thanked him for his dedication and the good things he has done for the District and Bell County.

Director, Jim Brown, moved to accept Dirk Aaron's letter of retirement. Director, Scott Brooks seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 (1 absent).

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

- The Groundwater Summit is August 19-21. Shelly needs to confirm today who will be attending so she can register everyone under the early bird rate.

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. Whitney gave a brief overview of items listed.

14. Director's comments and reports.

- **Gary Young:** Stated that it has been a pleasure working with Dirk over the years and appreciates all he has done for the District.
- **Scott Brooks:** Commented that he enjoyed working with Dirk and he will be missed.
- **James Brown:** Agreed with Gary and Scott regarding Dirks retirement.
- **Jody Williams:** None
- **Leland Gersbach:** Absent

15. Discuss agenda items for the next meeting.

- Budget planning in workshop
- Information on Cyber Security training
- Possible budget amendments for new Eno Scientific monitoring devices

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

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 1:30 – CUWCD Board Room – 640 Kennedy Court, Belton

17. Adjourn.

Board meeting adjourned with President, Jody Williams, at 3:29 p.m.

Workshop convened with President, Jody Williams, at 3:30 p.m.

Workshop Item #1: Receive information related to the 89th Legislative Session and Groundwater Legislation.

Ty Embry (Lloyd Gosselink) briefed the Board on Groundwater Legislation related to this Legislative session. He noted that the bill to create the Central Texas Water Alliance was on Governor Abbot's desk for him to sign.

Workshop Item #2: Receive information related to the FY26 Tax Rate and District Budget.

Whitney presented an update related to the FY26 Budget Development timeline. She commented that she and Dirk had attended a meeting with the Bell County Appraisal District on April 29th to obtain data prepared for CUWCD. Dirk and Whitney will be receiving proposals from consultants and will have a draft budget ready to look at in June.

Workshop Item #3: Receive red-line draft of Administrative Fee Schedule and Groundwater Management Plan.

Whitney presented updated application forms and fee schedule along with the red-line draft of the Management Plan. Whitney is currently working on the Management Plan. Staff at Lloyd Gosselink will help her through the process.

Workshop Item #4: Receive final update relating to new website design, release May 1, 2025.

Whitney demonstrated the new website to the Board. It went live on May 1st and is compatible with all kinds of devices. She encouraged the Board to take a look at it.

Workshop Item #5: Receive updates related to GMA8 DFC determination, per TWC section 36. 108, and plans for the next round.

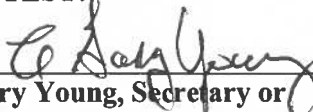
Received information from Mike Keester related to GMA8 technical support.

Workshop closed with President, Jody Williams, at 4:39 p.m.



Jody Williams, President or
Leland Gersbach, Vice President

ATTEST:



Gary Young, Secretary or
Dirk Aaron, Assistant Secretary