

**Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting**  
**640 Kennedy Court**  
**Belton, TX**  
**Wednesday, February 11, 2026**  
**Minutes**

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) held a Workshop and Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, in the Clearwater UWCD Board Room located at 640 Kennedy Court, Belton, Texas.

**Board Members Present:**

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

**Absent:**

**Staff:**

Whitney Ingram, General Manager  
Shelly Chapman, Admin. Manager  
Tristin Smith, Education & Compliance

**Guests:**

Peter DiLillo  
Kevin Cowan, LM&S

Dirk Aaron, CTWA  
Liz Haney

Patrick Wagoner, MTGCD  
Bruce Pritchard

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

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

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

***2. Public Comment.***

None

***3. Approve minutes of January 13, 2026, Board meeting and workshop.***

Board members received the minutes of January 13, 2026, Board meeting and workshop in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to approve the minutes of January 11, 2026, Board meeting and workshop.  
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 January 2026 (FY26) as presented.***

Board members received the monthly financial report for January 2026 in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Vice President, Leland Gersbach, moved to accept the January 2026 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 January 2026 (FY26) as presented.***

Board members received the monthly investment Fund account report for January 2026 in their Board packet to be reviewed prior to the meeting.

Vice President, Leland Gersbach, moved to accept the monthly Investment Fund account report for January 2026 as presented. Director, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

***6. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to approve the FY26 line-item budget amendments as requested.***

Shelly presented the request for a line-item budget amendment to cover additional expenses for GMA 8 Technical Committee support by KT Groundwater.

Whitney commented that there will be additional expenses for KT Groundwater and this process is moving forward. Mike is putting together an estimate on what those expenses are expected to be outside of this invoice. There have already been two additional technical committee meetings as well as an additional GMA8 meeting that Mike will attend alongside the district. A budget amendment will be presented at the next meeting.

	Line Item	Invoice \$	Available Funds	Amount Requested	From	Available Funds	Remaining Funds
KT Groundwat	50605-GMA 8-Tech Committee	\$4,860.00	\$576.25	\$4,860.00	50250-Contingency	\$77,115.00	\$72,255.00

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

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**7. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to accept the FY25 Financial Audit as presented by the district's contracted auditing firm.**

Kevin Cowan with Ludwick, Montgomery & Stapp, P.C. presented the FY25 Annual Financial Audit. He gave a bird's eye view and presented highlights of the audit. He noted for the record that it was a clean audit, and the district is in good shape financially.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to accept the FY25 Financial Audit as presented. Director, Jim Brown seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**8. Receive monthly report and possible consideration and Board action on the following:**

- a) *Drought Status Reports*
- b) *Education Outreach Update*
- c) *Monitoring Wells*
- d) *Rainfall Reports*
- e) *Well Registration Update*
- f) *Aquifer Status Report & Non-exempt Monthly Well Production Reports*

Whitney presented the monthly reports for February. She noted that the reports are posted on the district's website and can be viewed anytime.

Whitney discussed the current drought status, noting that we are still in stage 2 drought for the Edwards BFZ and there is no drought noted over the Trinity. Under the current management plan, the U.S. Drought Monitor graphic will now be maintained as a monthly running report and included as an appendix in the annual report.

Staff will continue providing a monthly outreach tally, with additional events scheduled for this spring. Sponsorships were provided to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Bell County Master Gardeners for a conservation-focused gardening forum, and to support continued development of a rainwater harvesting calculator that will be linked on the district website and highlighted in the next quarterly update. The quarterly newsletter will resume in March.

Routine monitoring and production reporting show no significant issues.

The Board will receive the final draft of the FY25 Annual Report in Workshop during the March meeting. She requested any corrections or changes be submitted by March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**9. General Manager's Report concerning office management and staffing related to District Management Plan<sup>3</sup>.**

The district submitted public comments for permit WQ0016658001 at the TCEQ public meeting in Salado and are awaiting formal response. In the meantime, District staff have a plan to enhance spring monitoring protocols to include phosphate testing and expanded field-note reporting.

Whitney is working with the City of Killeen on evaluation of a dual-completed well (~1,000 feet deep historical railroad use). Together with the City, the District will help assess environmental risk and determining if plugging is required.

Whitney notified the Board of three exempt wells with apparent change of use. Staff will continue to follow up on these wells.

District staff are working with the legal team to update the groundwater resource investigation language for District memos and the website. No process changes were determined necessary.

Staff are also planning additional education efforts for real estate professionals and surveyors regarding groundwater considerations.

Whitney provided an update on the recent House Natural Resources Committee meeting where groundwater was a major topic. Legislative liaison support continues during the interim. Representative Brad Buckley participated in the hearing and was supportive of District interests.

In closing Whitney mentioned the TWDB Groundwater Science Research and Data Collection Grant program (to be discussed in workshop)

Dirk Aaron made some comments regarding the hearing he attended and presented his thoughts and concerns.

#### ***10. Director's comments and reports.***

- **Jim Brown:** No comments at this time.
- **Gary Young:** No comments at this time. Whitney will address some GMA8 issues in workshop.
- **Leland Gersbach:** Attended the TCEQ public hearing in Salado. His main take away from the TCEQ hearing in Salado was the phosphate levels. A baseline should be established.
- **Scott Brooks:** It is TCEQ's responsibility to police this stuff, not the district's. Water quality falls under the district's purvey, but the district doesn't have experience with water quality issues. TCEQ's feet should be held to the fire. They should be sponsoring what it takes to gather data and find things out.
- **Jody Williams:** Thanked staff for all their work on the Annual Report and congratulated them on another clean audit.

#### ***11. Discuss agenda items for the next meeting.***

- Possible permit application
- Receive Final draft of the 2025 Annual Report

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

Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 1:30 – CUWCD Board Room – 640 Kennedy Court, Belton

#### ***13. Adjourn.***

### **Board meeting adjourned and Workshop convened with President, Jody Williams, at 2:27 p.m.**

#### **Workshop Item #1: Receive quarterly update from District representative, Dirk Aaron, related to the Central Texas Water Alliance.**

Dirk Aaron updated the Board on matters related to the Central Texas Water Alliance. He commented that the Alliance continues to move in a positive a deliberate direction. Governance documents are advancing and operational systems are being established. Ricky Garrett has been appointed as the General Manager for CTWA and Dirk will continue to support Ricky as he undertakes the management responsibilities associated with launching the Alliance.

Dirk noted that there has been a lot of regional interest and participation in the Alliance. Several entities have submitted the initial paperwork for membership in the Alliance. Those entities include City of Belton, City of Copperas Cove, City of Killeen, City of Lampasas, City of McGregor, City of Waco, Kempner WSC, Lampasas County, Middle Trinity GCD, and Bell County WCID #3.

The level of participation from municipalities, counties districts and water supply corporations will be essential as the Alliance moves from organizational set-up into long-term strategic planning and implementation.

The Alliance will hold a public hearing at its upcoming meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> in Waco.

**Workshop Item #2: Receive information related to TWDB Groundwater Research, Science, and Data Collection Grants.**

Whitney presented information related to the TWDB Groundwater Research, Science, and Data Collection Grants. She commented that TWDB opened the request for applications to award grants during fiscal year 2026 to support eligible groundwater research related data initiatives that enhance the best available science used by GCDs for management and planning.

Whitney presented ideas and proposals for ways the district may be able to utilize the grant money. Preference will be given to districts who provide matching funds. This is funding that should be coming in the next fiscal year.

**Workshop Item #3: Receive draft of the Annual Report for 2025.**

Whitney presented the draft of the Annual Report. She commended Tristin for taking the lead on the updates.

Whitney encouraged the Board to review the report and submit changes by March 4<sup>th</sup>. The final draft will be presented for approval at the March Board meeting.

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

Whitney, Jim, and Gary attended the last GMA 8 meeting.

Whitney gave a broad overview of what's been happening. She commented that she received quite a bit of pushback on added pumping in Williamson County. GMA8 appointed a technical committee of the southern region to include Central Texas GCD, Post Oak Savannah GCD, Southern Trinity GCD, Prairie Lands GCD, and CUWCD. This committee was charged with identifying a new run that reduces the pumping in Williamson County since there was pushback over added pumping. Post Oak Savanna and Prairie lands decided to fund a model. There was a 4-1 vote to strip all pumping in Williamson County.

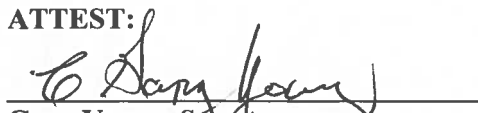
Whitney informed the Board that they are waiting on the new run results to come in. Those results should be available within the next couple of weeks. Once the results are reviewed, they will come up with a new plan.

**Workshop concluded with President, Jody Williams, at 3:40 p.m.**



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Jody Williams, President or  
Leland Gersbach, Vice President

ATTEST:

  
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Gary Young, Secretary or  
Whitney Ingram, Assistant Secretary