Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting
640 Kennedy Court
Belton, TX
Wednesday, August 26, 2026
Minutes

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) held a Workshop and Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, in the Clearwater UWCD Board Room located at 640 Kennedy Court, Belton, Texas.

Board Members Present:	**Absent:**	**Staff:**
Jody Williams, President, Pct 3	Shelly Chapman, Admin. Manager	Whitney Ingram, General Manager
Leland Gersbach, Vice President, Pct 1		Tristin Smith, Education & Compliance
Jim Brown, Secretary, At-Large		
Dirk Aaron, Director, Pct 2		
Scott Brooks, Director, Pct 4		

Guests:

Chip Howell – Texas State Senate	Chuck Brashear – Harker Heights	Peter DiLillo – Harker Heights
Renton Moffett – City of Temple	Colton Migura – City of Temple	

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

1. ***Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.***
   President, Jody Williams, led the invocation.
   Secretary, Jim Brown, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ***Public Comment.***
   There were none.

3. ***Approve minutes of August 12, 2026, Board meeting and workshop.***
   Board members received the minutes of August 12, 2026, Board meeting and workshop in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

   Director, Scott Brooks, moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 2026, Board meeting and workshop. Director, Dirk Aaron, seconded the motion.

   Motion carried 5-0.

4. ***Hold Public Hearing on the proposed changes to District Rules and the Administrative Fee Schedule.***
   President, Jody Williams, opened the Public Hearing at 1:32 p.m. He noted for the record that the hearing was being recorded as required by statute and the district rules. A 20-day notice of the hearing was posted at the district office and the District Courthouse on Thursday, August 6th, and published in the Temple Daily Telegram and Killeen Daily Herald. A red-line draft of the proposed amendments was provided with the notice on the district website.

   Jody asked General Manager, Whitney Ingram, to layout the proposed changes and amendments.

   Whitney presented the proposed revisions and amendments to include changes to Rule 1 regarding definitions, Rule 6 regarding exempt wells and permit applications, and Rule 9 regarding spacing and setback requirements. Whitney recommended striking proposed changes to District Rule 6.3(a) to allow more time to gather additional information and revisiting at a later time.

   Whitney presented proposed changes to the Administrative Fee Schedule. She reminded the Board that effective January 1, 2024, the maximum allowable rate the district may impose for an export fee or surcharge under this rule shall increase each calendar year in accordance with Section 36.122(e-1) of the Texas Water Code. An export fee or surcharge imposed, or an increase in an export fee, is not valid unless it is approved by the Board after a public hearing. In 2025 the Board adopted the maximum allowable rate for Export Surcharge at $0.206 per 1,000 gallons. For 2026 the maximum allowable rate is $0.21218 per 1,000 gallons. Whitney outlined, in a chart, the impact to water exporters if the same amount of water is exported out of the District in 2026.

Jody offered members of the public an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed changes and amendments. There were none.

Jody concluded the Public Hearing at 1:45 p.m.

5. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to adopt changes to the District Rules and the Administrative Fee Schedule, by resolution.***

Board members confirmed that the resolution omits changes to District Rule 6.3(a).

Secretary, Jim Brown, moved to adopt by resolution the changes and amendments presented, while striking the amendment to Rule 6.3(a). Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

6. ***Hold public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for tax year 2026.***

President, Jody Williams, opened the Public Hearing at 1:45 p.m. He noted for the record that the hearing was being recorded as required by statute and the district rules. A 10-day notice of the hearing, including the required taxpayer impact statement, was posted at the district office and the District Courthouse on Friday, August 14th, and published in the Temple Daily Telegram and Killeen Daily Herald.

Jody asked General Manager, Whitney Ingram to layout the proposed tax rate and taxpayer impact statement.

Whitney presented the proposed tax rate of $0.002216 per $100 valuation. The proposed rate is a 0.62% decrease in the adopted tax rate from Tax Year 2025. Bell CAD certified totals showed the average homestead taxable values increased by 4.71%, therefore the tax impact of the average home increases slightly from $6.35 to $6.60.

Jody offered members of the public an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed tax rate and impact statement. There were none.

Jody closed the Public Hearing at 1:47 p.m.

7. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to adopt the District Budget for FY2027.***

At the last meeting the Board asked Whitney to revisit the Spheros proposals. She gave the Board clarifications they requested. The Board gave Whitney direction regarding the proposals.

Whitney presented two budget scenarios based on the No-New-Revenue tax rate of $0.002216/$100 valuation. Option #1 does not include the Assistant General Manager Position. This will leave $112,820 in the contingency fund. Option #2 includes the Assistant General Manager position for 6 months (approximately $52,000 in payroll and travel costs). Both options incorporate employee merit/cost of living pay increase.

Whitney recommended the Board discuss both options.

Vice President, Leland Gersbach, moved to approve Budget option #1 (without the Assistant General Manager position) for FY2027. Director, Scott Brooks seconded the motion.

The Board continued deliberation on staffing. Scott verified pay increase from 3.5% to 5% for staff. Whitney confirmed the increases were included. Dirk asked if Whitney would be able to fill the gaps and duties of not having an Assistant General Manager this year. Whitney commented that while current staff is managing workload effectively, education outreach and field operation demands will require expansion in the future.

Motion carried 4-1.

8. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action, if necessary, to adopt the District tax rate for tax year 2026, by resolution.***

Director, Dirk Aaron, moved to adopt the District tax rate of $0.002216, by resolution. Secretary, Jim Brown, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

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

There were none.

10. General Manager's Report concerning office management and staffing related to District Management Plan[3].

Whitney gave an update on the following topics:

- Election costs were removed from the FY27 Budget since positions were uncontested. A formal cancellation order will be presented for board action in September.
- Budget amendments for legal and electric expenses will be presented in September. Electric bill increases are due to Oncor delivery rate increases.
- Whitney and Corey met with Baylor graduate student Wesmond Williams regarding his thesis on the Edwards Aquifer Flow Dynamics. He will give his presentation at the November meeting.
- Whitney and Dirk will participate in a panel discussion on the "Future of Bell County Water" at the Save Salado Creek meeting.
- Estimated return to fund balance is approximately $150,000. This balance reflects approximately $52,000 in unspent salary for Assistant GM, increased sponsorship for Water Symposium, unused office supplies, and unused vehicle maintenance funds.
- Water Symposium agenda includes the 2027 State Water Plan, CTWA legislative priorities, BRA Lake Whitney reallocation, WCID #1 ASR study, and a keynote address by Billy How of the Texas Farm Bureau.
- The next GMA 8 meeting is scheduled for September 29th. CUWCD has no suggested revisions to the proposed DFCs; however, there is a change provided for the model run that does not change the proposed DFCs. Mike Keester is working on a technical memo that outlines the need for a modification to NTGAM 4.8 which updates simulated pumping in the Glen Rose (Upper Trinity).
- Startup testing on the City of Temple well was conducted on August 11th and a punch list of completion tasks was created by contracting crews. Whitney and Mike Keester met with City staff on August 21st as follow-up. City staff affirmed that they would coordinate with the District to install the water level monitoring equipment prescribed in their Drilling Permit and allow the District to explore totalizer meter compatibility in conjunction with the District's TWDB grant project. Further well testing will be scheduled in coordination with Intera, and notice will be provided to the District as a courtesy. The City of Temple will follow up with the District once the well is signed over to the City, or within 30 days.

11. Director's comments and reports.

- **Dirk Aaron:** Dirk expressed appreciation to staff and the City of Temple for collaborative communication. He also mentioned that Gary Westbrook will be retiring from Post Oak Savannah GCD.
- **Jim Brown:** None
- **Leland Gersbach:** He received very good feedback about Whitney's presentation. He also welcomed Chip Howell and thanked him for attending.
- **Scott Brooks:** Shared monitoring data from his well showing a 20 ft/year decline since May. He commented that rainfall events temporarily stabilized water levels. He mentioned that he has 40,000 gallons of rainwater stored at his place.
- **Jody Williams:** Jody apologized and clarified a prior statement regarding historical preliminary tax rate settings.

12. Discuss agenda items for the next meeting.

- Cancellation of the November election
- Water Symposium agenda
- Budget amendments
- Draft of annual newsletter

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

Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 1:30 – CUWCD Board Room – 640 Kennedy Court, Belton

14. Adjourn.

Board meeting adjourned with President, Jody Williams, at 3:02 p.m.

Jody Williams, President or
Leland Gersbach, Vice President

ATTEST:

Jim Brown, Secretary or
Whitney Ingram, Assistant Secretary