
SUTTON COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



**Public Hearing/Board Meeting
September 12, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Edwards Plateau Soil & Water Conservation District Board Room
301 S. Crockett Ave.
Sonora, Texas**

Minutes

Directors Present: Robert Mayer, Butch Taylor, Erika Campbell, and Max Howorth

Directors Absent: James Archer

District Staff Present: Meredith Allen, Sofia Galindo, Lana Tolleson

Public Hearing on the FY 2023-2024 Budget

1. Call Public Hearing to Order and Establish a Quorum

Board Chairman Robert Mayer called the Public Hearing to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Open Public Hearing on FY 2023-2024 Budget

No public in attendance

3. Adjourn Public Hearing on FY2023-2024 Budget

Director Max Howorth made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 9:22 a.m. The motion was 2nd by Director Butch Taylor and passed unanimously.

Regular Board Meeting

4. Call Regular Meeting to Order

Board Chairman Robert Mayer called the Regular Board Meeting to order.

5. Recognize Visitors—Any person or group wishing to speak to the Board on any item on the Agenda will be allowed 5 minutes

None Present

6. Recognize Pump Installers & Drillers—Any person or group wishing to speak on any item on the Agenda will be allowed 5 minutes

None Present

7. Water Level and Rainfall Report

Technician Sofia Galindo presented rainfall and water level reports for the months of July & August.

8. Action, Discuss, or Consider Approval of Minutes of the July 11, 2023 Regular Board Meeting.

Howorth made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 Regular Board Meeting. The motion was 2nd by Director Erika Campbell and passed unanimously.

9. Action, Discuss, or Consider Approval of Bills and Financial Statements for July & August 2023.

Operations Manager Lana Tolleson reviewed the revenue and expenditures for July & August 2023. Campbell made a motion to approve the July & August 2023 bills and financial statements. The motion was 2nd by Howorth and passed unanimously.

10. Action, Discuss or Consider Approval of the FY 2021-2022 Financial Audit provided by Kuntz, Smith & Co., P.C.

Howorth made a motion to pay the invoice for the FY 2021-2022 audit provided by Kuntz, Smith & Co., P.C. but table approval of the audit until the next meeting to give Directors more time to review the audit results. The motion was 2nd by Campbell and passed unanimously.

11. Action, Discuss or Consider Approval of FY 2023-2024 Budget

Campbell made a motion to approve the FY 2023-2024 Budget. The motion was 2nd by Taylor and passed unanimously.

12. Action, Discuss or Consider the Proposed 2023 Tax Rate

The Directors reviewed information provided by the Sutton County Appraisal District on the County's 2023 Adjusted Taxable Value, the District's 2023 No New Revenue Rate and the Voter-Approval Tax Rate. Howorth made a motion to propose 0.0399 as the Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District's 2023 Tax Rate. The motion was 2nd by Taylor and passed unanimously.

13. Action, Discuss or Consider Date for Public Hearing on Tax Rate

A motion was made by Howorth and 2nd by Campbell to set the 2023 Tax Rate Hearing for September 26th at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Action, Discuss or Consider Approval of Hydrogeology Services Agreement with Collier Consulting, Inc.

Consulting Manager Meredith Allen reviewed the Agreement for Professional Consulting Services submitted by Collier Consulting, Inc. Taylor made a motion to approve the Hydrogeology Services Agreement with Collier Consulting, Inc. The motion was 2nd by Howorth and passed unanimously.

15. Action, Discuss or Consider Approval Changes to District Health Insurance

Tolleson provided information from TX Health Benefits (formerly TML Health Benefits) concerning a 74.22% increase in the cost of medical coverage as of January 1, 2024 that provided less benefits for the District's employees than the current policy. Bids were also provided from two other insurance companies for coverage options. After the Directors reviewed all of the information, Campbell made a motion to change the District's health care provider to Cauthorn, Griffin and Leonard and provide Option 1 coverage for employees, giving staff discretion on the start date. The motion was 2nd by Taylor and passed unanimously.

16. Action, Discuss or Consider Proposed Rule Change to add Petition for Rulemaking as Required by HB 2443 (88R) and set Public Hearing

Campbell made a motion to propose the rule change presented by Allen including the required legislative changes from the 88th regular session. The motion was 2nd by Taylor and passed unanimously.

Campbell made a motion to set the Public Hearing for the proposed rule change for October 10th prior to the District's regular board meeting. The motion was 2nd by Howorth and passed unanimously.

17. Executive Session: Deliberations about Personnel Matters: In Accordance with Texas Government Code 551.074

The Board of Directors convened into Executive Session to deliberate on personnel matters at 10:48 a.m.

18. Action Reconvene into Open Session and Consider Action, if any, regarding decisions discussed in Executive Session

The Board of Directors reconvened into open session at 11:35 a.m. No action was taken regarding decisions discussed in the Executive Session.

19. Consulting Manager's Comments

- a. TAGD Groundwater Summit - Allen updated the Board on the TAGD Groundwater Summit held August 29 – 31, including sessions of particular interest. Allen, Galindo and Tolleson attended the Summit.
 - b. AgriLife Rangeland Water Conference – Allen will be speaking at the AgriLife Rangeland Water Conference to be held September 19th at the Civic Center in Sonora.
 - c. 4-H Water Ambassador Trip to Devil's River – The District, along with the Nature Conservancy, hosted the 4-H Water Ambassadors trip to the Devil's River on August 1st.
 - d. Legislative Update – Allen provided a legislative update for the Board.
- Allen also informed the Board that it is time to review the District's Management Plan. It will be placed on the agenda of a future meeting when TCEQ completes the required pre-review of the plan.

20. Operations Manager's Comments

- a. Update on District Activities – Tolleson reported that it had been a very busy month attending the TAGD Groundwater Summit, working with the auditors to complete the FY 2021-2022

audit, and securing bids for medical insurance after receiving the rate increase from TX Health Benefits.

21. Director Comments/Directives to Staff

- a. Add Director Campbell to the agenda for October for a presentation on the Texas A&M Shade Ball research project.

22. Action, Discuss, or Consider meeting adjournment

Howorth made a motion to adjourn at 11:58 a.m. with a 2nd by Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer

Date

Attesting Signature