SUTTON COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Public Hearing & Board Meeting
December 9, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Edwards Plateau Soil & Water Conservation District Board Room
301 S. Crockett Ave.
Sonora, Texas

Minutes

Directors Present: Robert Mayer, Erika Campbell, Wheless Baker, and Chacho Cahill
Directors Absent: James Archer
District Staff Present: Meredith Allen, Lana Tolleson and Sofia Galindo

Public Hearing on Permit Application

1. **Call Public Hearing to order and establish a quorum**
   Board President Robert Mayer called the Public Hearing to order at 9:05 a.m. and established a quorum.
2. **Open Public Hearing on Permit Application by Chase Wardlaw for the Purpose of Irrigation Use Requesting 200 Acre-Feet Annually**
   The Directors reviewed the permit application from Chase Wardlaw for the purpose of irrigation use. There were no comments from the public.
3. **Adjourn Public Hearing**
   A motion was made by Director Wheless Baker to adjourn the Public Hearing at 9:15 a.m. The motion received a second from Director Chacho Cahill and passed unanimously.

Board Meeting

1. **Call Regular Board Meeting to Order**
   After an invocation, Board President Robert Mayer called the Board Meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.
2. **Recognize Visitors—Any person or group wishing to speak to the Board on any item on the Agenda will be allowed 5 minutes**
   Ralph Mayer
   Art Fuentes, City Manager
   Charlotte McElwain, Water Superintendent, City of Sonora
3. **Recognize Pump Installers & Drillers—Any person or group wishing to speak on any item on the Agenda will be allowed 5 minutes**
   None Present
4. **Update on City of Sonora Water Infrastructure Improvements – Art Fuentes, City Manager**
   Sonora City Manager, Art Fuentes and Water Superintendent, Charlotte McElwain gave the Directors an update on the City's completed and upcoming water infrastructure improvements, along with flood-related emergency management planning.
5. **Water Level and Rainfall Report**
   No report was given.
6. **Action, Discuss, or Consider Approval of Minutes of the October 14, 2025 Board Meeting.**
   Director Erika Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2025 Board Meeting with a second by Baker. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Action, Discuss, or Consider Approval of Bills and Financial Statements for October & November 2025**
   Operations Manager Lana Tolleson reviewed the financial reports and answered questions from Directors. Campbell made a motion to approve the bills and financial statements for October & November 2025. The motion was seconded by Baker and passed unanimously.

8. **Action, Discuss, or Consider Permit Application by Chase Wardlaw for the Purpose of Irrigation Use Requesting 200 Acre-Feet Annually**
   After discussion, Baker made a motion to issue a Permit to Drill a Non-Exempt Well to Chase Wardlaw. Upon completion of a step drawdown test by the driller, an application can be submitted for an Operating Permit. The motion received a second by Campbell and passed unanimously.
9. **Action, Discuss or Consider Approval of 2025 Tax Roll from Sutton County Appraisal District**
   Cahill made a motion to approve the 2025 Tax Roll provided by the Sutton County Appraisal District. The motion received a second by Campbell and passed unanimously.
10. **Action, Discuss or Consider Approval of Interlocal Agreement with West Texas Regional Groundwater Association for Legislative Consultant for Period January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027**
    Campbell made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with West Texas Regional Groundwater Association for Legislative Consultant for period January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027. The motion received a second by Cahill and passed unanimously.
11. **Action, Discuss, or Consider Bank Depository Bid**
    Baker made a motion to begin the process of receiving bank depository bids for the District. The motion received a second from Campbell and passed unanimously. Prior to the January meeting, the bids will be reviewed by Operations Manager Lana Tolleson and Treasurer Erika Campbell and a recommendation will be presented to the Directors at the January meeting.
12. **Executive Session: Deliberations about Personnel Matters: In Accordance with Texas Government Code 551.074**
    The Board of Directors convened into Executive Session at 10:46 a.m.
13. **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 11:18 a.m. No action was taken. Legal counsel will be asked to generate a policy about working outside of the District's jurisdiction. Staff will not operate outside of the District's jurisdiction until the policy is in place.
14. **Consulting Manager's Comments**
    a. GMA 7 Update – Consulting Manager Meredith Allen let the Directors know that GMA 7 met on November 6th in Sonora at the Civic Center to review proposed DFCs. They will meet again in February.
    b. 4th Grade Water Fair – District staff participated in the 4th Grade Water Fair held at the Civic Center on December 2nd. There were 44 students in attendance.
15. **Operation Manager's Comments**
    a. Update on District Activities – Tolleson let the Directors know that work on the audit for FY 24-25 is currently underway and should be completed by the January meeting.
16. **Director Comments/Directives to Staff**
    a. Obtain policy from legal counsel on working outside the District's jurisdiction
    b. Look at monitoring equipment for flood structures
    c. Determine estimated budget to build karst aquifer model
17. **Action, Discuss, or Consider meeting adjournment**
    Baker made a motion to adjourn at 11:43 a.m. with a second by Cahill. The motion passed unanimously.

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Presiding Officer Date

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Attesting Signature