

**STERLING COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

January 9, 2023

Members present: Jack Clark, Chairman of Board, Ruthe Foster, Ross McCrea, Cliff Caldwell and Kade Hodges, General Manager; Diana Thomas and Technician; Ashley Masters.

Visitors present: Accountant, Karen Hodges

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 P.M. by Jack Clark, Chairman of the Board.

Ruthe Foster moved to accept the minutes of the previous meetings. Kade Hodges seconded the motion and it carried.

District accountant Karen Hodges presented the regular bills to the Board. After reviewing the bills as presented, Ruthe Foster moved to transfer \$4,000 from the MMDA to the checking account, to pay all bills. Cliff Caldwell seconded, and the motion passed.

The Manager's report included: virtual SAWRA Committee Hearing, TAGD Executive Committee meeting, WTRGA meeting, and special called TAGD meeting, and the Joint ICWCD meeting in San Angelo. The Senate Ag, Water, and Rural Affairs Committee held their second interim hearing concerning groundwater issues, covering a dizzying array of topics over several hours. Notable topics included the artificially low cost of wastewater injection which does not include future clean-up costs, how to address high rates of municipal infrastructure water loss, the improvements in the DFC process including updated models, and the need to change the cultural conversation around water. The TAGD Executive Committee met virtually to discuss the changing contract terms for the premier annual TAGD summit and the possibility of bringing the management in house. The WTRGA met virtually with consultant Adam Burklund to discuss pertinent bills currently filed and some potential bills to be filed. Updates about the upcoming legislative session were shared along with discussions ongoing by Adam on behalf of our group. SCUWCD directors met with ICWCD directors at the annual joint meeting over dinner in San Angelo. Due to no quorum, it was agreed by all that the recommendation to continue the interlocal agreement be made at the next regularly scheduled board meetings of each individual district. A specially called TAGD meeting was held virtually to have the full membership vote on budget amendments to allow for the internal management of the annual TAGD summit instead of contracting it out. The IRS standard mileage reimbursement rate for 2023 was also presented to the board.

Well Surveillance Report: Water levels for the Sterling County monitor wells for the time period of November and December had variations in levels with few wells showing increased or static levels and large number of wells decreasing. Yearly average for well levels in 2022 compared to previous year 2021 showed decreases though out most of monitor wells with the exception of six wells which maintained static levels. Decreases in well levels varied from 9 ft to 1 ft.

Water quality analysis was completed for Cliff Caldwell, Andi Davis, and Lacy Creek Wind. The well Camara was utilized for a C. Caldwell irrigation well.

No Notice of Intent to Drill was received.

Rain Gauge Report: Due to network battery update taking place, the rain gauge update will be given at the next meeting.

Cliff Caldwell moved to continue participating in the Cooperative Agreement with the Irion County Water Conservation District, with minor updates to reflect recent changes in staff. Ross McCrea seconded and the motion passed.

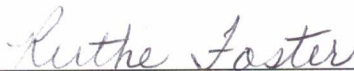
Ross McCrea moved to accept the most recent drought index. Kade Hodges seconded and the motion passed.

After presentation of the investment report and the updated lists of companies engaged in scrutinized business operations in Sudan and Iran, Cliff Caldwell moved to accept the 2022 Q4 Investment Report. Ruthe Foster seconded and the motion passed.

Ruthe Foster moved to accept the FY 21-22 Annual Report on Management Plan Achievement. Ross McCrea seconded and the motion passed.

Following presentation by the General Manager, Cliff Caldwell moved to accept the application for an irrigation permit for Frank Price, located at section 15, abstract 275, for no more than 275-acre feet of water per year. Kade Hodges seconded and the motion passed.

There being no further business Ross McCrea moved and Kade Hodges seconded to adjourn at 1:57 P.M.



Attesting Signature



Presiding Officer

Date: 2-13-2023