

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

July 10, 2023

Members present: Kade Hodges, Vice Chairman of Board, Cliff Caldwell, and Ross McCrea, General Manager; Diana Thomas and Technician; Ashley Masters.
Visitors present: Karen Hodges, accountant.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Kade Hodges, Vice Chairman of the Board. A quorum of the Board is in attendance.

The public hearing was opened at 1:00 pm by Diana Thomas, General Manager. Diana gave an overview of the proposed 2023-2028 Sterling County Underground Water Conservation District Management Plan, highlighting changes compared to the previously adopted plan.

No written comments were received by the Sterling County Underground Water Conservation District. No public was in attendance. The public hearing was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

The regular business meeting was opened at 1:10 P.M. by Kade Hodges, Vice Chairman of the Board.

Ross McCrea moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Cliff Caldwell seconded the motion and it carried.

Accountant, Karen Hodges presented the regular bills to the Board including an invoice for the completed financial audit, after reviewing the bills as presented, Ross McCrea moved to transfer \$12,000 from the MMDA to the checking account and to pay all bills. Cliff Caldwell seconded, and the motion passed.

Manager's report included: WTWMA in San Angelo, an Irion Co. landowner meeting, TWON-TAGD webinar, and the Sterling County Commissioner's Court in Sterling City. The WTWMA had a very busy May and early June with increased cloud response. Discussion was held on raising the yearly assessment for all participating districts, though nothing formal was proposed. Ashley met with an Irion County landowner to discuss our current monitoring efforts, our rules, and some potential additional spring monitoring. TWON and TAGD held a joint webinar updating membership on the TWON program including an overview and record of success. Diana updated to Sterling County Commissioners on changes from SB 2440 in the recent session and how the water district can assist in the review of Water Availability Certificates.

Well surveillance for June throughout Sterling was completed and presented to the Board with majority of wells in Sterling County measuring with decreased water levels (18 well), 11 wells having static water levels, 8 wells with increasing water levels and 3 wells that were not able to be measured. The well camera was utilized for one well in Irion County. A Notice of Intent to Drill was received for a livestock well for R. Copeland.

The Oath of Office was administered by Diana Thomas to Kade Hodges and Cliff Caldwell.

Ross McCrea moved to accept the Most Recent Drought Index, Cliff Caldwell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ross McCrea motioned to accept in 2023 Q2 Investment Report. Cliff Caldwell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

After review by Diana Thomas with comments by accountant Karen Hodges, Cliff Caldwell motioned to accept the FY 2021-2022 Financial Audit. Ross McCrea seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Recycling Program Exemption was presented with no updates due to no change in the status of local recycling capabilities. Cliff Caldwell motioned to accept the Recycling Program Exemption Declaration. Ross McCrea seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

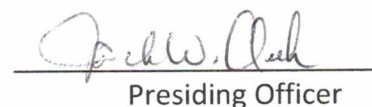
After review of the proposed 2023-2028 Sterling County Underground Water Conservation District Management Plan and consideration of the public hearing, Ross McCrea motioned to adopt the proposed plan. Cliff Caldwell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Diana Thomas presented a performance evaluation for technician Ashley Masters. A table of accomplishments for both the technician and the general manager were also presented to the Board. Further action on the Personnel Evaluation was tabled for a future meeting to allow input from board members not in attendance today.

An early draft budget was presented as a part of the Budget workshop. Several increases in budget categories are predicted including Insurance, Dues-Fees-Subscriptions, Cloud Seeding, and Vehicle Expense. Estimated taxable values were presented.

There being no further business Ross McCrea moved and Cliff Caldwell seconded to adjourn at 1:56 P.M.


Attesting Signature


Presiding Officer

Date: 8-14-2023