

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

August 8, 2022

Members present: Jack Clark (1:25 pm arrival), Ruthe Foster, Ross McCrea, and Kade Hodges, General Manager; Diana Thomas and Technician; Ashley Masters.

Visitors present: Accountant, Karen Hodges

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 P.M. by Kade Hodges, Vice Chairman of the Board.

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

District accountant Karen Hodges presented the regular bills to the Board. Additionally, an invoice was presented with the request for District cost sharing. The building next door shares a wall with the District office and has been experiencing the same foundational issues to which significant repairs were made over the previous two months. After reviewing the bills as presented, Ross McCrea moved to transfer \$21,000 from the MMDA to the checking account, to pay all bills, and consented to reimbursement of half of the invoice presented for the foundation work. Kade Hodges seconded and the motion passed.

The Manager's report included: WTWMA in San Angelo, meeting with Santa Rita GCD manager in Sterling City, Town Hall in Mertzon, virtual TAGD Summit panel meeting, and 4H Water Ambassadors in Mertzon. Total flight hours are down compared to previous years, but clouds are being seeded more aggressively. Two news agencies have come out to interview Jonathan about the WTWMA cloud seeding program. The new manager of the Santa Rita GCD visited Sterling to review annual deadlines and requirements involved in operating a GCD. Ashley Masters attended a Mertzon town hall to answer questions on our permitting of wells and general water use. Diana Thomas lead a virtual meeting with the water quality panel finalizing preparations for the TAGD Summit. The 4H Water Ambassadors made a stop in Mertzon to learn about the West Texas Weather Modification Association and the District's participation in it, and to learn about the District's water quality monitoring program.

Well Surveillance Report: water levels within Sterling County monitor wells were static overall or had slight variations increasing or decreasing, the City Park Well was unable to be measured in July. Rain gauge 2nd quarter data collected showed varied rainfall amounts from 0.01 to 3.45 inches throughout county. The well camera was utilized in Irion County at the Farmar Well.

A Notice of Intent to Drill was received for the Reynolds Leigh Ranch for a livestock well.


Ruthe Foster motioned to grant the Renewal without Changes of the Irrigation Permit for Sterling Cole Located at Section 29, Abstract 415 for no more than 400 acre feet per year. Ross McCrea seconded motion and it carried.

A budget workshop was held to review all proposed line items in the 2022-2023 budget. The most significant changes were in payroll reflecting the retirement of a long-time manager and the hiring of a new technician. Several line items were increased to reflect inflation and rising fuel costs. The 2022 Tax Rate Calculation Worksheet, Form 50-856, was presented with a No-New-Revenue Tax Rate of \$0.01488 and a Voter-Approval Tax Rate of \$0.01607.

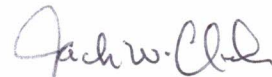
Ross McCrea moved propose a FY 2022-2023 Budget of \$158,050 in total. Kade Hodges seconded, and the motion passed

Kade Hodges moved to propose a 2022 Tax Rate of \$0.01503 which is 1% above the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate. This tax rate is estimated to raise \$146,900 in funds for the District. Ruthe Foster seconded, and the motion passed

There being no further business Ross McCrea moved and Ruthe Foster seconded to adjourn at 2:17 PM.



Attesting Signature



Presiding Officer

Date: 9-12-2022