

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

June 12, 2023

Members present: Jack Clark, Chairman of Board, Wesley Glass, and Ross McCrea, and General Manager; Diana Thomas.

Visitors present: Karen Hodges, Accountant

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 P.M. by Jack Clark, Chairman of the Board.

Wesley Glass moved to accept the minutes of the previous meetings. Ross McCrea seconded the motion and it carried.

Accountant Karen Hodges presented the regular bills to the Board, including a bill for consultation with District counsel and emergency work for an office toilet overflow. After reviewing the bills as presented, Ross McCrea moved to transfer \$7,000 from the MMDA to the checking account and to pay all bills. Wesley Glass seconded, and the motion passed.

Manager's report included: WTWMA in San Angelo and four TAGD Legislative Committee meetings and one WTRGA meeting all virtually. WTWMA in San Angelo, Santa Rita GCD Board meeting in Big Lake, Region F in Big Spring, 3 TAGD Legislative Committee meetings, TAGD EC meeting, and WTRGA meeting all virtually, and TAGD Bootcamp and TAGD business meeting both in Pflugerville. Weather Mod has begun meeting again and gearing up for the seeding season. Early season outlook is dry due to lingering La Nina and neutral atmospheric conditions, but El Nino is supposed to kick in by the end of summer. Predictions are for an average rainfall year due to positive rainfall potential during the El Nino conditions, if we can just hang on until then! The legislature is entering its frantic rush to finish business before looming deadlines are met. Funding for the Produced Water Consortium has reached the governor's desk while other bills of concern have been killed due to deadlines. Several bills dealing with the DFC process, Ch. 36 exemptions, water availability certificates, and consideration of exempt wells in the permitting process are all over halfway through the process and continue to be monitored. TAGD and the WTRGA have been actively monitoring and discussing the legislative session. WTWMA efforts have been hampered by poor cloud conditions due to deteriorating La Nina weather patterns. Pilots will be increasing the use of hygroscopic flares to account for this observation. Diana Thomas spoke with the Santa Rita GCD Board by invitation about the experience with bitcoin mining and proposed water use in Sterling County, sharing lessons learned. Region F officially voted Ashley Masters as the

alternate voting member to represent GCDs from GMA 7! The Texas legislative session ended Memorial Day weekend, with the Governor able to veto bills through Father's Day. All bills that made it to the Governor's desk that could affect GCD operations were discussed, highlighting which have been signed into law and which are still under consideration. The TAGD EC met to go over finances and budget planning and to discuss preparations for the upcoming summit. The WTRGA met with our consultant to strategize for some last-minute legislative bill amendments that thankfully never made it to the finish line. TAGD Bootcamp covered the importance of utilizing the proper equipment, proper and consistent measuring techniques, and having a maintenance and troubleshooting plan in place for equipment, telemetry and possible well issues a technician may encounter. Business Meeting and Speaker series covered GCD's involvement and partnership with other community entities to bring increased knowledge and availability of rainwater harvesting to the public as another water source.

Well surveillance through May throughout Sterling was completed and presented to the Board. A few wells are beginning to show signs of water table recovery due to recent rains, with a majority of wells holding fairly static.

Quarterly Rain Gauge Reading was completed for Q1 2023 in April. The McClellan rain gauge had some inaccurate readings in February. Most other gauges recorded under an inch of rain in the first quarter.

No Notice of Intent to Drill was received for the month, but a change in ownership was received from OWI Ranch Properties for the former Oasis Water Station. A water quality analysis was performed for S. Davis.

Diana Thomas administered the Oath of Office to Wesley Glass.

Wesley Glass moved to re-elect Jack Clark as Chairman, Kade Hodges as Vice-Chairman, and Ross McCrea as Secretary. Ross McCrea seconded, and all voted in favor.

There being no further business Ross McCrea moved and Wesley Glass seconded to adjourn at 2:00 P.M.



Attesting Signature



Presiding Officer

Date: 7/10/2023