

STERLING COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT PUBLIC RULEMAKING HEARING FOR PROPOSED CHANGES
AND INCREASING EXPORT FEE AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2026

Members Present: Chairman of the Board Jack Clark, Evan Canady, Cliff Caldwell, and Wes Glass, and General Manager Diana Thomas

Visitors Present: accountant Karen Hodges

The public hearing on the proposed revised Sterling County Underground Water Conservation District Rules and increased export fee was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairman of the Board Jack Clark. Diana Thomas explained the purpose of the hearing and that a red-line copy of the proposed changes had been available online and in office. Diana Thomas informed the Board of the one phone call and one office visit where she discussed proposed changes with interested public members but that no specific comments or suggestions were given. Public in attendance, Karen Hodges, had one question about the proposed rule change in section 5 and if it related to the well spacing rule, to which Diana Thomas was able to provide clarification.

Cliff Caldwell motioned to close the public hearing. Evan Canady seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 1:05 PM.

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

Jack Clark identified a misspelling in the accountant's name in the minutes as presented. After correction, Wes Glass moved and Cliff Caldwell seconded to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Accountant Karen Hodges presented the financial report and bills to the Board. The bills included standard monthly bills, quarterly appraisal district payment, and newspaper published notice of the public hearing. After reviewing the bills as presented, Evan Canady moved to pay all bills. Karen Hodges informed the Board that due to a typo at the bank last month only \$3,900 was transferred to the Money Market account instead of the approved \$39,000. Due to this error, no transfer is proposed this month. Cliff Caldwell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.


The Manager's report included: WTWMA in San Angelo, virtual HNRC Hearing, Irion Agrilife Water Education Seminar, virtual TAGD Executive Committee meeting. WTWMA received a presentation from a new meteorological services company, Recast Systems. They proposed a 3-year contract for a 6-month cloud seeding season each year. The HNRC held a 6.5-hour long hearing about groundwater in Texas. Diana Thomas expressed that the West Texas group is actively sharing their perspective with legislators on subjects broached in the hearing. Ashley Masters presented at the Irion Agrilife Water Education Seminar providing information on the services and science that the district provides to the community. The TAGD Executive Committee met virtually to plan upcoming meeting details.

No Intent to Drill forms were received for the month. Surveillance of the water well network was completed, it was noted that some wells are still unusually dry. Replacement of the rainfall network is almost complete. All but one rain gauge was deployed over the past month.

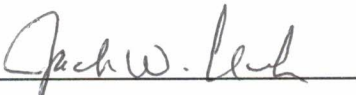
Diana Thomas reviewed the timeline of Board review of the rules and reiterated that no public comment was received about any specific rule change or suggestion throughout that process. Cliff Cadwell moved to adopt the Proposed Revised Sterling County Underground Water Conservation District Rules and increased export fee. Evan Canady seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Following presentation of the permit application and review of the map attachments Wes Glass moved to accept the application for an aggregated water use permit by Jeff Copeland located in Sections 221, 251, 253 Abstracts 165, 166, and 167 for no more than 242 acre feet of water per year. Cliff Caldwell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business Cliff Caldwell moved and Wes Glass seconded to adjourn at 1:43 PM.



Attesting Signature



Presiding Officer

Date: 4-13-2026