

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

September 9, 2024

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

Visitors present: Karen Hodges, accountant, and Evan Canady.

The Public Meeting on the FY 2024-2025 Budget and 2024 Tax Rate was called to order by Jack Clark, Chairman of the Board, at 1:05 pm. No public in attendance gave comment. The public meeting was closed at 1:15 pm.

The regular meeting was called to order by Jack Clark, Chairman of the Board.

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

Accountant Karen Hodges presented the bills to the Board. Bills included standard monthly bills and a quarterly appraisal district payment. After reviewing the bills as presented, Wes Glass moved to transfer \$8,500 from the MMDA to the checking account and to pay all bills. Ross McCrea seconded, and the motion passed.

The Manager's report included: WTWMA Forum in Eldorado, WTWMA in San Angelo, TAGD Regular Business Meeting and TAGD Summit in San Antonio, TAGD Legislative Committee virtual meeting, Senate WAR committee virtually, Streamline webinar, and Region F in Big Spring. WTWMA invited George Bomar and Archie Ruiz to come and speak in Eldorado in response to a community organization asking questions about weather modification. WTWMA met for their regular meeting. There were 4 operations in July, and persistent drought and heat are predicted despite continuation of neutral ENSO conditions. A back office of the WTWMA building is to be sub-leased. TAGD held another successful summit with presentations covering hydrogen production, legislative predictions, minerals in produced water, large scale permit issues, and case law update and analysis. The Senate WAR committee held another interim hearing with Senator Perry introducing his new water grid idea and hearing testimony on produced water, SB 28 implementation, and infrastructure needs of the state. Streamline lead a webinar on the AI revolution that highlighted how AI can help small governmental districts. Region F met to review draft chapters of the state water plan and recommendations to improve the process and information to be included in our part of the plan.

Vice-Chairman Kade Hodges apologetically left the meeting at 1:40 pm for a prior commitment. Well Surveillance included only a handful of wells that were either missed last month or experiencing declines over the past few months.

A Notice of Intent to Drill was received from the following: L. Horwood for a replacement livestock well, L. Horwood for 2 exploratory irrigation wells, and C. Caldwell for a livestock well. A water analysis was

completed for F. Price. The well camera was operated in conjunction with the Santa Rita GCD for a landowner in Reagan County.

Wes Glass moved to amend the FY 2023-2024 budget. Major amendments included increasing Insurance due to increased premiums, increased Office Expenses for the purchase of a laptop, and increased Interest income. Total operating expenses were amended to equal \$165,300 and total revenues to equal \$165,300. Ross McCrea seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Ross McCrea moved to adopt the FY 2024-2025 Budget of \$173,250 of total operating costs. Compared to the previous fiscal year Insurance costs increased, Professional Fees for accounting and hydrologist increased, and Payroll increased. Wes Glass seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

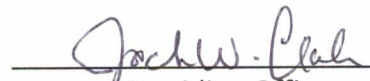
Wes Glass moved to adopt a 2024 Tax Rate of \$0.01415 which is the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate. The tax rate is estimated to raise \$151,585 in funds for the District at a 99% collection rate. Ross McCrea seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

District Manager Diana Thomas presented all responses to the RFQ for Legal Services to the Board. Following discussion, the Board requested to postpone any motion on scheduling interviews to allow for further in-depth review of RFQ submissions by respondents.

Following presentation of the permit application and review of the map attachments Ross McCrea moved to accept the application for an irrigation water use permit for the Sterling Co. Nursing Home located within Sterling City's city limits for no more than 5-acre feet of water per year. Wes Glass seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business Ross McCrea moved and Wes Glass seconded to adjourn at 2:30 P.M.



Attesting Signature

Presiding Officer

Date: 10-14-2024