

**STERLING COUNTY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC MEETING ON TAX RATE AND BUDGET AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

September 14, 2026

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

Visitors present: none

The Public Meeting on Tax Rate and Budget was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Jack Clark, Chairman of the Board. No members of the public were in attendance. The Public Meeting was closed at 1:05 pm.

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

Evan Canady moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Cliff Caldwell seconded the motion, and it carried.

Manager Diana Thomas presented the bills and financial statements to the Board. Bills included previously approved merit pay, quarterly appraisal district invoice, bi-annual weather mod invoice, air-conditioner repair, and regular bills. After reviewing the materials as presented, Cliff Caldwell moved to transfer \$32,250 from the MMDA to the checking account and to pay all bills. Evan Canady seconded, and the motion passed.

The Manager's report included: two WTWMA in San Angelo, HSAC virtual hearing, and TAGD business meeting and Summit in San Antonio. The WTWMA had 7 flights in July and 4 flights in August, with the seeding season tapering off. The three-month outlook could potentially see some effects of El Nino, lower average temperatures and increased average rainfall. Tom DuFresne was brought in a manager through Recast, one pilot has left for a short-term project in Puerto Rico, and a new female pilot has been brought into the program. Potential new methods of program assessment were presented, with an early look at the 2026 season resulting in 0.116-0.161 inches of rain across all Texas program lands due to seeding activities. The House State Affairs Committee held a virtual meeting to hear testimony on data centers. Representatives questioned national security arguments without any national security expert testimony and expressed a need for some agency to be looking at the effects of data centers on a community and state wide basis and not just permit review per application. TAGD held their regular business meeting before their annual summit. Topics at the summit ranged from

sustainability, to data centers, groundwater availability certificate review, 2027 legislative forecast, Middle Pecos GCD plugging program update, and why local management matters.

Monitor well surveillance for August was not completed due to Ashley's medical leave. Diana informed the Board that Ashley has not been cleared to drive yet from her doctor, but has been responding to calls and emails from home.

Cliff Caldwell moved to amend the FY 2025-2026 budget. Vehicle Expense was increased due to vehicle maintenance needs. Field and Lab was increased due to the replacement of the rain gauge network early in the fiscal year. Unspent Professional Fees were removed from the budget. Total operating expenses were amended to equal \$174,025, which is \$2,225 less than originally budgeted. Property Tax Income was increased and Investment Income was decreased to reflect actual amounts received. Evan Canady seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Wes Glass moved to adopt the FY 2026-2027 budget of \$179,850. Insurance Expenses, specifically property, have increased from the previous fiscal year. Vehicle Maintenance was increased for expected repairs based on the age of the vehicle. Payroll increased to accommodate approved cost of living increases over the previous fiscal year. Cliff Caldwell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Evan Canady moved to adopt a 2026 Tax Rate of \$0.016964 which is 2.5% above the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate. This tax rate is estimated to raise \$156,941 in funds for the District at a 99% collection rate. Wes Glass seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Wes Glass moved, and Evan Canady seconded to adjourn at 1:50 P.M.



Attesting Signature



Presiding Officer

Date: 10-12-26