

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

July 14, 2025

Members present: Jack Clark Chairman of Board, Kade Hodges, Cliff Caldwell, and Evan Canady,  
General Manager Diana Thomas and Technician Ashley Masters.

Visitors present: Karen Hodges, accountant.

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 P.M. by Jack Clark, Chairman of the Board.

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

Accountant Karen Hodges presented the regular bills to the Board. After reviewing the bills as presented, Cliff Caldwell moved to transfer \$12,000 from the MMDA to the checking account and to pay all bills. Bills included standard monthly invoices and the FY 23-24 financial audit. Kade Hodges seconded, and the motion passed.

The Manager's report included: WTWMA and TML Re-rate Discussion in San Angelo, and TAGD Summit Planning Committee virtual meeting. WTWMA had 9 operational days in May which resulted in having to call in an extra pilot from the North Texas program. Starlink boxes are being installed on the airplanes to increase connectivity and data collection. The 2024 program valuation was presented by Dr. Ruiz and had good results with an average of 8.5% increase in rainfall across the entire target area. The July 4<sup>th</sup> flooding, subsequent media blitz against weather modification, and TDLR's official statement were discussed, with an emphasis that communications from Rainmakers has been non-existent. The TAGD Summit Planning Committee has confirmed all speakers and panelists and have finalized the agenda along with a field Trip to Cibolo Nature Center. Due to the special legislative session some adjustments may be made to the legislative panel. Diana met with a TML representative in San Angelo to discuss insurance re-rates including the entirely new cybersecurity program to be rolled out soon. The WTWMA insurance policies were reviewed in detail, with suggested amendments to be submitted. Legislative session bill filling and passage statistics were shared, governor vetoes were reviewed, and water items in the upcoming special session were highlighted.

Director Evan Canady made a personal statement on weather modification, expressing his misgivings with the operation of the program and his desire to see Sterling County out of the seeding area.

Well surveillance for June throughout Sterling was not completed due to rainy and wet conditions. The well camara was utilized in Irion County for equipment retrieval out of a well. A Notice of Intent to Drill was received from J. Gaines for a replacement livestock well.

The presentation on District Monitoring of DFC Achievement by RMBJGeo was tabled until the regularly scheduled September meeting.

Diana Thomas presented the FY 2023-2024 Financial Audit. The District is in good financial condition with net position increasing slightly at the end of the year. Cliff Caldwell moved to accept the 2023-2024 Financial Audit. Evan Canady seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Diana Thomas presented the 2025 Q2 Investment Report. Cliff Caldwell moved to accept the quarterly investment report as presented. Kade Hodges seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Cliff Caldwell moved to accept the most recent drought index. Kade Hodges seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Recycling Program Exemption was presented with no updates due to no change in the status of local recycling capabilities. Cliff Caldwell moved to accept Recycling Program Exemption Declaration. Kade Hodges seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Diana Thomas presented a satisfactory performance evaluation for technician Ashley Masters, highlighting a few areas where she has excelled. A table of accomplishments for both the technician and general manager were also presented to the Board. Following Board discussion and personal observations, Cliff Caldwell moved to award a 3% cost of living increase for the salary for the General Manager in the next fiscal year, a 5% salary increase for the Technician in the next fiscal year, and award a \$5,000 merit pay in this fiscal year to each the general manager and the technician. Kade Hodges seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The budget workshop included an estimation of total operating expenses by the end of the current fiscal year and implications for the next fiscal year. Most insurance premiums for the next fiscal year have been received and have only increased slightly; these were factored into budget projections as well. The reduction in office expenses due to new internet and phone contracts was highlighted.

There being no further business Kade Hodges moved and Evan Canady seconded to adjourn at 2:28 P.M.

  
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Attesting Signature

  
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Presiding Officer

Date: 8-12-25