

Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting
700 Kennedy Court
Belton, TX
Wednesday, August 28, 2019
Minutes

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD) held a Board meeting on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the Clearwater UWCD Building, located at 700 Kennedy Court, Belton, Texas.

Board Members Present:

Leland Gersbach, President, Pct. 1
David Cole, Vice President, At Large
Gary Young, Secretary, Pct. 2
Jody Williams, Director, Pct. 3
Scott Brooks, Director, Pct. 4

Absent:

Staff:

Dirk Aaron, General Manager
Shelly Chapman, Admin. Manager

Guest:

Vince Clause – ARC, LLC
Valerie Covey – Williamson County, Commissioner
Bill Schumann – Bell County Commissioner

Sandra Blankenship – Killeen
Allan R. Standen – ARS, LLC
Michelle Southerland

Workshop convened with President, Leland Gersbach, at 1:41 p.m.

Workshop Item #1. Receive presentation from Pete Diaz USFWS concerning the Salado Salamander Assessment projects.

Pete Diaz with USFWS could not attend this meeting. He will give his presentation at a later date.

Workshop Item #2. Receive presentation from Allan Standen related to 3D Visualization Model calibration.

Vince Clause and Michelle Southerland presented the 3D model demo of water level declines and drawdowns. Allan Standen presented the scope of work moving forward for FY2020.

Workshop Item #3. Receive presentation from Reagan Langemeier, Texas Tech University Summer Intern, related to her assigned tasks and duties for June, July, and August.

Dirk Aaron explained that Reagan had to return to Texas Tech on August 14th and was not able to give her presentation in person. She wrote her report and videoed it, but the sound quality was not good. Dirk presented Reagan's report and highlighted the goals and achievements of her Summer Internship Program.

Workshop closed at 2:47 p.m. and Board meeting convened with President, Leland Gersbach, at 2:57 p.m.

1. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Director, David Cole, gave the invocation.
Director, Gary Young, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment.

Dirk Aaron introduced Sandra Blankenship, a resident of Killeen, Texas. He noted that she had signed up to speak during this Public Comment portion of today's meeting.

Sandra has been a regular attendee of the CUWCD monthly Board Meetings and Workshops. She has listened to discussions regarding the adoption of the FY2020 Budget and tax rate for tax year 2019. She commented she was concerned that the contingency fund for the proposed FY2020 budget is \$0.00. She is concerned that the economy is going to take a down turn and that it will affect income from any bonds. She also thinks the District should increase the budget for Educational Outreach and get the District's education trailer out more in order to provide more education to the public regarding water issues.

Leland Gersbach welcomed guest Valerie Covey, Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 3, to the meeting. She commented that she was here to listen and learn.

3. ***Approve minutes of the August 14, 2019 Board meeting and Workshop.***

Board members received the minutes in their Board Packet to review prior to the meeting.

Vice President, David Cole, moved to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2019 Board meeting and Workshop. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

4. ***Hold Public Hearing on the proposed tax rate for tax year 2019.***

Leland Gersbach opened the Public Hearing for comments at 2:59 p.m.

Dirk Aaron noted that Sandra Blankenship made a public comment during agenda item #2 regarding her concerns that the District has no contingency fund.

Leland addressed Sandra's comments regarding the contingency fund. He noted that the District is putting a lot of money into science this year. The District really needs the science right now. Instead of having a large contingency fund, Leland directed Dirk to focus on the science. Sandra asked if there was a backup plan since there is no contingency fund. Dirk explained that the District has a reserve fund that can be used if needed. At the beginning of the next fiscal year, the District will have just under \$800,000 in reserves. It is Dirk's recommendation that the District have ½ the annual budget for 6 months in reserves, and anything above that will be used for science, construction of wells, monitoring, and/or litigation.

Leland asked if anyone else wished to make a public comment. There was none. He opened the hearing for additional comments or discussion from the Board. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 3:06 p.m.

5. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action if necessary, to adopt the District Budget for FY2020.***

Board members received a proposed draft budget in their Board packet to review prior to the meeting.

Dirk recapped the proposed budget and made some recommended changes and adjustments. The recommended changes will leave a deficit budget of \$27,114.00. Dirk suggested moving the funds from reserve to balance the budget.

The Board discussed items related to the proposed budget along with the changes and adjustments recommended by Dirk. Moving \$27,114.00 from reserves, would balance the budget at \$820,613.00.

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to approve the proposed budget with changes and adjustments, moving \$27,114.00 from reserves to balance the budget at \$820,613.00. Vice President, David Cole, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

6. ***Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action if necessary, by resolution to adopt the District tax rate for tax year 2019.***

Vice President, David Cole, moved to adopt by resolution the District tax rate for tax year 2019 at \$0.00357/\$100 valuation. Director, Jody Williams, seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-03.

7. ***General Manager's Report concerning office management and staffing related to District Management Plan³.***

- Recapped events of the Groundwater Summit and TAGD Annual Board meeting.

8. ***Director comments and reports³.***

- **Jody Williams:** He really enjoyed the Groundwater Summit. He thinks it should be mandatory for Directors to attend. The water situation is very scary. We need to take care of this resource. Clearwater is doing a good job and Dirk does a great job keeping the Board informed.

- **Gary Young:** He agreed with Jody on all points. He learns something new every year.
- **David Cole:** Thanked Dirk and Staff for all they do. He thanked Scott Brooks for his comments. They confirm his own thoughts and it helps him to feel comfortable with decision that are made. He also commented that he is a firm believer in the science.
- **Scott Brooks:** He worries about 2 things: 1) the science, and 2) this District going the way of the District Dirk mentioned in his recap of the Groundwater Summit. We have a battle going on right now with a neighboring county without a GCD that could go horribly wrong. They could put this District under if they were to throw their financial fortune at us. All the science that the Board has done over the years he is in support of. All the science will be good for nothing if the District is sued into oblivion and can't do anything but raise tax just to survive. His intent is to keep CUWCD in the forefront, but his core principles are about fiscal responsibility. He commended Dirk for the job he does when it comes to the science. He is amazed at the "bang for the buck" Dirk manages to get from the contracts he puts together with the consultants.
- **Leland Gersbach:** He put a number to the Groundwater Summit, and it costs \$12,000 - \$15,000 to send the entire Board and 2 staff members each year. It's a great event to attend. He would like to see it moved back to the Embassy Suites in San Marcos. He likes that atmosphere of that location better.

9. *Discuss agenda items for next meeting.*


- Preliminary information for the City of Troy application.
- Dan Eckstrom internship information and contract.

10. *Set time and place of next meeting.*

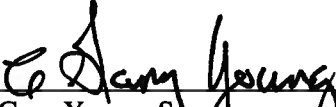
Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the District's office.
(Reminder: October meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th.... not the 9th.)

11. *Adjourn.*

Board meeting adjourned with President, Leland Gersbach, at 4:15 p.m.


Leland Gersbach, President

ATTEST:


Gary Young, Secretary or
Dirk Aaron, Assistant Secretary