

**Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District Meeting**  
**700 Kennedy Court**  
**Belton, TX**  
**Wednesday, June 16, 2021**  
**Minutes**

In accordance with Governor Abbott's declaration of the COVID-19 public health threat, action to temporarily suspend certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, and Executive Order, a quorum of CUWCD's Board of Directors held a regular Board meeting by telephonic conference call and, for redundancy, video conference on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting originated from 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: (remote & in person)**

Micaela Pedrazas – LRE  
Bill Schumann – Commissioner  
R&A Hauling (Mrs. Navarro)

Sandra Blankenship – WCID #1  
Tim Fleischer – Village Voice  
Mike Keester – LRE

Denea Reaves - Applicant  
Dave Reaves - Applicant  
Ty Embrey - Attorney

**Board meeting convened with President, Leland Gersbach 1:33 p.m.**

**1. *Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.***

Vice President, David Cole, gave the invocation.  
Secretary, Gary Young, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. *Public Comment.***

None

**3. *Approve minutes of the May12, 2021 Board meeting and Workshop.***

Board members received the minutes of the May 12, 2021 Board meeting and workshop in their Board Packet to review prior to the meeting.

Secretary, Gary Young, moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021 Board meeting and Workshop.  
Vice President, David Cole, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**4. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action if necessary, to accept the monthly financial report for May 2021 (FY21) as presented.***

Board members received the monthly financial report for May 2021 in their Board Packet to review prior to the meeting.

Vice President, David Cole, moved to accept the monthly financial report for May 2021 as presented.  
Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**5. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action if necessary, to accept the monthly Investment Fund Account report for May 2021 (FY21) as presented.***

Board members received the monthly investment fund account report for May 2021 in their Board Packet to review prior to the meeting.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to accept the monthly investment fund account report for May 2021 as presented. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**6. Hold public hearing on the following well applications:**

*a) Discuss, consider and take appropriate action if necessary, on the proposed operating permit of 1.34 ac-ft/yr. for R&A Hauling authorizing production from an existing well (# N2-21-002G) completed in the Edwards BFZ Aquifer at 1.5 gpm to produce groundwater for the purpose of commercial landscape and propagation located on a 2.941 acre site at 8151 Smith Dairy Rd, Belton, Texas 76513.*

*b) Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action if necessary, on the proposed combination drilling and operating permit of 0.54 ac-ft/yr. for David & Denea Reaves authorizing production from a proposed new well (# N1-21-002P) completed in the Hosston layer of the Trinity Aquifer at 7 gpm to produce groundwater for the purpose of domestic use on a 1.785 acre Tract located at 21621 State Hwy 195, Killeen, Texas 76542.*

As Presiding Officer of the hearing, President Leland Gersbach, called to order the public hearing at 1:38 p.m. Leland gave a summary of the 2 applications to be considered and a brief explanation of the procedural issues. He confirmed a quorum of the Board was in attendance to participate in the ruling of the application. Leland stated that the permit applications had undergone administrative and technical review by District staff, consultants, and legal counsel.

Leland reviewed the procedures that would apply to the hearing and noted the meeting had been properly noticed.

Leland stated anyone wishing to participate in the hearing, in support or protest, would need to sign up to speak and should do so while he addressed other procedural issues. Anyone wishing to speak will need to email [schapman@cuwcd.org](mailto:schapman@cuwcd.org) the online form as noted in the agenda.

As presiding officer, Leland will take evidence and sworn testimony, and rule on any procedural issues.

a) Leland noted that the Board would hear testimony and deliberate on the well application submitted by R&A Hauling. Leland will hear testimony by the applicant, Dirk Aaron (General Manager), Mike Keester (LRE Water).

Leland invited anyone wishing to make a public comment or protest the application to speak up. There were no public comments.

Leland administered an oath to all participants. Parties verbally confirmed they took the oath were: Dirk Aaron, Mike Keester, and Mrs. Navarro.

Dirk gave a general explanation of the application. He replied to Leland's questions and stated that the application had been deemed administratively complete, all fees have been paid, and all criteria had been met.

Leland addressed questions related to Mike Keester's analysis. Mike Keester responded to Leland's questions. He also recommended the Board approve the application with the special provisions as discussed.

Leland gave the Board an opportunity to ask any additional questions they might have concerning the application. Hearing none, Leland concluded the discussion on the application at hand.

All parties had an opportunity to make their cases. Leland asked if there were any other parties interested in submitting additional evidence. Hearing none, Leland concluded the evidentiary portion of the application at 2:07 p.m.

Leland asked for a motion to grant/deny/partially grant R&A Hauling's request for an operating permits of 1.34 acre feet per year from the Edwards BFZ aquifer to include all the special provisions agreed upon by the applicant as outlined by the District General Manager and Consultants.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to grant the request as presented to include all special provisions agreed upon by the applicant as outlined by the District General Manager and Consultants. Vice President, David Cole, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

b) Leland noted that the Board would hear testimony and deliberate on the well application submitted by David and Denea Reaves. Leland will hear testimony by the applicant, Dirk Aaron (General Manager), Mike Keester (LRE Water).

Leland invited anyone wishing to make a public comment or protest the application to speak up. There were no public comments.

Leland administered an oath to all participants. Parties verbally confirmed they took the oath were: Dirk Aaron, Mike Keester, and David and Denea Reaves.

Dirk gave a general explanation of the application. He replied to Leland's questions and stated that the application had been deemed administratively complete, all fees have been paid, and all criteria had been met.

Leland addressed questions related to Mike Keester's analysis. Mike Keester responded to Leland's questions. He also recommended the Board approve the application with the special provisions as discussed.

Leland gave the Board an opportunity to ask any additional questions they might have concerning the application. Hearing none, Leland concluded the discussion on the application at hand.

All parties had an opportunity to make their cases. Leland asked if there were any other parties interested in submitting additional evidence. Hearing none, Leland concluded the evidentiary portion of the application at 2:29 p.m.

Leland asked for a motion to grant/deny/partially grant the Reaves request for a combination drilling/operating permits of 0.54 acre feet per year from the Hosston layer of the Trinity aquifer to include all the special provisions agreed upon by the applicant as outlined by the District General Manager and Consultants.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to grant the request as presented to include all special provisions agreed upon by the applicant as outlined by the District General Manager and Consultants. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**Public Hearing Closed and regular Board meeting continued with President, Leland Gersbach, at 2:30 p.m.**

**7. *Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action if necessary, to approve the Texas AgriLife Extension Bell County's request to support Bell County's Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors.***

Dirk presented the request for support of Bell County's Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors on behalf of Whitney Grantham. Dirk explained the program and the importance of it. Dirk recommended the District sponsor 50% of the cost for 6 participants at \$250/per person. The total would be \$1,500 paid directly to Bell County 4-H.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to approve sponsoring 6 participants at \$250/per person. Vice President, David Cole, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**8. Discuss, consider, and tack appropriate action if necessary, to approve the Texas AgriLife Extension Bell County's request to sponsor the Bell-Williamson Youth Water Tour**

Dirk presented the request for support of the Bell-Williamson County Youth Water Tour on behalf of Whitney Grantham. She requested help with transportation costs for this event. Dirk explained the program and recommended the Board approve supporting the efforts by sponsoring van rentals not to exceed \$400. Payment would be made directly to the Bell County 4-H.

Vice President, David Cole, moved to sponsor van rentals for the Youth Water Tour, not to exceed \$400. Director, Jody Williams, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**9. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action if necessary, to approve the FY21 line-item budget amendments as requested.**

Dirk and Shelly presented the request for line-item budget amendments for the purpose of adjusting line item #53732 (Permit Review - Legal) to accommodate additional legal fees for review of permit applications and public hearing for Victory Rock, LLC, and adjust line item #54200 (Building Repairs/Maintenance) to cover repair of split system A/C in server room.

Vendor	Line Item	Invoice Amount	Available Funds	Amount Requested	New Balance	From	Available Funds	New Balance
Lloyd GosseLink	53732 - Permit Review Legal	\$7,718.00	\$4,947.00	\$2,771.00	\$7,718.00	53731 - Permit Review -Geoscienc	\$7,485.00	\$4,714.00
Bell AirConditioning	54200-Bldg Repair Maint	\$636.09	\$555.96	\$80.03	\$636.09	54103 - Surety Bonds	\$1,000.00	\$919.97

Dirk reminded the Board that these are simple adjustments between line-items.

Director, Jody Williams, moved to approve the budget amendments as requested. Director, Scott Brooks, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**10. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action if necessary, to begin the RFQ process for GIS platform and database enhancements/hosting.**

Dirk explained that the District's current GIS platform is old and needs to be upgraded. The platform does not fully support some of the newer features. Halff proposed migration in 2020 for 2021. Dirk explained the scope of work that was discussed back then and the estimated cost. He feels the District would benefit by putting out an RFQ for professional services related to upgrading the platform. Dirk provided a proposed RFQ for selection of a provider by the District. He recommended the Board approve the RFQ and direct him to send the RFQ out to professional groundwater firms capable of submitting an RFQ.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to approve Dirks request to move forward with the RFQ for professional services. Vice President, David Cole, seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

**11. Discuss, consider, and take appropriate action if necessary, to approve on-line payment of select services as needed.**

Shelly requested the ability to pay select vendors on-line as needed to ensure payments are processed in a timely manner to avoid disruption of services. She explained the need and gave examples of instances when this ability would have been helpful. Shelly would get approval from Dirk to make an on-line payment when needed.

Director, Scott Brooks, moved to direct Dirk Aaron to approve on-line payments at his discretion for select services as needed. Secretary, Gary Young, seconded the motion,

**Motion carried 5-0.**

12. **General Manager's Report concerning office management and staffing related to District Management Plan<sup>3</sup>.**
- Dirk will be attending TWCA in person meeting June 9-11.
  - TAGD meeting June 8-9.
  - Dirk thanked the Board for supporting youth water education efforts.
  - The District is beginning to see more opportunities to speak at events and showcase the mobile classroom.
  - Dirk will be speaking at the Texas Groundwater Trust in Austin on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - ASR workshop #5 is scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Region G meeting is set for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The new consulting firm for regional planning will be presented for approval.
  - GMA8 meeting is set for July 20<sup>th</sup> in Cleburne, TX. Dirk and Gary will attend.
  - USGS Trinity WQ study is being completed and all 3 wells have been tested. Results will be presented within the next 2-3 months to the Board by USGS personnel.
  - Corey and Carson are installing WellIntel equipment. This will support Dr. Yelderman's portion of the Southwest study being conducted by our consultants.
  - Dirk will be a panelist at the Groundwater Summit in San Antonio. The panel is to discuss efforts by GCD's to manage to the DFC and what trend tools are being used to predict water level declines.
  - Update on Victory Rock.
  - Cyber Security training is complete and has been submitted.
  - District will return to regular Board meetings after the Governor reinstates full Open Meetings Act requirements. To go viral after that, the District would need to upgrade equipment.
  - County Commissioner, Bill Schumann, sent a message that he would take care of the \$400 van rental for the Bell-Williamson County 4-H Youth Water Tour.

13. **Receive monthly report and possible consideration and Board action on the following:**

- a) **Drought Status Reports**
- b) **Education Outreach Update**
- c) **Monitoring Wells**
- d) **Rainfall Reports**
- e) **Well Registration Update**
- f) **Aquifer Status Report & Non-exempt Monthly Well Production Reports**

Dirk discussed the drought status report.

(Copies of the Monthly Staff Reports were given to the Board Members to review. No action required. Information items only.)

14. **Director comments and reports<sup>3</sup>.**

**Jody Williams:** None

**Gary Young:** Thanked Dirk for all the hard work he did on Victory Rock. Gary has some thoughts and ideas he will discuss at the next meeting.

**David Cole:** Thanked Dirk and the Staff for all the hard work they do daily.

**Leland Gersbach:** None

**Scott Brooks:** Scott clarified some comments he made at the May Board meeting.

15. **Discuss agenda items for next meeting.**

- Possible Permit hearing
- Approve auditing firm for next year
- Receive presentations from qualified firms related to the RFQ for Data systems.
- Security Benefit Quarterly Report

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

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

17. **Adjourn.**

**Board meeting adjourned with President, Leland Gersbach, at 3:27 p.m.**

**Workshop convened with President, Leland Gersbach, at 3:35 p.m.**

**Item #1. Receive information related to Groundwater Management Area 8, per the Joint Planning and Development of the Round 3 DFC.**

Dirk Aaron gave a brief update on GMA 8. Next meeting is scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup> in Cleburne. Dirk and Gary will attend.

**Item #2. Receive Legislative Update on the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session.**

Ty Embrey presented an update on the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. He highlighted items of interest to the District.

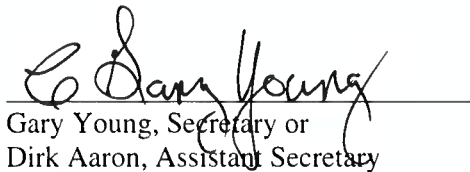
**Item #3. Review items of interest concerning the FY2022 budget development process.**

Dirk discussed items of interest concerning the FY22 budget.



Leland Gersbach, President

**ATTEST:**



---

Gary Young, Secretary or  
Dirk Aaron, Assistant Secretary