

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2021,  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF  
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District met in regular session on June 1, 2021, at 9:02 a.m. at the barn located at the North Plains Water Conservation Center, 6045 West County Road E., Dumas, Texas 79029-7201. The following persons participated in the Meeting:

**Members Present at 9:02 a.m.:**

Bob B. Zimmer, President;  
Mark Howard, Vice-President;  
Zac Yoder, Secretary;  
Daniel L. Krienke, Director  
Gene Born, Director;  
Harold Grall, Director; and  
Justin Crownover, Director.

**Staff present during part or all of the meeting:**

Steve Walthour, General Manager;  
Kristen Blackwell, Finance/Administration Manager;  
Paige Glazner, Conservation Outreach Assistant;  
Dale Hallmark, Hydrologist; and,  
Curtis Schwertner, Natural Resource Specialist.

**Others present during part or all of the meeting:**

Stan Spain;  
Clinton Born;  
Raymond Brady;  
F. Keith Good, General Counsel for the District;  
Ellen Orr, Paralegal; and,  
Kalen Youtsey, Summer Clerk.

President Zimmer declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Director, Gene Born, gave the invocation and President, Bob B. Zimmer, led the pledge.

General Counsel, F. Keith Good, introduced Kalen Youtsey, who is a summer clerk for the law firm of Lemon, Shearer, Phillips & Good, P.C.

At 9:04 a.m., President Zimmer recessed the regular Board meeting and called and opened the public hearing to accept public comments on the proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the relevant aquifers within Groundwater Management Area 1 Joint Planning Area.

Mr. Zimmer stated:

This public hearing is to provide interested members of the public the opportunity to appear and provide comments on the proposed Desired Future Conditions (hereinafter "DFCs") for the area aquifers that were recently proposed by Groundwater Management Area 1 under § 36.108, Texas Water Code. The 90-day Public Comment Period began on March 29, 2021 and will close at 5:00 p.m. CDT on June 28, 2021.

The proposed DFCs for the District are:

Ogallala (inclusive of Rita Blanca) Aquifer:

- At least 40 percent of volume in storage remaining for each 50-year period between 2018 and 2080 in Dallam, Hartley, Moore, and Sherman Counties;
- At least 50 percent of volume in storage remaining for each 50-year period between 2018 and 2080 in Hansford, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Carson, Donley, Gray, Roberts, Wheeler, and Oldham Counties, and within the Panhandle District portions of Armstrong and Potter Counties;
- At least 80 percent of volume in storage remaining for each 50-year period between 2018 and 2080 in Hemphill County; and,
- Approximately 20 feet of total average drawdown for each 50-year period between 2012 and 2080 in Randall County, and within High Plains District in Armstrong and in Potter Counties.

Dockum Aquifer:

- At least 40 percent of the average available drawdown remaining for each 50-year period between 2018 and 2080 for Dallam, Hartley, Moore, and Sherman Counties;
- No more than 30 feet average decline in water levels for each 50-year period between 2018 and 2080 in Oldham and Carson Counties, and the Panhandle District portions of Potter and Armstrong Counties; and,
- Approximately 40 feet average decline in water levels for each 50-year period between 2012 and 2080 in Randall County, and within High Plains District in Armstrong and Potter Counties.

The Board is not required to make a decision today in regard to the District's intent to adopt the proposed DFCs.

Cell phones are very distracting. As a courtesy to all of the parties present at this hearing, please do as I have done and turn your cell phones off. If you must take a cell phone call during the hearing, please leave the room so that you do not distract from the speaker.

This formal hearing is being recorded.

All written comments timely received, will be made a part of the formal record of this hearing. However, the comment period for the DFCs are a minimum of 90-days, which will extend past this hearing date until June 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.

The Board will not respond to questions, but the Board may ask questions of the commentators. In order to encourage commentary, time limits will be liberally imposed. However, as the presiding officer, I may, in my discretion, limit redundant or irrelevant commentary.

Prior to public comment, each commentator will be called by name and asked to estimate the amount of time for his or her comments. If it appears that the number of comments and the time required will consume an inordinate amount of time, as the presiding officer, I will impose a five-minute time limit on each commentator. Please note that all comments shall be limited to the Proposed DFCs. The Proposed DFCs are the sole issue before the Board in this hearing. If you are not speaking in your individual capacity, please state the person or entity you represent.

Every person attending this hearing must conform to ethical standards of conduct and exhibit courtesy and respect for all other participants or observers. No person may engage in any activity during this hearing that interferes with the orderly conduct of District business. If, in my judgment, as the presiding officer, a person is acting in violation of this provision, I will first warn the person to refrain from engaging in such conduct. Upon further violation by the same person, as the presiding officer, I may exclude that person from the proceeding.

Steve Walthour, the District's General Manager, made a presentation regarding the proposed DFCs.

President Zimmer then called for public comments and no public comments were made at the hearing.

President Zimmer thanked everyone for their participation and input in the hearing process. President Zimmer stated that all written and oral commentary presented to the Board will be taken under advisement. President Zimmer further stated that you may continue to submit written comments regarding the proposed DFCs to the District at the District's office in Dumas, Texas; however, all written comments must be delivered by 5:00 p.m. CDT on June 28, 2021.

At 9:32 a.m., President Zimmer closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular Board meeting.

### **1 – Public Comment**

No Public Comment was made to the Board.

### **2 – Consent Agenda**

The Consent Agenda was discussed by the Board and consisted of: (a) the review and approval of the Minutes of the regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting held on April 13, 2021; (b) the review and approval of un-audited District expenditures for April 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021, including the General Manager's expense and activity report; and, (c) the review and approval of payment to Lemon, Shearer, Phillips & Good, P.C. for professional services and out-of-pocket expenses incurred from April 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021, in the amount of \$10,515.75.

Gene Born moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Harold Grall seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

***Action Agenda 3.a. - Receive report and discuss public hearing and public comment regarding the proposed Desired Future Conditions for the relevant aquifers within the Groundwater Management Area.***

The General Manager reported to the Board that the proposed Desired Future Conditions were mailed to each of the districts in GMA 1 on March 29, 2021, triggering a 90-day public comment period to close on June 28, 2021. Public comments may be submitted in writing to North Plains Groundwater Conservation District at any time during this period or may be made orally at this hearing. A copy of the draft explanatory report and proposed DFCs can be found at <https://www.panhandlewater.org/gma-1>, or on the District's website <http://northplainsgcd.org/>.

Mr. Walthour stated that the District has until June 28, 2021 to put together the summary report that he will submit to the Board. If the Board has additional comments it would



like to make at that time based upon that summary report, they will be included in the final report to GMA 1.

Mr. Walthour also stated that to his knowledge, no written or oral commentary regarding the proposed DFCs had been received by the District to-date.

**Action Agenda 3.b. - Consider groundwater production reporting for 2020 and its relationship to Desired Future Conditions.**

Mr. Walthour reported that Municipal, Industrial, and Agriculture water user groups reported 1,707,029.93 of acre-feet groundwater production in the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District in 2020. Production by District county in acre-feet is as follows:

County	2020
Dallam	342,745.65
Hartley	402,242.14
Moore	199,359.43
Sherman	328,409.54
Hansford	195,120.62
Hutchinson	79,388.98
Lipscomb	54,522.30
Ochiltree	105,241.27
<b>West</b>	<b>1,272,756.76</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>434,273.17</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,707,029.93</b>

District groundwater production exceeded the 5-year historical production average by approximately 138,830 acre-feet. 2020 production was 15,230 acre-feet higher than 2018 but ranged 38,381 to 341,381 acre-feet less than the District’s annual production from 2011 to 2014. The table below represents annual groundwater production in acre-feet from 2016 to 2020, collectively, from all aquifers in the District.

County	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Average
Dallam	339,200	312,300	349,900	303,200	342,745.65	329,500
Hartley	391,600	376,000	422,600	349,200	402,242.14	388,300
Moore	185,700	173,100	200,600	157,700	199,359.43	183,300
Sherman	285,300	265,100	312,000	255,400	328,409.54	289,200
Hansford	170,400	146,700	190,800	162,300	195,120.62	173,100
Hutchinson	67,700	63,600	75,500	68,400	79,388.98	70,900
Lipscomb	42,300	44,200	44,200	43,400	54,522.30	45,700
Ochiltree	81,400	77,300	95,500	81,800	105,241.27	88,200
<b>West</b>	<b>1,201,800</b>	<b>1,126,500</b>	<b>1,285,100</b>	<b>1,065,500</b>	<b>1,272,756.76</b>	<b>1,190,300</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>361,800</b>	<b>331,800</b>	<b>406,000</b>	<b>355,900</b>	<b>434,273.17</b>	<b>377,900</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,563,600</b>	<b>1,458,300</b>	<b>1,691,100</b>	<b>1,421,400</b>	<b>1,707,029.93</b>	<b>1,568,200</b>

The District annually reviews groundwater production from the previous year and determines if there are conditions that may trigger District Rule 8.4 and District Rule 8.5 evaluation to reduce Allowable Annual Production. The determination in part is based on the Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) measured in acre-feet to achieve the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) in the District. Texas Water Development Board GR16-029 MAG



Report provides the model data for the assessment. The table below is a compilation of MAG for the Dockum aquifer, Ogallala aquifer and Rita Blanca aquifer DFCs.

County	Aquifer	Modeled Available Groundwater (Acre-Feet)					
		2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2062
Dallam	Ogallala/ Rita Blanca	387,471	287,205	225,573	166,890	112,864	103,258
Hansford	Ogallala	275,016	272,656	271,226	270,281	269,589	269,479
Hartley	Ogallala	397,585	271,523	212,321	154,433	100,407	90,842
Hutchinson	Ogallala	62,803	64,522	65,652	66,075	66,027	65,956
Lipscomb	Ogallala	266,809	266,710	266,640	266,591	266,559	266,557

Moore	Ogallala	214,853	172,621	139,322	105,016	73,384	67,650
Ochiltree	Ogallala	243,778	243,932	244,002	244,051	244,082	244,085
Sherman	Ogallala	398,056	348,895	281,690	212,744	148,552	136,776
<b>Total</b>	<b>Ogallala</b>	<b>2,246,371</b>	<b>1,928,064</b>	<b>1,706,426</b>	<b>1,486,081</b>	<b>1,281,464</b>	<b>1,244,603</b>

Dallam	Dockum	14,192	14,188	14,186	14,184	14,184	14,184
Moore	Dockum	4,801	4,532	4,493	4,417	4,289	4,261
Hartley	Dockum	11,602	10,766	10,524	10,560	10,815	10,895
Sherman	Dockum	127	127	127	127	95	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>Dockum</b>	<b>30,722</b>	<b>29,613</b>	<b>29,330</b>	<b>29,288</b>	<b>29,383</b>	<b>29,433</b>

<b>East Zone MAG</b>	<b>848,406</b>	<b>847,820</b>	<b>847,520</b>	<b>846,998</b>	<b>846,257</b>	<b>846,077</b>
<b>West Zone MAG</b>	<b>1,428,687</b>	<b>1,109,857</b>	<b>888,236</b>	<b>668,371</b>	<b>464,590</b>	<b>427,959</b>
<b>Total District MAG</b>	<b>2,277,093</b>	<b>1,957,677</b>	<b>1,735,756</b>	<b>1,515,369</b>	<b>1,310,847</b>	<b>1,274,036</b>

Groundwater production within the District for 2020 is below the 2020 MAG. Hutchinson County exceeds the 2020 MAG; however, the total groundwater production in the East and West Groundwater Management Zones are below the District's target 2020 MAG and 2030 MAG. The table shows the 2020 MAG compared to 2020 production in acre-feet by county and by management zone.

2020 Annual Production does not exceed the 2020 MAG. Therefore, there are no conditions that trigger District Rule 8.4 and District Rule 8.5 evaluation to reduce Allowable Annual Production.

The table below compares 2020 annual production to the District 2020 MAG.

County	2020 MAG	2020 Production	2020 Percent Difference between MAG and Production	Average Production 2016-2020	Average Percent Difference between MAG and Production 2016-2020
Dallam	401,663	342,746	-14.67%	329,500	-17.97%
Hartley	409,187	402,242	-1.70%	388,300	-5.10%

Moore	219,654	199,359	-9.24%	183,300	-16.55%
Sherman	398,183	328,410	-17.52%	289,200	-27.37%
Hansford	275,016	195,121	-29.05%	173,100	-37.06%
Hutchinson	62,803	79,389	26.41%	70,900	12.89%
Lipscomb	266,809	54,522	-79.57%	45,700	-82.87%
Ochiltree	243,778	105,241	-56.83%	88,200	-63.82%
<b>West</b>	<b>1,428,687</b>	<b>1,272,757</b>	<b>-10.91%</b>	<b>1,190,300</b>	<b>-16.69%</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>848,406</b>	<b>434,273</b>	<b>-48.81%</b>	<b>377,900</b>	<b>-55.46%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,277,093</b>	<b>1,707,030</b>	<b>-25.03%</b>	<b>1,568,200</b>	<b>-31.13%</b>

Gene Born noted that the District's 2020 Annual Production does not exceed the 2020 MAG. Mr. Born moved that there are no conditions that trigger District Rule 8.4 and District Rule 8.5 to reduce Allowable Annual Production. Mark Howard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

***Action Agenda 3.c. - Consider final compliance approval of Water Well Permits as active and complete wells.***

The General Manager reported that District Rule 2.13 provides, after the site inspection is complete, and it is determined that the Well (and all Wells within the Groundwater Production Unit) is/are in compliance with the Rules of the District, and the Well Permit application, the General Manager shall submit the Well Permit to the Board for final compliance approval.

It was noted that 199 non-exempt Well Permits had been issued by the District since January 1, 2021, and that 108 non-exempt Well Permits had been approved by the Board since January 1, 2021.

The General Manager reported that the District staff had processed 30 Water Well Permits which are ready for Board consideration and approval. These permits, listed in the table below, represent completed wells that have been inspected and are in compliance with District Rules. The inspections verify that the wells were completed as required by the respective Permits, including proper well location, well classification, maximum yield, and proper installations of check valves and flow meters. Copies of the individual permits were presented to the Board.

Permit Number	Well Class	Quarter	Section	Block	Survey	Yards NS	Yards EW
DA-11331	C	NW/4	55	1	B&B	168 N	131 W
DA-11406	B	SE/4	57	5	CSS	449 S	463 E
DA-11462	B	NW/4	29	1	CSS	594 N	159 W
DA-11464	B	NW/4	8	2	CSS	377 N	518 W
DA-11465	B	SW/4	8	A-7	PSL	20 S	1313 W
DA-11468	C	SW/4	24	1	CSS	336 S	457 W
DA-11550	D	SW/4	17	48	H&TC	182 S	847 W
DA-11598	C	SW/4	8	7-T	T&NO	531 S	29 W
HA-11448	D	NW/4	5	14	CSS	396 N	133 W
HA-11493	D	NE/4	16	14	CSS	766 N	259 E



HA-11517	D	SE/4	24	14	CSS	278 S	393 E
HA-11518	D	NE/4	24	14	CSS	122 N	385 E
HA-11523	D	NW/4	23	14	CSS	602 N	108 W
HA-11527	D	SW/4	23	14	CSS	234 S	172 W
HA-11528	D	SW/4	23	14	CSS	215 S	689 W
HA-11585	C	NE/4	7	11	CSS	443 N	444 E
HA-11587	C	NW/4	12	11	CSS	558 N	359 W
HA-11588	C	NE/4	7	11	CSS	869 N	173 E
HN-11548	D	SW/4	6	4-T	T&NO	833 S	774 W
HN-11590	D	NW/4	33	R	B&B	102 N	249 W
MO-11320	D	SE/4	413	44	H&TC	22 S	866 E
MO-11334	C	SE/4	412	44	H&TC	536 S	37 E
MO-11335	C	NW/4	19	Q	H&GN	813 N	23 W
MO-11336	C	SE/4	18	Q	H&GN	190 S	331 E
MO-11481	B	NW/4	174	44	H&TC	103 N	350 W
OC-11484	D	NW/4	22	R	B&B	492 N	102 W
SH-11490	C	NE/4	19	3-T	T&NO	767 N	408 E
SH-11507	B	SW/4	240	1-T	T&NO	29 S	270 W
SH-11514	C	SW/4	179	1-C	GH&H	47 S	22 W
SH-11608	C	NE/4	5	2	GH&H	702 N	465 E

Justin Crownover moved to approve all of the well permits on the well permit schedule, noting that the wells are properly equipped and otherwise comply with District Rules. Mark Howard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

***Action Agenda 3.d.- Receive report and consider action as needed regarding agriculture water conservation demonstration programs and the North Plains Water Conservation Center.***

The General Manager presented the following report to the Board:

***Issues with East Well at WCC***

In preparation for beginning to irrigate for the 2021 season, staff discovered that the east well production had dropped to 180 gpm. At this level, it is possible there may not be enough water available to fulfill the needs of the farm for the upcoming production and demonstration season. The Ag Committee has recommended that the pump be pulled, and the well be inspected to determine if the production can be increased before irrigation requirements reach their peak at the WCC. Nich Kenny and Stan Spain determined to get the cotton and corn planted and germinating before pulling the pump and reconditioning the well. Rains have delayed planting and consequently delayed the work on the well. Stan Spain said he anticipated pulling the pump after getting the crops started with 2-3 weeks of irrigation. Work on the well could start the week of 6/7 or 6/14.

The District has received an estimate of \$33,854 from Etter Water Well to pull the pump, inspect the well, brush, bail, and surge the well. The estimate also includes a new pump and motor, which may or may not be necessary. Once the well has been cleaned and inspected, the pump may be lowered since we anticipate there may be about 40 feet of casing below the pump.

If this restoration of the well is successful in returning the well to an acceptable pumping rate, it may not be necessary to do anything else. However, if the well does not return to useful production, it could be necessary to drill another well right away, at a cost of approximately \$185,000, according to Stan Spain. Management is currently reassessing financial priorities to make sure the total amount of funds needed will be available, if a new well must be drilled. These new priorities mean other projects are currently on hold and may not be completed until we reassess after the east well issue is resolved.

Since this is an extremely time sensitive issue, management recommended that the Board authorize the Agriculture Committee to take whatever action that is required, and expend the necessary funds, not to exceed \$218,000, to provide the water needed for the demonstrations and crop production at the WCC.

\$218,000 is the sum of the well servicing estimate and the estimated cost of drilling a new well. This authorization will eliminate the need to bring the full Board back together, potentially causing a delay in restoring sufficient irrigation to the farm.

Funding to address the east well issue at the field will require an amendment to the 2020-2021 budget.

Daniel L. Krienke moved, that because of the time sensitivity and the immediate need to get the groundwater well back into production, the Board authorize the Agriculture Committee to take action to provide the water needed for the demonstrations and crop production at the WCC, not to exceed \$218,000. Harold Grall seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

### ***WCC Grower Day***

The District hosted a Grower Day on April 15 to present findings from the District's demonstrations. Approximately 15 past Master Irrigator graduates and other growers attended the meeting, along with consultants and extension staff. Nich Kenny, PE, and Jourdan Bell, PhD, presented information from the various demonstrations they are conducting relating to agriculture water conservation. Continuing education credits were available, and a drawing was held for a YETI cooler. The meeting ran from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The meeting was available virtually, as well as in-person, observing all health and safety protocols.

### ***Master Irrigator***

The District has just completed the fifth year of its award-winning Master Irrigator program. The 2021 class consisted of 19 producers from the eight-county service area, representing over 70,775 acres of irrigated agricultural land. After their graduation, the Master Irrigator family grew to 109 strong, representing about 30 percent of the District's irrigated acres.

Additionally, on May 6, the Texas Water Development Board approved a grant of \$250,000 to fund the District's Master Irrigator Program and other irrigation conservation initiatives. The grant will provide funding to assist graduates of the Master Irrigator with implementation of irrigation conservation practices through 2023.

***Action Agenda 3.e. - Consider General Manager's request to enter into a five-year professional services agreement with Canadian Well Service, Canadian, Texas***

Mr. Walthour stated that North Plains Groundwater Conservation District published the intent to retain a Texas Licensed well driller to provide services to the District for five years. The services are on an as-needed basis, which include the drilling and completion of monitor wells, pumping existing monitor wells for water quality testing, and removing pumping equipment from some of the District's winter water level observation wells. Pumping equipment removal will be with the well owner's permission and at the District's expense.

The District placed requests for proposals for these services in local newspapers and media outlets including the *Moore County News-Press* and the *High Plains Observer*. The



bid request ran in the *Moore County News-Press* starting on April 25 and ran in 4 consecutive issues ending on May 6, 2021. Additional ads were run in the *High Plains Observer* for one week beginning the week of May 3, 2021. The *Observer* ads ran locally in Spearman, Dumas, Perryton, Hutchinson, and Stratford. Staff sent emails directly to Hydro Resources, DB&E Drilling, Canadian Water Well, 287 Drilling, and Water Rights Irrigation Services. As of May 20, 2021, three responses were received. Hydro Resources responded with a phone call asking about the equipment removal, but no bid was received. Stewart Brothers Drilling of Milan, New Mexico, submitted a bid on drilling the monitor well only. Canadian Water Well was the only company to submit bids for the services requested.

The General Manager recommended that the Board approve a five-year contract with Canadian Water Well for the following services.

1. Drilling and completing two monitor wells at the cost of \$11,300 each, allowing adjustments in the price of materials and labor during the duration of the contract;
2. Pumping monitor wells for water quality testing at the cost of \$1,500 per well, allowing adjustments for material and labor cost throughout the contract; and,
3. Pulling pumping equipment from observation wells at the cost of \$2,300 per well, allowing for adjustments in material and labor costs throughout the contract.

Before any service is provided, the contractor will provide a cost estimate to the General Manager for approval and shall not exceed the District's annual budget related to the service list.

The General Manager requested that the Board approve Canadian Water Well for water well construction, repair, and testing services related to the District's groundwater monitoring program as listed above, and contingent upon approval of the contract by legal counsel.

The General Manager stated that sufficient funding is included in the 2020-2021 budget for this item. The contract is subject to budgeted funding availability in subsequent years.

Mr. Good stated that counsel was in the process of reviewing the proposed contract.

Gene Born moved that the Board approve Canadian Water Well for water well construction, repair, and testing services related to the District's groundwater monitoring program as listed above, and contingent upon approval of the contract by legal counsel. Justin Crownover seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

***Action Agenda 3.f. - Consider General Manager's request to amend the District's 2020 – 2021 Budget.***

General Manager, Steve Walthour, reported that to address the immediate need to repair the east Well at the North Plains Water Conservation Center and the unlikely potential of needing to drill a new well during the 2021 irrigation season, the General Manager has reviewed the District 2020 – 2021 Budget to provide funding for the well repairs without immediately raising the District's overall budget. If a new well is required before the end of the fiscal year, the General Manager may ask for an overall District budget increase to cover other priorities later this fiscal year if necessary. The General Manager requested that the Board amend the 2020 - 2021 Budget as follows:

Budget Item description	Current Budget Amount	Increase or (Decrease)	Proposed Budget Amount	Explanation
Capital Outlay	\$45,000.00	\$188,000.00	\$233,000.00	Increased to cover prioritized capital costs for potential well construction/repair at the North Plains Water Conservation Center if a new well is needed and the current east well is also repaired. If all funds are not needed, then the district will drill two monitor wells and purchase telemetry equipment for water well observation network. A portion of the funds may be returned at a subsequent board meeting.
Aquifer Science	\$130,000.00	(100,000.00)	\$30,000.00	Moved funds to Capital Outlay to cover capital costs for monitor well drilling and monitor well equipment replacement if funding is not needed to replace a well.
Conservation Outreach	\$540,000.00	(88,000.00)	\$452,000.00	Moved funds to Capital Outlay to cover potential costs of well construction/repair at the North Plains WCC.
Administration	\$152,478.95	(20,000.00)	\$132,478.95	Decreased – to cover costs for professional fees.
Professional Fees	\$198,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$218,000.00	Increased to subcontracted services for additional funds complete demonstrations this year.
<b>Total overall 2020-2021 budget change</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>No change in overall budget</b>

The proposed budget amendments above reflect no change in the District’s overall budget. Once the North Plains WCC well issue is addressed, any funding remaining will be reprioritized to the equipment and program needs contemplated as part of Aquifer Science, Conservation Outreach, and Administrative budgets, as a budget amendment later this summer.

The above proposed budget amendments reflect no change in the District’s overall budget. Funding is included in the 2020 - 2021 budget.

Gene Born moved that the Board amend the 2020 -2021 budget as follows:

- Increase Capital Outlay from \$45,000.00 to \$233,000.00;
- Increase Professional Fees from \$198,000 to \$218,000;
- Decrease Administration budget from \$152,478.95 to \$132,478.95;
- Decrease Aquifer Science budget from \$130,000.00 to \$30,000.00; and
- Decrease Conservation Outreach budget from \$540,000.00 to \$452,000.00.

Daniel L. Krienke seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

***Action Agenda 3.g. - Discuss development and schedule Committee Meetings regarding the 2021-2022 District Budget.***

Steve Walthour presented the following report:

This item is to discuss the development of the 2021-2022 Budget and set committee meetings to prepare committee recommendations before the July Board meeting. Since the District receives preliminary appraisals from eight different county appraisal districts, the General Manager assumed that the preliminary appraisals would be computed eight different ways. For example, some CADs reduce their preliminary appraisals by 10% to



12% while other CADs do not. The appraisal process has not been completed in any county and therefore the final values will be different. The preliminary values for 2021 are as follows:

	PRELIMINARY VALUES	CERTIFIED VALUES	PRELIMINARY VALUES
County	2020	2020	2021
Dallam	938,729,086	973,517,076	976,570,496
Hansford	542,987,221	547,689,169	540,508,221
Hartley	717,499,720	768,066,970	726,851,228
Hutchison	92,851,552	110,352,750	94,055,170
Lipscomb	331,297,206	432,158,279	388,885,859
Moore	1,785,001,204	2,027,103,420	1,827,225,381
Ochiltree	1,243,389,922	1,227,855,479	994,886,752
Sherman	442,542,824	463,525,100	496,606,444
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,094,298,735</b>	<b>6,550,268,243</b>	<b>6,045,589,551</b>

District staff will be developing a draft proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 with input from the Board's committees. The General Manager proposed to provide the preliminary budget in July.

**Action Agenda 3.h. - Receive report regarding water level drawdown and decline rate field data collection and analysis.**

The General Manager presented the following report to the Board:

**Purpose:**

Continued declines in the annual water level measurements reveal more significant reductions than the District's decline models suggest. The District proposes a study that will provide additional data to help calibrate the model to represent the actual aquifer conditions. This study aims to monitor the changes in the aquifer levels within areas of the District over the next year. The study is slated to begin in June, 2021 and will end in June, 2022. The District hydrologist and field manager have selected 20 properties within Hartley, Moore, and Sherman Counties on which to conduct the study. The study will collect data on pumping rates, the number of pumping days, and decline rates in non-pumping wells near these study areas. The District will look at properties consisting of seasonal crop production, confined animal feeding operations, municipal well fields, and industrial pumping. Measurements and monitoring will occur weekly or bi-weekly throughout the study.

**Procedure:**

District staff will conduct visits to these properties to collect meter readings and flow rates. In addition to this data, the staff will measure the depth to water in non-pumping wells near the study areas. The staff will collect data from these sites on a two-week cycle for the duration of the study. The staff has selected a range of study areas to include seasonal water production on croplands, year-round pumping for animal production, including dairies, cattle feeding operations, and swine production. The staff will also monitor municipal and industrial water production. Each study area type will be compared to an agricultural-only control plot consisting of similar acreage and number of producing wells.

**Findings:**

At the end of the study period, the study results will evaluate the aquifer models and provide better aquifer information to the public.

**Action Agenda 3.i. - Receive report regarding Panhandle – Texas Runs on Water Public Information Campaign.**

The General Manager reported that The Texas Water Foundation (TWF) is coordinating a statewide water campaign like the concept of the well-known *Don't Mess with Texas* campaign. The Texas Runs on Water campaign will reach the entire state with the message of the value of water and the importance of each of us being good stewards of the water we have. The campaign is beginning with three pilot programs to be presented in the City of Houston, the Hill Country and in the Panhandle. In the Panhandle, the TWF currently has an agreement with Channel 7 in Amarillo to produce content for their newscasts and to be distributed over their social media and other outlets. Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District has a MOU with TWF to provide content for the campaign as well. The District has been asked to cooperate with the pilot program by providing content and financial support. Management recommended that the District participate in this conservation education program. The outreach staff will continue to gather more information and will keep the Board informed of the District's role going forward. Mr. Walthour stated that he was considering authorizing financial support in the amount of \$10,000 for the conservation education program.

Mr. Walthour stated that some homeowners put more water on an acre of grass than irrigators do growing corn. Most irrigators water once every seven days. Some homeowners water their grass every day and use more water on their grass around the house than farmers do growing crops.

**Action Agenda 3.j. - Receive report regarding Region A Water Planning Area.**

The General Manager presented the following report to the Board:

The Region A - Panhandle Water Planning Group is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, June 29th at 9:30-11:00 a.m. Primary meeting topics are as follows:

- Receive public input and comments on issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the 2026 Regional Water Plan and 2027 State Water Plan;
- Review of water planning activities since the last meeting and consider working timeline for the sixth cycle of Regional Water Planning;
- Review responses to Solicitation for Nominations to fill voting member position in the General Public interest category vacated by Don Allred and receive recommendation from the Executive Committee;
- Approval and selection of firm to perform Technical Consulting Services for the 2026 Regional Water Plan;
- Discuss the potential process for conducting interregional coordination regarding water management strategies during development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans, including the identification of such strategies and course of action for coordination; and,
- Selection of Officers to the PWPG Executive Committee.

**Action Agenda 3.k. - Receive report regarding USGS water quality sampling in the District.**

The General Manager reported that District staff met with the project leader, Craig Mobley, and others of the United States Geological Survey, Monday, May 17, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the District of the progress and expected delivery of the final Water Quality Investigative Report from the 2019-2020 Water Quality Pumping Project. The report is currently under USGS departmental review, and then it will undergo a peer review. The USGS expects to deliver the report to the Board of Directors in December 2021.

**Action Agenda 3.l. - Receive report and consider action regarding Missouri River Transfer Project to Mitigate Flooding and Protect the Six-State Ogallala-High Plains Regional Socio-Economic Viability.**

The General Manager reported that since January, the District has worked with Texas Cattle Feeders Association to develop a white paper that can be used to promote this project to interested parties. The most recent copy of the white paper associated with the transfer project was presented to the Board.

**Action Agenda 3.m. - Receive report and consider action regarding compliance and contested matters before the District.**

The General Manager stated that there were twenty-six (26) Groundwater Production Units (GPUs) that potentially exceeded 2020 Annual Allowable Production and Conservation Reserve, if available. The staff sent compliance notices to each alleged violator on May 19, 2021, with a due date to pay fees and install flow meters, if not already installed, by June 30, 2021.

Historically, the District has allowed producers to address their noncompliance by establishing new GPUs after December 31st of the reporting year because of District staffing and system limitations. In 2020, there were 20 different owners on 26 GPUs out of 2901 GPUs that exceeded their total authorized production limit and conservation reserve (if they had one). Three agents represented ten of the owners and 15 GPUs of the 26 overproduced GPUs.

Beginning 2021, the General Manager intends to notify all owners and agents throughout the year to pay attention to their groundwater production and address potential overproduction by December 31st.

Preliminarily, the 26 GPUs exceeded authorized groundwater withdrawals by 4,718 acre-feet. Well owners have the opportunity to contest the overproduction estimate by the staff.

Well owners filed eight 2020 Annual Production Reports after March 1. Late Filing fee letters, with fees of \$50 per day up to \$500 per report, were sent on May 19, 2021, with payment due by June 30, 2021, or install flow meters at all wells if not already installed by June 30, 2021. Late fees are refundable if the same-named Production Reports for 2021 are filed no later than January 15, 2022.

By consensus, the Board set December 31 of the groundwater production reporting year as the final day to establish new GPUs for the groundwater production reporting year, beginning December 31, 2021, and continuing for each ensuing year thereafter.



**Action Agenda 3.n. - Receive report and consider action regarding compliance and contested matters before the District.**

The General Manager reported that as of Friday May 21, 2021, the Texas Legislature has sent two bills to the Governor's desk for signature that affect the District. HB1118 amends the Cybersecurity Act and HB1082 amends the disclosure of information for by adding all elected officials.

The District is following SB10 related to lobbying for public entities and SB 152 in which the House of Representatives struck the attorney's fees language. Apparently, Senator Perry will need to approve the Committee amendment on SB152 dropping the attorney's fees portion of the Bill for it to reach the governor.

It appears that the Legislature is not going to pass a Bill that would allow public entities to expand participation in public meetings by video conferencing.

This is the year for redistricting. The Governor will probably call a special session near the end of the summer for the Legislature to go through the redistricting process.

**Action Agenda 3.o. - Closed Session.**

None.

**Discussion Agenda 4.c. - General Manager's Report.**

Steve Walthour presented a report to the Board, which included the General Manager's activity summary, the District's activity summary, permits issued by the District in April 2021, post-drill well inspections as of April 30, 2021, and upcoming meetings and conferences.

**Discussion Agenda 4.- Discuss Items for Future Board Meeting Agendas and Set Next Meeting Date and Time.**

By consensus, the Board set its next regular Board meeting in person on July 13, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., at the Water Conservation Center. By consensus, the Board also set its regular meeting in August on August 10, 2021.

**Action Agenda 4.a. - District Director Reports regarding meetings and/or seminars attended, weather conditions and economic development in each Director's precinct.**


District Director reports were presented to the Board regarding meetings and/or seminars attended, weather conditions and economic development in each Director's precinct.

**Discussion Agenda 4.b. - Committee Reports.**

No Committee reports were presented to the Board.

**Agenda 6. - Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Gene Born moved to adjourn the meeting. Harold Grall seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. President Zimmer adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

  
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Bob B. Zimmer, President

  
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Zac Yoder, Secretary