

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 7, 2017
FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING OF
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Finance and Budget Committee of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District met on July 7, 2016, at 7:23 P.M. in the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District offices, 603 East First Street, Dumas, Texas. The following persons were present:

Members Present at 5:00 P.M.

Daniel Krienke, Chairman and Vice-President;
Harold Grall, President
Mark Howard, Director;
and
Justin Crownover, Director.

Staff Present during part or all of the meeting:

Steve Walthour, General Manager;
Dale Hallmark, Assistant General Manager Hydrologist/Producer Services;
Kirk Welch; Assistant General Manager Outreach;
Pauletta Rhoades Finance/Administration Manager ;
Kristen Blackwell Executive Assistant

Chairman Krienke called the meeting to order at 7:23 P.M.

The Agriculture Conservation Committee and the Property Committee met before the Finance Committee to consider district agriculture conservation programs and construction relating to district facilities. The Agriculture Committee requested keeping the same budget as the 2016-2017 budget and the Property Committee will have a list of priorities they would like to address over the next few years. The list of priorities will be presented to the board during the August 18, 2017 meeting. The General Manager will report their recommendations regarding budgetary needs for their projects in 2017-2018 that may change the preliminary budget.

The Finance and Budget Committee reviewed the general manager's draft proposed budget for FY 2017-2018 compared to FY 2016-2017 as follows:

Description	2016 - 2017 Budget	2017-2018 Draft Budget
Income		
Taxes	2,231,809.99	2,231,809.99
Penalty & Interest	8,475.46	13,664.22
Delinquent Taxes	12,841.13	12,841.13
North Plains Water CC	50,000.00	50,000.00
Refunds	2,500.00	2,500.00
Sale of Assets	0.00	0.00
Fees for District Services	110,000.00	110,000.00
Other Income	60,000.00	60,000.00
TWDB Grant - Dashboard	15,000.00	0.00
TWDB Grant	60,000.00	60,000.00
TWDB Meter Grant/Probe Grant	300,000.00	350,000.00
USDA/NRCS Grant	45,000.00	0.00
Investment Income	8,500.49	8,500.49
Dallam Co. PGMA fees	60,000.00	70,000.00
Total Income	2,964,127.07	2,969,315.83
Expenses		
Directors Expense	70,000.00	70,000.00
Personnel	1,225,788.42	1,221,997.25
Administrative	144,500.00	138,000.00
Contracted Services	114,172.65	96,671.00
Professional Fees	217,500.00	217,500.00
Technical, Communication & Utilities	123,000.00	136,000.00
Vehicle, Building, and Field Supplies	85,000.00	85,000.00
Capital Outlay	120,000.00	120,000.00
Aquifer Science	55,000.00	55,000.00
Conservation Outreach	380,000.00	480,000.00
Conservation Demo Project	245,000.00	215,000.00
North Plains WCC	104,614.00	92,614.00
Total Expense	2,884,575.07	2,927,782.25
Net Income/Expense	79,552.00	41,533.57

General Manager Steve Walthour explained that the TWDB Grant – Dashboard column is blank because the district usually does not hear until September of the current year what if any would be available so that number is expected to change. In addition, the USDA/NRCS Grant is currently in its final year so that budget item will come off next year. This year we are expecting to collect \$70,000 in Dallam Co PGMA Fees so that income has increased by \$10,000. In the expense category, Conservation Outreach has added \$100,000 for projects next year while the Conservation Demo Project and North Plains WCC expenses are reduced from the previous year.

General Manager Steve Walthour stated that taxes are expected to decrease slightly between 2017 and 2018 but nothing like the 20% decrease two years ago. Director Mark Howard asked, “is it possible to have flat budget that matches the previous year and if so, where would those cuts be made?” Steve replied that it was possible and that monies earmarked for Capital Outlay could be decreased in the event the board chose to go that route.

The Committee would like to have the 2017-2018 budget ready to propose to the board during the August 2017 board meeting.