

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2018  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF  
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District met in regular session September 11, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room in the Richard S. Bowers Water Conservation Learning Center Building at the North Plains Water Conservation Center, 6045 West County Road E, Dumas, Texas 79029-7201. The following persons were present:

**Members Present at 9:36 a.m.:**

Harold Grall, President  
Daniel L. Krienke, Vice-President;  
Bob B. Zimmer, Secretary;  
Gene Born, Director;  
Justin Crownover, Director; and  
Zac Yoder, 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;  
Odell Ward, Program Coordinator – GIS/Monitor Wells;  
Curtis Schwertner, Natural Resource Specialist;  
Julia Stanford, Conservation Outreach Specialist; and  
Karen Jones, Administrative Support Specialist.

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

F. Keith Good, Attorney; and,  
Ellen Orr, Paralegal.

President, Harold Grall, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. Director, Gene Born, gave the invocation and President Grall led the pledge.

**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: the review and approval of the Minutes of the regularly scheduled August 8, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting; the review and approval of the Minutes of the August 8, 2018 Finance Committee Meeting; the review and approval of un-audited District expenditures for August 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018, including the General Manager's expense and activity report; and the review and approval of payment to Lemon, Shearer, Phillips & Good, P.C. for professional services and out-of-pocket expenses from August 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018, in the amount of \$3,670.05.

Daniel L. Krienke moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Gene Born seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Action Agenda 3a - Certification of Unopposed Candidates for Director Elections in Precinct 1- Dallam County, Precinct 2- Hartley County, Precinct 3- Sherman County, and Precinct 4 - Moore County.**

Secretary, Bob B. Zimmer, reported to the Board that none of the candidates for election in the District's Director Precinct 1 – Dallam County; Precinct 2 – Hartley County; Precinct 3 – Sherman County; and Precinct 4 – Moore County were opposed and that Mr. Zimmer, as Board Secretary had executed a Certification of Unopposed Candidates in accordance with Texas Election Code Section 2.052, which was presented to the Board.

**Action Agenda 3b - Consider action to cancel director elections in District Director's Precinct 1- Dallam County, Precinct 2- Hartley County, Precinct 3- Sherman County, and Precinct 4 - Moore County.**

The General Manager reported that in August, the Board ordered the election of Directors in the District's Director Precinct 1 – Dallam County; Precinct 2 – Hartley County; Precinct 3 – Sherman County and Precinct 4 – Moore County. All four incumbents properly filed for a place on the ballot by the August 20, 2018 filing date. No one else filed for a place on the ballot by the filing date deadline and no one filed a declaration of write-in candidacy by the August 24 filing date deadline. The Board Secretary has certified that all candidates are unopposed in accordance with the Texas Election Code and the General Manager recommended that the Board order the Cancellation of the November 6, 2018 election to be held in the District's Director Precinct 1 – Dallam County, 2 – Hartley County, 3 – Sherman County, and 4 – Moore County in accordance with Texas Election Code Section 2.053.

Daniel L. Krienke moved that the Board order the cancellation of the election to be held on November 6, 2018 in in District Director's Precinct 1 – Dallam County, Precinct 2 – Hartley County, Precinct 3 – Sherman County, and Precinct 4 – Moore County . Gene Born seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Action Agenda 3c - 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) 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.

The General Manager reported that the District staff had processed 25 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.

Well	Class	QTR	SEC	BLK	SUR	NS	EW
DA-10083	B	NE/4	61	5	CSS	779 N	168 E
DA-10189	C	NW/4	57	2	CSS	333 N	22 W
DA-10239	B	NE/4	18	6	CSS	131 N	100 E
HA-9870	C	NW/4	3	A-2	PFS	435 N	178 W
HA-9928	D	SW/4	215	44	H&TC	539 S	12 W
HA-9969	D	SE/4	11	1	Waco Mfg.	268 S	113 E
HN-9749	D	SW/4	126	4-T	T&NO	836 S	22 W
HN-10140	D	NE/4	8	P	H&GN	102 N	584 E
HN-10342	D	NW/4	9	P	H&GN	858 N	770 W
HN-10452	C	NE/4	123	2	GH&H	406 N	396 E
HN-10453	C	NE/4	123	2	GH&H	121 N	111 E

HN-10462	D	NE/4	33	R	B&B	103 N	552 E
HN-10481	D	SE/4	123	2	GH&H	320 S	269 E
HU-10131	D	SE/4	63	5-T	T&NO	103 S	672 E
MO-9806	B	NE/4	429	44	H&TC	634 N	36 E
MO-10069	B	NW/4	242	3-T	HT&B	197 N	361 W
MO-10165	B	NE/4	347	44	H&TC	196 N	303 E
OC-10185	D	SW/4	91	13	T&NO	108 S	106 W
OC-10186	D	SW/4	91	13	T&NO	106 S	589 W
SH-9805	C	NW/4	9	2	PSL	355 N	289 W
SH-10038	B	SW/4	206	1-C	GH&H	119 S	755 W
SH-10060	B	NE/4	387	1-T	T&NO	713 N	808 E
SH-10163	B	SW/4	206	1-C	GH&H	114 S	501 W
SH-10164	B	SW/4	206	1-C	GH&H	103 S	366 W
SH - 10505	B	SE/4	9	3 - B	GH&H	214 S	804 E

Zac Yoder 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. Justin Crownover seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

***Action Agenda 3d - Receive report and consider action regarding the District's Agriculture Conservation Demonstration Programs.***

Assistant General Manager, Kirk Welch, presented the following report to the Board:

**Master Irrigator Multi-State Meeting**

The District will host a meeting of representatives from several states to explore the development of a multi-state Master Irrigator Program. The meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2018 at the WCC, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The meeting will include representatives from Texas, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Minnesota. The agenda will cover the process for development and execution of the District's Master Irrigator Program, ideas for creating Master Irrigator Programs in other states, and opportunities for funding of a multi-state Master Irrigator Program.

The General Manager presented the following report to the Board:

**2018 Season Demonstrations**

In July, the District contracted with Nicholas Kenny to provide agricultural engineering services. Mr. Kenny is assisting with the tabulation and interpretation of the data collected from demonstrations during the 2018 season. Mr. Kenny will present data comparing the water usage of the cotton and corn fields at the WCC, as well as the ongoing comparison demonstration between SDI and LEPA in corn. He may also present any information available in the first year of Harold Grall's No-till/Strip-till demonstration and the first year of the District's deployment of on-farm weather stations. The General Manager reported that the results will be reported in a meeting tentatively scheduled for the November-December timeframe.

Assistant General Manager/Hydrologist/Producer Services, Dale Hallmark, presented the following report to the Board:

## **WCC Sign Renovation**

District staff are coordinating vendors for updating of the WCC sign, including reconfiguring fencing and landscaping. Landscape architectural firm, Prairie Workshop of Lubbock provided drawings, designs and cost estimates to guide the process. The fence at the entryway will be moved to provide better visibility of the sign and landscaping and to promote the safety of the visitors and vehicles as they enter the facility. District staff estimate that construction could start before Oct. 1, 2018 but do not anticipate completion until sometime in October.

### ***Action Agenda 3e - Consider approval of proposal for 2019 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Cotton Education Programming.***

The General Manager stated that in August, the Cotton Program Advisory Committee met to guide the District in developing its Cotton Demonstration Program. From that meeting, Dr. Jourdan Bell and Scott Strawn of Texas AgriLife Extension prepared a proposal for the District's Cotton Program. The proposal was presented to the Board.

Dr. Bell and Mr. Strawn proposed that County Extension Agents (CEAs) representing the eight counties that comprise the District coordinate with the regional Extension Agronomist to provide weekly video programs from six Replicated Agronomic Cotton Evaluations (RACE) trials across the District. Texas AgriLife anticipated that Extension Entomologists and Pathologists will be invited to provide timely videos depending on insect and disease pressure. Reporting from RACE trials will provide the CEAs and Extension Agronomist the opportunity to evaluate and report on Genetic X Environment X Management interactions. Videos will be approximately three to four minutes in duration. Weekly reports from CEAs and Agronomists may include the following information, in addition to location and planting date, for a minimum, for two entries in the trial being discussed:

1. Weekly Plant Growth Stages;
2. Current Growing Degree Days Accumulated;
3. Environmental Conditions;
4. Irrigation Practice and Amount;
5. Plant Growth Regulator Timing;
6. Plant Disease Identification and Management Tips;
7. Insect Identification and Management Tips;
8. Irrigation Termination; and
9. Harvest Aid Management.

Rotating videos between trials will provide the District's cotton producers real-time variety comparisons under the respective environmental and management systems. The CEAs and Agronomists will develop a rotating calendar so that videos occur every three weeks from each field (two fields per week). It has been requested that the District purchase weather stations with data plans for each location that can be viewed in real time through the District's website. The Agronomist will manage the data so that the daily growing degree days (GDDs) are calculated and updated on the District's website. Because there are uncertainties about GDD accumulation with cotton development of newer varieties in northern cotton production regions, weekly evaluation of the current growth stage and the respective GDD for each field will provide a solid dataset to evaluate the historical GDD model and create a data base to ground truth for a revised GDD model being supported by Cotton Incorporated. For all irrigated sites, Pivot Trac has also requested that each RACE Trial variety cooperator ensure accurate reporting of irrigation. Soil water use will also be tracked in the same two varieties across all six trials using a method agreed upon by the District's Board and the Cotton Program Advisory Committee. In addition to the weekly video reports, data will be compiled and presented at regional Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Cotton

Programs in Dalhart, Dumas, Spearman, and Perryton. An end of year report will be provided by the Agronomist in collaboration with the CEAs that supplements the RACE trial variety report. The RACE trial report includes cotton production, quality, and loan values for the evaluated varieties. The report for the District will emphasize irrigation practices with a focus on the season crop water use and water use efficiencies of the two varieties being evaluated. This data will be used to assess current cotton irrigation practices in order to provide District cotton producers recommendations for irrigation strategies to minimize groundwater withdrawals. It was expected that the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and District Cotton Education Programming will be reviewed annually.

**Proposed Budget**

Item	Per Location	Total
<b>County Agent Support (6 CEAs): Weekly Growth Stage Identification and Rotational Video Reporting</b>	\$ 2,000	\$ 12,000
<b>Pivot Trac (5 Irrigated Trials)</b>	\$ 360	\$ 1,800
<b>Soil Moisture Monitoring (5 Irrigated + 1 Dryland Location)</b>		Undecided
<b>Weatherstations and Data Plan (5 Irrigated + 1 Dryland Location)*</b>	\$ 3,000	\$ 18,000
<b>Agronomist: Weekly Growth Stage Identification, Weekly Data Management, Video Reporting, and Final Reporting</b>	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,000
<b>Educational Programs (4 Regional Programs)</b>	\$ 1,500	\$ 6,000
<b>Total Requested</b>		\$ 43,800

\*A one-time expense. Weather stations will be used in subsequent years.

The General Manager recommended that the Board approve Texas AgriLife Extension's proposal for the 2019 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Cotton Education Programming.

Daniel L. Krienke moved that the Board approve the Texas AgriLife Extension's proposal for 2019 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Cotton Education Programming. Justin Crownover seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

***Action Agenda 3f - Consider action to authorize irrigation loan program.***

Assistant General Manager, Kirk Welch, discussed with the Board, an Agricultural Water Conservation Loan Program that is available through the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). This Program would permit the District to provide lower than market rate loans to District constituents to improve the efficiency of water delivery to, and application on, existing irrigation systems. Mr. Welch stated that the District would be responsible for the payment of interest on the total amount of the principal debt borrowed annually, whether or not it had advanced all of the funds from the TWDB to constituents.

Gene Born moved to authorize District staff to obtain additional information regarding the TWDB Agricultural Water Conservation Loan Program which will permit the Board to determine whether or not to pursue the Program. Bob B. Zimmer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Action Agenda 3g - Receive report regarding Panhandle Water Planning Group.**

Assistant General Manager/Hydrologist/Producer Services, Dale Hallmark, presented the following report to the Board:

The Panhandle Water Planning Group (Region A) held a public meeting on Wednesday, August 15th, at the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission building in Amarillo. Dr. Nolan Clark presented the PWPG's financials. Chairman Williams explained to the PWPG Board that due to Jim Derington's resignation, Dr. Kent Satterwhite was moved over to represent the Palo Duro River Authority, which left a vacancy in the (CRMWA) water authority's seat. Dr. Satterwhite made a recommendation, with a letter on file, that Janet Guthrie be moved from the General Public Category to fill the vacancy of Dr. Kent Satterwhite, for the water authority seat. Mrs. Guthrie accepted the appointment. Chairman Williams presented the executive committee's recommendation to appoint Don Allred to fill the vacant general public seat previously held by Janet Guthrie. Ms. Kiel presented an overview of the 8-14-18 Agricultural Committee Meeting. Mr. Amosson presented the methodology for water conservation strategies. Ms. Kiel presented the methodology for the identification of Major Water Providers. Ms. Kiel also presented the draft Chapter 2 of the water plan. Ms. Kiel further presented the technical memorandum of Region A by Freese & Nichols Inc.

Mr. Hallmark also reported that the Panhandle Water Planning Group (Region A) (AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE) held a meeting Tuesday, August 14, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission building in Amarillo. Ms. Kiel presented a report regarding Agricultural Demands and Agricultural Needs. Steve Amosson presented a report regarding the Conservation Strategies for the 2021 Panhandle Regional Plan. Mr. Amosson also presented the methodology for the evaluation of the 2021 Agricultural Strategies.

**Action Agenda 3h - Consider action to approve facility improvements as needed.**

Assistant General Manager/Hydrologist/Producer Services, Dale Hallmark discussed the following matters with the Board:

**Office Parking and Fence**

Metal Concepts (Doug Hatter) received the bid for the construction of the fence and retaining wall, as well as the construction of the covered parking across the street south of the District's main office. The retaining wall and fence will be around the perimeter of the South, West and East sides. The west lot will be graded south to north to have a one-foot slope requiring a small retaining wall. Construction has begun and appears to be on schedule to be completed before Oct. 1, 2018.

**WCC Entry and Sign**

It is planned that the entryway to the District's WCC will include a new sign and landscaping. The fence at the entryway will be moved to provide better visibility of the sign and landscaping and to promote the safety of the visitors and vehicles as they enter the facility. District staff estimated that construction could start before Oct. 1, 2018 but did not anticipate completion of the project until sometime in October.

**WCC Road and Parking**

It was proposed to add parking outside and along the entire length of the fence on the East side of the WCC buildings. Reshape approximately 1,306 by 14 ft wide existing road for drainage, add 4 inches of compacted crushed rock and replace a drainage pipe and

add another drainage pipe. It was also proposed to add an approximately 40-foot radius area at the North end of the road for a turn-around.

After discussion, the Board, by consensus, recommended that District staff obtain recommendations from contractors regarding the best materials to use for the construction of the road and bring bids with the recommended specifications back to the Board for its consideration at its regular October meeting.

***Action Agenda 3i - Consider legal and compliance matters before the District.***

The General Manager reported that all of the production fees for calendar year 2017 have been collected for the non-taxed areas in Dallam County.

General Counsel reported that service of process by certified mail had been requested for Todd Tamplin.

The General Manager reported that a complaint had been received from Craig Custer regarding the alleged waste of groundwater by Lone Star Family Farms.

**Executive Session - Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.**

At 11:27 a.m., Bob B. Zimmer moved to go into Executive Session in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, §551.071, to obtain legal advice from its attorney. Zac Yoder seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Executive Session: At 11:27 a.m., the Board went into Executive Session. The Executive Session was then recessed at 11:27 a.m. and reconvened at 11:35 a.m. At 11:46 a.m., Daniel L. Krienke moved that the Board reconvene into regular session. Bob B. Zimmer seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board reconvened into regular session at 11:46 a.m.

Bob B. Zimmer moved to issue a Show Cause Order to Lone Star Family Farms, a Texas General Partnership, to appear at the next regular meeting of the Board regarding the complaint filed by Craig Custer alleging waste of groundwater. Zac Yoder seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

***Discussion Agenda 4a - Director Reports.***

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

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

None, except as stated above.

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

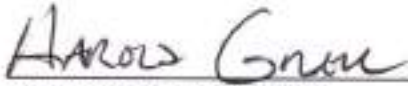
Steve Walthour presented the General Manager's Report, which included information concerning upcoming meetings and conferences, the General Manager's activity summary and the District activity summary.

***Agenda 5 - Discuss Items for Future Board Meeting Agendas and Set Next Meeting Date and Time.***

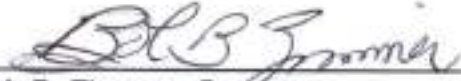
By consensus, the Board set the next regular Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m. on October 9, 2018.

**Agenda 6 - Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Gene Born moved to adjourn the meeting. Daniel L. Krienke seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board. President Grall adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.



Harold Grall, President



Bob B. Zimmer, Secretary