

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 8, 2016
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Board of Directors of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District met in regular session November 8, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the North Plains Water Conservation Center, 6045 County Road E., Dumas, Texas. The following persons were present:

Members Present at 9:06 a.m.:

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

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;
Kristen Lane, Executive Assistant;
Laura West, Production Monitoring Coordinator;
Casey Tice, Compliance Coordinator;
Odell Ward, GIS Lead Technician/Natural Resource Specialist; and,
Alyssa Holguin, Conservation Outreach Assistant.

Others present during part or all of the meeting:

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

President Zimmer declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Director, Gene Born, gave the invocation and President Zimmer led the pledge.

1 – Public Comment

No public comments were received.

2 – Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was discussed by the Board and consisted of: the review and approval of the Minutes of the regular October 11, 2016 Board Meeting; the review and approval of un-audited District expenditures for October 1, 2016 through October 31, 2016, 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 October 1, 2016 through October 31, 2016, in the amount of \$12,748.81. Daniel Krienke noted that Laura West, Production Monitoring Coordinator, was listed twice under the heading Staff Present during part or all of the meeting. Daniel Krienke moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Mark Howard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Action Agenda 3a - Consider final compliance approval of Water Well Permits.

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 16 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 Num	Class	Sec	Blk	Sur	NS
DA-8991	C	226	1-T	T&NO	254 N
DA-9117	C	73	M E Hays	CRL	743 N
DA-9389	D	50	7	CSS	133 S
DA-9390	C	31	7	CSS	755 S
HN-9061	D	304	2	GH&H	799 N
HU-8361	C	84	5-T	T&NO	792 S
MO-1946	D	261	44	H&TC	241 S
MO-7591	B	115	3-T	T&NO	641 N
MO-8306	B	118	3-T	T&NO	625 N
MO-8895	B	130	3-T	T&NO	199 S
MO-8980	C	2	M-2	NONE	674 N
MO-9321	B	223	3-T	T&NO	140 N
OC-9409	C	1097	43	H&TC	204 S
SH-7682	C	28	3-B	GH&H	37 N
SH-7770	C	448	1-T	T&NO	820 S
SH-9039	B	25	1	PSL	517 S

It was noted that Well Permit MO-8306 was the Well Permit of Director, Justin Crownover.

Daniel Krienke moved to approve Well Permit MO-8306 noting that the Well is properly equipped and otherwise complies with District Rules. Mark Howard seconded the motion and it was approved by the majority vote of the Board with Director, Justin Crownover, abstaining from the vote.

Justin Crownover moved to approve all of the remaining Well Permits on the above schedule noting that the Wells are properly equipped and otherwise comply with District Rules. Daniel Krienke seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Action Agenda 3b - Consider action to approve RESPEC to design and deliver a web-based application that will better connect district stakeholders and staff related to production reporting, site inspections, permitting and compliance matters

Laura West, Production Monitoring Coordinator, presented the following report to the Board:

In May of 2016, District staff prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop a new web-based application that will better connect District stakeholders and staff related to production reporting, site inspections, permitting and compliance matters. Firms were required to submit their proposals by July 8th, 2016. The District advertised the RFP in the *Amarillo Globe News*, as well as on the Texas Association of Groundwater Districts website. The District received a total of eight proposal submissions. All of the proposals were graded based on how well the firm discussed and approached the items listed in

the RFP. After grading all eight of the RFP submissions, District staff were able to choose four firms for further consideration. The four firms that were chosen for further consideration were:

- RESPEC
- INTERA
- Collier Consulting
- Halff.

The District staff then developed a list of questions for each of the above firms to answer. These questions were designed to get a clearer understanding of the firm's product. The questions were emailed to the four firms on September 1, 2016 and were due in the District office no later than September 16, 2016. Based on the answers to these questions, District staff narrowed the list to the final two firms: RESPEC and INTERA. District staff believes that these two firms best understood and addressed the District's need for better data collection and utilization of the system.

District staff interviewed each of the two firms. On October 25, 2016 District staff met with Neil Deeds, Kevin Smith and Wade Oliver of INTERA. This was a face-to-face interview where District staff saw demonstrations of the products INTERA created. A week later on November 1, 2016, District staff met with Russell Persyn and Blaine Hackett of RESPEC. RESPEC showed District staff a mobile application used for field data collection, as well as an administrative interface.

RESPEC also demonstrated an interface that the producers could use for production reporting and irrigation scheduling. District staff showed both firms the current District work flow, including the current database, excel forms and ArcGIS map.

The proposal documentation for the two finalists was presented to the Board.

The General Manager recommended that Board authorize District staff and the District's general counsel to begin the negotiation of a District contract with RESPEC to deliver the web based application that will better connect District stakeholders and staff relating to production reporting, site inspections, permitting and compliance matters not to exceed \$100,000.

Gene Born moved the Board approve the development of a District contract with RESPEC to deliver the web based application that will better connect District stakeholders and staff related to production reporting, site inspections, permitting and compliance matters not to exceed \$100,000. Justin Crownover seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Agenda 3c - Receive report regarding Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Leadership Training.

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

Dale Hallmark, Casey Tice and Kirk Welch attended the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Conservation Districts (TAGD) Leadership Training on October 27, 2016 in Austin. The objective of the TAGD Leadership Training was to provide a one-day overview of the four essential components to GCD management. The training covered GCD management, groundwater science, groundwater case law, and state agencies and legislation. This training was designed for new GCD board members, staff, or managers, as well as anyone interested in learning more about groundwater. The training had 66 in attendance and 22 speakers, including the keynote presentation by Robert Mace of the TWDB.

It was further reported that TAGD, in cooperation with Baylor University, is holding Hydrogeology 101 Workshop on November 17, 2016, in Lubbock. The training will be hosted by Dr. Joe Yelderman and his team of hydrogeologists at Baylor University. This

one day event will provide an in-depth review of hydrogeology fundamentals, and includes lunch and a field trip to local Indian and Proctor Springs. This training is intended for the general manager who wants to brush up on his or her knowledge, district staff, or board members seeking to deepen their understanding of Texas aquifers.

Agenda 3d - Receive report regarding Monitor Well Program.

Odell Ward presented the following report to the Board regarding the District's Monitor Well Program, including, water levels, water quality wells, recent improvements, telemetry and equipment, online information, short and long term goals and how the information is used:

Current Program

435 wells total wells in the program, of which:

- 390 wells measured by hand with either steel tape or e-line;
- 45 wells have telemetry; and,
- 32 wells that are tested for water quality.

Information available online:

Online interactive map link: <http://map.northplainsgcd.org/>

Current Field Survey

Staff is currently visiting all well sites to inspect for proper location, access to bore-hole, and District compliance.

How information is used:

- Annual Depth to Water maps
- Annual Decline maps
- Comparison of declines in monitor wells and calculated declines from production
- Saturated Material maps
- IRS Depletion program
- Hydrology Report Newsletters
- Annual Reports
- Management Plan Requirements
- Online Interactive map

Future plans

- Expansion of well telemetry and drilling of new wells as budget allows
- Expansion of online interactive map with additional wells
- Acquiring abandoned and unused wells to reduce the need for drilling new monitor wells where possible
- Rehabilitating existing wells and adding protective fencing

Agenda 3e - Receive report regarding the District's agriculture conservation programs.

The General Manager and Paul Sigle presented the following report to the Board:

Master Irrigator Program

Due to scheduling conflicts for the Irrigation Scheduling Session, the session was switched with Agronomics. The updated dates are shown below and the updated agendas were presented to the Board.

Updated 2017 Session Dates:

Session 1: Agronomics March 22, 2017

Session 2: Irrigation Scheduling March 29, 2017

Session 3: Systems April 5, 2017

Session 4: Systems & Special Topics April 12, 2017 Deadlines for 2017

- Nov. 29, 2016 – Dec. 1, 2016
- Farm & Ranch Show – promote Master Irrigator with Save the Date Card
- Dec. 12, 2016, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- PAC Meeting
- Dec. 15, 2016 – Need all speakers' information for the brochures to be developed
- Dec. 31, 2016 – Draft brochure ready
- Jan. 15, 2017
 - Mail out brochures
 - Pioneer Production Clinics are in Jan. and the High Plains Irrigation Conference is in Feb. 2017, so take brochures to it
 - PAC Meeting

2017 Speakers:

It was reported that District staff has booked all speakers for the upcoming Master Irrigator Program. The speakers are:

- Dr. Stephen H. Amosson, Regents Professor and Extension Service Economist- Management, Texas A&M AgriLife
- Dr. Jourdan Bell, Assistant Professor and Agronomist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- Mike Caldwell, Natural Resources Manager, USDA-NRCS
- Jeff Childs, Sales Engineer, Yaskawa America Inc.
- Jerry Funck, Owner, Professional Water Management Associates
- Karllyle Haaland, CEO, PivoTrac Monitoring, LLC
- Farris Hightower, Regional Sales Manager, Lindsay Corporation
- Dr. Charles Hillyer, Assistant Professor and Irrigation Engineering Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- John Gibson, Precision Ag Specialist, Crop Quest
- Leon New, Agricultural Engineer
- David Reinart, Co-Owner, Better Harvest, Inc.
- Keith Sides, State Irrigation Engineer, USDA-NRCS
- Dr. David Sloane, Principal Agronomist, AquaSpy
- Fred Vocasek, Senior Laboratory Agronomist, Servi-Tech
- Steve Walthour, General Manager, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District

Master Irrigator Project Advisory Committee:

It was noted that the following individuals comprise the Master Irrigator Project Advisory Committee: Danny Krienke, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District; Leon New, Irrigation Engineer; Steve Amosson, Texas A&M AgriLife; Charles Hillyer, Texas A&M AgriLife; Scott Strawn, Texas A&M AgriLife; Shawn Carter, Crop Production Services; Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board; Keith Sides, USDA-NRCS; David Reinart, Better Harvest; Stan Spain, Spain Farms; Bryce Howard, Farmer.

3-4-5 Demonstration Project:

It was reported that as of November 3rd, all 3-4-5 fields have been harvested. Leon New and Curtis Schwertner will continue to monitor the 3-4-5 fields.

Water Conservation Center:

The following was reported:

Stan Spain started harvesting the cotton on October 19 and was finished the following day. Harvest for the corn started on October 20 and was finished on Saturday, October 22, 2016.

On Wednesday October 19, a large group of executives from corn boards across the United States met at the center for lunch. The executives were in Texas touring local companies and farms. Paul Sigle discussed the activities being conducted at the center with the executives.

Agenda 3f - Report regarding Groundwater Management Area 1 Joint Planning.

Steve Walthour presented the following report to the Board:

On November 2, the Groundwater Management Area 1 Joint Planning Committee met and considered adoption of Desired Future Conditions. The committee heard a summary by Steve Walthour of updated GAM Runs developed by INTERA, Inc. relevant to the aquifers in the GMA 1 Joint Planning Area. Following discussion of the resolution to adopt the Desired Future Conditions for both the Dockum and Ogallala aquifers, the members of the Joint Planning Committee voted 4-0 to adopt Desired Future Conditions for GMA 1.

The Joint Planning Committee then received and discussed the explanatory report and agreed to give the administrator authority to submit the report to the Texas Water Development Board with full agreement of the members barring any substantive changes by December 1, 2016

Agenda 3g - Report on the 2017 Texas Legislative Session and Issues.

The General Manager presented the following report to the Board:

In October, the District received a copy of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs Interim Report to the 85th Texas Legislature. The report regarding groundwater was presented to the Board.

The committee reported that "A large number of stakeholders think that many of the districts across the state are not serving their statutory purpose to protect private property rights and balance conservation and development of groundwater to meet the growing water needs of the state." Instead, they think that districts consider it their mission to do the opposite; namely, to "protect local historic and future use, and prevent development of water resources for any need or use outside the district boundaries." For this reason, these stakeholders often criticize the performance of groundwater conservation districts, especially those created after passage of Senate Bill 1 in 1997, which "was the first legislation to grant real power to permit and regulate groundwater production." Before enactment of that bill, "the primary goal of management of [groundwater] was to insure its development to benefit the economy of the region and the state" and only recently "has the focus shifted to curtailing or preventing increased groundwater production for the protection of local historic users."

Stakeholder criticism of district performance falls into two broad categories:

- Estimates of groundwater available for production; and
- Permitting methodology.

Where groundwater supplies are plentiful in Texas and might be developed for the future needs of the state, these "problems...nearly universally exist."

The committee makes the following recommendations to the 85th Legislature regarding the ownership, production, and transfer of groundwater in the state of Texas:

- The Legislature should continue to monitor the performance of groundwater conservation districts and make any necessary changes to improve their performance.
- The Legislature should continue to monitor judicial application of oil and gas law to groundwater law and, if necessary and appropriate, codify those judicial applications.

Agenda 3h - The Board then considered action regarding compliance matters before the District.

Executive Session - Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code.

At 10:51 a.m., Justin Crownover 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. Daniel Krienke seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Executive Session: At 11:02 a.m., the Board went into Executive Session. At 11:12 a.m., Director, Harold Grall, moved that the Board reconvene into regular session. Justin Crownover seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board reconvened into regular session at 11:12 a.m.

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. Mr. Walthour also reported that the District Christmas Party is scheduled for December 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at 420 8th Street, Dumas, Texas 79029.

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.

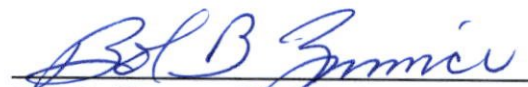
None.


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

By consensus, the Board set the next regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. on December 13, 2016.

Agenda 6 - Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, President Zimmer declared the meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.


Bob B. Zimmer, President


Daniel L. Krienke, Secretary