MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2014
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 15, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Hampton Inn, 2010 South Dumas Avenue, Dumas, Texas 79029. The following persons were present:

Members Present:
Bob Zimmer; President
Danny Krienke, Secretary;
Gene Born, Director;
Justin Crowover, Director;
Mark Howard, Director; and
Zack Yoder, Director.

Staff Present during part or all of the meeting:
Steve Walthour, General Manager;
Dale Hallmark, Assistant General Manager and Hydrologist;
Kristen Lane, Executive Assistant;
Odell Ward, GIS and Natural Resource Tech Lead; and,
Kirk Welch, Assistant General Manager/Outreach.

Others present during part or all of the meeting:
Sabrina Leven;
Ben Weinheimer;
Scott Clawson;
C. C. Sysmobath;
Emmett Autrey;
Keith Przilas;
David Ford;
Leon New;
Walt Lasley;
F. Keith Good, Attorney;
Haley Rader, Attorney; and
Ellen Orr, Paralegal.

President Zimmer declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Director Zack Yoder gave the invocation and President Zimmer led the pledge.

President Zimmer asked if there were persons present who desired to make public comment. Ben Weinheimer, Vice President of Texas Cattle Feeders addressed the Board on behalf of Texas Cattle Feeders regarding adding an option in Rule 12.1.A for an "emergency well". Mr. Weinheimer stated that the primary purpose of this request is to provide for proper animal care and welfare, during times when a primary water supply well unexpectedly ceases to operate or produce water. Mr. Weinheimer proposed that a new subsection 4 (Rule 12.1.A.4) be added to the Rules as follows:

Rule 12.1.A.4: be reclassified with the District as an "emergency well," primarily, for the purpose of ensuring animal welfare, under the following conditions:

a. allow the pump, piping and power supply to remain in place and connected to the water system, and
b. only be operated at times when the replacement well or other primary water supply well ceases to operate or produce water, and
c. require the well operator to notify the District within two business days of producing water from an "emergency well" and again within two business days after re-establishing production from other permitted well(s), and
d. install a water meter on an "emergency well" and report any water produced from the well to the District as part of the annual report.

President Zimmer stated that the Board would take the request presented by Mr. Weinheimer under consideration and closed the public comment at 9:07 a.m.

Mark Howard moved to remove the review and approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on August 12, 2014, the Minutes of the Tax Hearing held on September 2, 2014 and the minutes of the Tax Rate Hearing held on September 8, 2014 from the Consent Agenda. Gene Born seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mark Howard stated that the September 8 Minutes should be revised to reflect that he suggested having a more structured version of 200-12 and getting the data that way.

Keith Good, General Counsel for the District, stated that the September 8, 2014 Minutes should also be corrected to reflect the presence of the District's legal counsel, Keith Good and Haley Rader, and to reflect that President Zimmer announced to the public in the Tax Rate Hearing the date, time and place that the Board would consider the tax increase was September 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in the Hampton Inn Conference Room, 2010 South Dumas Avenue, Dumas, Texas.

Gene Born moved to approve Consent Agenda item 2a, including the review and approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on August 12, 2014, the Minutes of the Tax Hearing held on September 2, 2014 and the minutes of the Tax Rate Hearing held on September 8, 2014 as amended. Zack Yoder seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Zack Yoder moved to approve un-audited District expenditures for August 1, 2014 through August 31, 2014, including the General Manager's Expense and Activity report and to approve payment to Lemon, Shearer, Phillips and Good, P.C. in the amount of $10,690.68 for professional services rendered and out-of-pocket expenses from August 1, 2014 through August 31, 2014. Mark Howard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

The Schedule of Well Permits set forth below was presented to the Board for its review. Mark Howard moved to remove Well Permit HA-7407 and to approve the remaining Well Permits because the Wells are properly equipped and otherwise comply with District Rules. Danny Krienke seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

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Zack Yoder moved to approve Well Permit HA-7407 because the Well is properly equipped and otherwise complies with District Rules. Dannay Krienke seconded the motion, and noted that the Lipscomb County Well permit issued to Mark Howard is a different person than Board of Director, Mark Howard. The motion passed by a majority vote of the Board with Mark Howard abstaining from the vote.

The General Manager presented the following report regarding the District’s Agriculture Conservation Programs and the North Plains Water Conservation Center:

**200-12**

The 2014 200-12 Demonstration Project is in full swing. All ten producers have corn ranging from milk stage to starch stage. AquaSpy® has completed the installation of all soil moisture probes. All probes appear to be fully functional. Better Harvest has collected plant samples and began making fertilizer recommendations.

**EPIC**

The Extension Agents are continuing to monitor their demonstration sites. All of the county agents participated in the irrigation field days during the week of September 8th.

**CIG**

The conservation innovation grant contract ends September 15th and staff is currently working on filing final financial reports.

**Public Outreach**

The 2014 200-12/EPIC Irrigation Field Days were held on the following dates:

**Sep. 8:**  
Stratford County Irrigation Field Day, Sherman County Barn, Stratford.

**Sep. 10:**  
Ochiltree County Irrigation Field Day, Expo Center, Perryton.
During the field days, Danny Krienke, Joe Reinart, and Harold Grall 200-12 demonstration sites were showcased during the Moore, Ochiltree, and Dalhart Counties Field Days. HydroBio ARS, Better Harvest, National Weather Service, and Orthman all had representatives with presentations. USDA NRCS and TWDB had representatives attend the field days.

The General Manager reported that since the last board meeting, the Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group met on August 18th at 1:30 PM in the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission Board Room, 415 W. Eighth Street, Amarillo, Texas. The GMA-1 met August 19, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the same location. Mr. Walthour stated that at the GMA-1 meeting representatives covered three items and the group is still considering in total how to write the GMA. Danny Krienke stated that the group is trying to rank projects for the 2016 water plan and projects are still under consideration. Mr. Krienke stated that SWIFT funding requires all water planning groups to rank projects. Mr. Krienke stated that the first available state money will not become available until March of 2015. Mark Howard inquired if there were any new projects for the water plan for this area? The General Manager responded that he didn’t see any new things. Danny Krienke stated that the City of Cactus was number 1 on Region Seven’s list and that Hansford was also at the top of the list. Mr. Krienke also stated that the City of Perryton was down at the bottom of the list.

The District’s new hire benefit waiting period will be out of compliance upon renewal. Currently, the District requires employee health benefits to start on the first day of the month after 90 days after the date the employee is hired. In order to bring the District into compliance, the Board will need to select one of the available options below and notify TML MultiState IEBP of the new desired waiting period. The letter must be received before October 1, 2014 in order for TML to make the update timely.

The waiting period change will impact all future new hires October 1, 2014, thereafter.

The waiting-period-options are as follows:

Option 1• 90 days after date of hire
Option 2• 60 days after date of hire
Option 3 • 30 days after date of hire
Option 4 • 15 days after 60 days
Option 5 • 15 days after 30 days
Option 6 • 15 days after date of hire
Option 7 • 1 month after date of hire
Option 8 • 2 months after date of hire

The General Manager recommended that the Board adopt Option 4 • 15 days after 60 days after the date the employee is hired for the waiting period for medical benefits.

Danny Krienke moved that the Board adopt Option 4 • 15 days after 60 days after the date the employee is hired for the waiting period for medical benefits. Mark Howard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

The General Manager reported to the Board that house located at 605 1st Place behind the District Offices which the District purchased in March for additional parking at the facility was razed on September 11, 2014.

Gene Born moved to go into Executive Session in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, §551.071 and §551.072, to obtain legal advice from its attorney regarding compliance matters and to deliberate regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property because deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the District in negotiations with a third person. Danny Krienke seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.
Executive Session: At 9:38 a.m., the Board went into Executive Session to seek legal advice from its attorney and to deliberate regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property. At 11:38 a.m., Director Gene Born 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 11:42 a.m.

The District owns approximately 320 acres of land, being all of the South Half of Section 114, Block M-2, Charles Cole Survey, Moore County, Texas since the 1988. The District has leased the property to Texas AgriLife since then. The District entered into the last lease with Texas AgriLife on September 1, 2009 and expired in August 31, 2014. Since the District did not renew the lease and Texas AgriLife has placed various improvements on the property, the parties are negotiating a final settlement. The general manager has received a draft settlement agreement.

Earlier this year the District renamed the property the Water Conservation Center. Currently, the property is undergoing needed cleanup and repairs to the facility.

Danny Krienke moved that the General Manager finalize negotiations on the settlement agreement on the research farm with Texas AgriLife. Justin Crownover seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Gene Born moved to sell the Water Conservation Center. Danny Krienke seconded the motion for purposes of discussion.

Mr. Krienke stated that the Ag Committee had spent a considerable amount of time to maximize a paid asset and to do something to promote conservation. Mr. Krienke also said that through the 200-12 program, the District had a good buy-in. Mr. Krienke also stated that in the next round, there should be a component where the District takes over and manages a pivot and Aqua-Spy. Net dollars to acre-inch is a goal out there. There is data from the 200-12 program that indicates when a crop is over-watered nitrogen is also washed out of the soil. If demonstrations were done at the Water Conservation Center, the District takes the risks on the farm. Mr. Krienke stated that he believes the best option is for the District to operate the farm and to take it to the next level.

Justin Crownover stated that he thought leasing out the farm was a good deal because selling it is final.

Mr. Krienke stated that leasing the farm with a conservation component might be alright.

Justin Crownover stated that leasing the farm to seed companies to research what people can do on less water and getting that information to the public would be a good thing. Mr. Crownover stated that seed companies have people hired to get information out to the public and he thought they could help.

Mr. Krienke asked how do you gather information if you don’t go to field days?

Mr. Crownover stated that the lessor would need to share information with the District.

Mr. Crownover was asked under those conditions, what would you pay to lease the farm for a two-year period? To which Mr. Crownover responded, $100 per acre.

Mark Howard stated that selling the farm is final and that we don’t know the future. We should always be in a mode of conservation. Mr. Howard stated that he is in favor of leasing the farm with the right public/private component in place. Mr. Howard also said that if the District sold the facility and then later changed its mind and decided to
perform research and tried to purchase a piece of property, that the cost would be prohibitive. Mr. Howard stated that he is in favor of keeping the farm and getting RFPs for the right lease of the property.

Zack Yoder stated that he thought leasing the facility with a conservation component was a great idea. Mr. Yoder does not believe the District can be as effective managing the facility as a third party can be. Mr. Yoder stated that it seems like the public support is for the District to sell the facility. Mr. Yoder said that we need to communicate to the public what we are going to do to get value out of the facility.

Justin Crownover stated that leasing to companies is attractive to them because they do not want to buy land.

Bob Zimmer stated that he heard from many people in the tax hearings that they were not in favor of raising taxes for the District to operate the Conservation Center. Mr. Zimmer stated he was opposed to selling the farm.

President Zimmer called for a roll call vote as follows:

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<tr>
<td>Gene Born:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny Krienke:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Mark Howard:</td>
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<td>Justin Crownover:</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Bob Zimmer:</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Zack Yoder:</td>
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The motion failed by the majority vote of the Board.

The General Manager stated that you can do Requests for Proposal (RFP) all different ways and that you can draft them to not just look at price but to see what the District is going to get out of it. The District can set the qualifications for a lessee, the financial stability for a lessee, any crop rotations desired, and determine whether the project will be overseen by the Ag Committee or members of the Board of Directors.

Justin Crownover stated that he does not think that the District should lease the property to farmers because farmers are profit driven. Mr. Crownover believes the property should be leased to industries.

Mark Howard asked if individual farmers could submit a response to an RFP. Steve Walthour responded, yes.

Danny Krienke moved that District staff work with Leon New and Harold Grall to get pivots up and plant wheat to cover the bare farm ground at the Water Conservation Center and to give immediate attention to the needs of the farm, including the watering of the wheat. Justin Crownover seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mark Howard moved that Harold Grall coordinate with District staff and to coordinate with all members of the Board of Directors to formulate specifications of RFPs to lease the Water Conservation Center. Zack Yoder seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

On August 12, 2014, the Board proposed the 2014 tax rate of 0.027349 per $100 of taxable value and ordered a hearing to take public comment before considering the new tax rate. The Board scheduled two hearings for public comment regarding the tax rate increase on September 2, 2014 and September 8, 2014 at which a quorum of the Board attended. The hearings were scheduled and held in accordance with Truth in Taxation
The average taxable value of a residence homestead in North Plains Groundwater Conservation District last year was $72,635. Based on last year's tax rate of $0.025652 per $100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was $18.63.

Last year's debt taxes $2,053,022
Last year's operating taxes $2,053,022
Last year's total taxes $8,003,362,078

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in North Plains Groundwater Conservation District this year is $74,406. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of $0.025324 per $100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be $18.66.

The first public hearing will be held on September 2, 2014 at 9:00 AM in The Hampton Inn mtg. room, 2010 S. Dumas Ave., Dumas, TX 79029. The second public hearing will be held on September 8, 2014 at 6:00 PM in The Hampton Inn mtg. room, 2010 S. Dumas Ave., Dumas, TX 79029.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

For: Bob Zimmer, Gene Bow, Justin Crowner, Zachary Yoder, and Daniel L. Kriener
Against: Harold Grall, and Mark Howard
Present and not voting: None
Absent: None

The North Plains Groundwater Conservation District will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll is the preceding tax year by 7.996367 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax rate calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value or your property in relation to the change in taxable value of other properties and the tax rate that is adopted.

Funds generated are calculated by multiplying the total taxable value of properties within the district and the tax rate set by the district. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per $100 of property value.

2014 Property Tax Rates for North Plains Groundwater Conservation District

This notice concerns 2014 property tax rates for North Plains Groundwater Conservation District. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per $100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:
- Last year's operating taxes $ 2,053,022
- Last year's debt taxes $ 0
- Last year's total taxes $ 2,053,022
- Last year's tax base $ 8,003,362,078
- Last year's total tax rate 0.025652/$100

This year's effective tax rate:
- Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) $ 2,053,175
- This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) $ 8,107,599,634
- This year's effective tax rate 0.025324/$100
(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)

This year's rollback tax rate:
- Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures) $ 2,053,175
- This year's adjusted tax base $ 8,107,599,634
- This year's effective operating rate 0.025324/$100

Guidance Document provided by the State Comptroller. The following notice was posted as required by law and as follows:
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s Schedule Statement:

- $100 (not encumbered by a calculation at $100 per $100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2013 taxes by $37,893).

### Schedule A - Uncumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit’s property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

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This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback rates’ calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 603 1st Street, Dumas TX 79029.

Name of person preparing this notice: Steven D. Walthour, P.G.

Title: General Manager

Date prepared: August 7, 2014

### Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

North Plains Groundwater Conservation District (“DISTRICT”) conducted public hearings on September 2, 2014 and September 8, 2014 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the DISTRICT from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 7.996367 percent.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised last year at last year’s tax rate of .025652 for each $100 of taxable value was $2,033,022.00.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of .027349 for each $100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is $2,217,347.00.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of .027349 for each $100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is $2,261,102.00.

This year’s effective tax rate is .025324 for each $100 of taxable value will generate the same approximate taxes as last year’s rate.

The board’s proposed motion is shown below. The board may set a rate up to the rollback rate.

Justin Crownover moved to adopt the effective tax rate for 2014 of .025324 for each $100 of taxable value. Zack Yoder seconded the motion. The motion passed by the majority vote of the Board with Danny Krienke opposing the motion.

The Board recessed at 12:51 for lunch and reconvened at 1:17 p.m.

As the District ends its fiscal year, the General Manager has reviewed the District 2013-2014 Budget. To cover costs in the Administrative and Conservation Demo Project categories, the General Manager requests that the board amend the 2013-2014 budget as follows:

- **Director’s Expense** from $110,660.00 to $115,660.00 ($5,000.00 increase);
- **Administrative Expense** from $122,000 to $125,000 ($3,000.00 increase);
- **Professional Fees** from $240,000.00 to $220,000 ($20,000.00 decrease);
- **Tech., Comm., & Utilities** from $125,000.00 to $130,000.00 ($5,000.00 increase);
- **Vehicle; building and field supplies** from $155,000.00 to $115,000 ($40,000 decrease);
- **Capital Outlay** from $230,000.00 to $292,000 ($62,000.00 increase); and
- **Aquifer Science** from $380,000.00 to $365,000.00 ($15,000 decrease);

These amendments allow movement of funds without increasing the District’s overall budget.

Danny Krienke moved that the Board amend the 2013-2014 budget as follows:

- **Director’s Expense** from $110,660.00 to $115,660.00 ($5,000.00 increase);
- **Administrative Expense** from $122,000 to $125,000 ($3,000.00 increase);
- **Professional Fees** from $240,000.00 to $220,000 ($20,000.00 decrease);
- **Tech., Comm., & Utilities** from $125,000.00 to $130,000.00 ($5,000.00 increase);
• Vehicle; building and field supplies from $155,000.00 to $115,000 ($40,000 decrease)
• Capital Outlay from $230,000.00 to $292,000 ($62,000.00 increase); and
• Aquifer Science from $380,000.00 to $365,000.00 ($15,000 decrease);

Zack Yoder seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

At the end of each fiscal year, the Board requires that the District’s Auditor perform a financial audit of the District’s operations. As a result of the audit and in consultation with the Auditor the District may be compelled to amend its books pursuant to fiscal policy, state and/or local law. The General Manager requested that the Board direct the General Manager to amend the 2013-2014 Budget, if necessary, based on consultation with the Auditor and report any changes to the Board for review.

Zack Yoder moved that the Board direct the General Manager to amend the 2013-2014 Budget, if necessary, based on consultation with the Auditor and report any changes to the Board for review. Mark Howard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

A general Rule discussion ensued in which the General Manager presented Ben Weinheimer's proposal to the Board and Gene Born presented a proposal for protection of stream flows and water quality.

Steve Walthour presented the General Manager’s Report, including information concerning upcoming meetings and conferences and the General Manager’s activity summary.

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

President Zimmer set the next regular Board Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on October 14, 2014.

Zack Yoder moved to adjourn the meeting. Justin Crownover seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board. President Zimmer declared the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Bob B. Zimmer, President

Daniel L. Krienko, Secretary
CERTIFIED AGENDA OF
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' EXECUTIVE SESSION

Under penalty of perjury, the undersigned presiding officer certifies the following facts are true and correct and the following topics, and none other, were deliberated, discussed or reviewed in an Executive Session of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Directors which was convened on September 15, 2014:

Persons Present:

Bob Zimmer, President
Danny Krienke, Secretary
Gene Born, Director
Justin Crownover, Director
Zack Yoder, Director
Mark Howard, Director
Steve Walthour, General Manager
Dale Hallmark, Assistant General Manager
F. Keith Good, Attorney for the District
Haley Rader, Attorney for the District
Ellen Orr, Paralegal

Beginning Time: 9:38 a.m.

Ending Time: 11:28 a.m.

Topics Deliberated and Applicable Exception to the Texas Open Meetings Act:

Deliberation by the Board regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property because deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the District in negotiations with a third person.

Exempt from the Open Meetings Act pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072.

Bob B Zimmer, Presiding Officer