

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2020
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 November 10, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the offices of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, 603 East First Street, Dumas, Texas 79029. Due to the restrictions of COVID-19, the meeting was held through Zoom Meeting in Dumas, Texas. The following persons participated in the Meeting:

Members Present at 9:07 a.m.:

Daniel L. Krienke, President;
Mark Howard, Secretary;
Gene Born, Director;
Harold Grall, Director; and
Zac Yoder, Director.

Staff present during part or all of the meeting:

Steve Walthour, General Manager;
Kirk Welch, Assistant General Manager — Outreach;
Kristen Blackwell, Finance & Administration Manager;
Odell Ward, Field Supervisor;
Paige Glazner, Conservation Outreach Assistant;
Dusty Holt, Permitting Specialist;
Dale Hallmark, Hydrologist; and,
Curtis Schwertner, Natural Resource Specialist.

Others present during part or all of the meeting:

Nich Kenny;
Cheri DeJong;
Tom Forbes, Esq.
F. Keith Good, General Counsel for the District;
Ellen Orr, Paralegal; and
Kelsie Orr.

President Krienke declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. President Krienke gave the invocation and 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 Board of Directors Meeting held on October 13, 2020; the review and approval of un-audited District expenditures for October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020, including the General Manager's expense and activity report; the review and approval of payment to Lemon, Shearer, Phillips & Good, P.C. for professional services and out-of-pocket expenses incurred from October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020, in the amount of \$9,087.53; and the consideration of approval of the Sherman County Appraisal District's 2020 ad valorem tax calculation for North Plains Groundwater Conservation District based on the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District's 2020 ad valorem tax rate and on the Appraisal District's 2020 tax roll for the District.

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

Action Agenda 3.a. - 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.

The General Manager reported that the District staff had processed 15 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	Permit Status	Well Class	Quarter	Section	Block	Survey	Yards N S	Yards EW
DA-11024	Board	B	SE/4	44	8	CSS	750 N	356 E
HA-11091	Board	C	SE/4	Joseph Beaty			1790 S	107 E
HA-11092	Board	C	NE/4	Joseph Beaty			571 N	843 E
HA-11129	Board	C	NW/4	4	A-4	PSL	622 N	194 W
HA-11372	Board	C	NW/4	6	14	CSS	61 N	752 W
HA-11434	Board	D	SE/4	6	14	CSS	58 S	285 E
HA-11435	Board	D	SE/4	6	14	CSS	532 S	456 E
HA-11437	Board	D	SW/4	14	14	CSS	865 S	394 W
HA-11438	Board	D	SW/4	14	14	CSS	308 S	432 W
HN-11221	Board	D	SE/4	2	2	SA&MG	26 S	855 E
HN-11315	Board	D	NE/4	133	2	GH&H	734 N	797 E
HU-11214	Board	D	SE/4	NONE	NONE	J J HALL	386 S	695 E
MO-10534	Board	C	NE/4	177	44	H&TC	520 N	853 E
SH-11105	Board	C	NW/4	232	1-T	T&NO	571 N	755 W
SH-11397	Board	C	SW/4	4	2-T	T&NO	885 S	134 W

Mark Howard 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. Zac Yoder seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board.

Action Agenda 3.b. - Receive report regarding the District's agriculture conservation programs and other water conservation education initiatives.

Nich Kenny presented the following report to the Board:

Mr. Kenny stated that the District is compiling the harvest data from corn. A couple of preliminary things; the highest yielding hybrid was Pioneer 1108Q in the pivot. It exceeded 250 bushels per acre and irrigation on that field was just under 22". On our comparison of pivot versus drip, so far it is looking like the drip has out-yielded the pivot by about 5 bushels across the DynaGro 58VC37 hybrid. The story there and what is going to be interesting as all of the data shuffles in, is that we have done it on approximately 5 less inches of applied irrigation. So, the drip yielded a little higher than the pivot and used quite a bit less irrigation water. Interesting findings this year, of course, is a higher rainfall Summer. Our water use efficiency numbers are not quite

as high as they have been previously. There is some deciphering yet to figure out with a wet July and a hot August and September, so I'm not ready to give much more information on what our data is telling us at this point, except that we are compiling it and those are some of the numbers. Starting yesterday, we began harvesting the cotton at the Center. We started on the East pivot. We are just about finished with all of the field run harvesting. We haven't gotten into our plots yet. We have the outside 24 rows yet to do probably the middle of the day today and then we will be into our population plots in the East pivot for today and tomorrow and then the RACE plots in the North SDI we will take tomorrow and Thursday with Jourdan's crew here to help and participate. The process for harvesting cotton is new this year. Stan was able to acquire over the off-season, a stripper-baler and so we are taking all of this cotton into round modules. We are able to isolate and then weigh each individual plot and then take samples from that we will send to the lab to be ginned and then everything that is harvested will be ginned together at the Moore County Gin. So far, it looks like we are probably in the 2½, or a little bit better than 2½ bales per-acre range in terms of our cotton yields. It is going to be very interesting to see Jourdan's results on her RACE plots. There are some that surely look like they are much better in terms of response than others. For reference, and we will obviously have more data as we work through this, we have about 8" of irrigation on the drip, as well as 8" of irrigation on the pivot. I think we are probably right in line with where I want to be time wise processing data. We will have data from the Center for all of our Winter meetings.

Daniel Krienke asked Mr. Kenny how much rainfall the Center received during the growing season. Mr. Kenny responded that the rain gauges across the Center ranged from 13½" to 15½" of rainfall during the growing season – it is substantial and the timing of it – we couldn't have ordered more excellent rainfalls than during July. We would have liked to have ordered some, maybe during August, but we had much beneficial rainfall this year.

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

The Pioneer Crop Production Meeting dates that we are again sponsoring in calendar year 2021, and which the District has sponsored in the past. Those dates are January 11, 2021 in Dalhart; January 12, 2021 in Dumas; January 13, 2021 in Stratford; and January 14, 2021 in Spearman. The District will have information from the demonstrations at the Center to share during these meetings, as well as talking about the Master Irrigator Program.

Master Irrigator 2021

After the 2020 Master Irrigator Program was cancelled due to the pandemic, many of the registrants for the 2020 program elected to keep their places reserved for the next time Master Irrigator would be offered. Outreach staff are currently contacting registrants from the 2020 Class to determine if they plan to attend the 2021 Master Irrigator Program. Registration for the remaining available seats in the 2021 Class will be offered beginning Monday, November 30. Dates for the 2021 Master Irrigator Program are March 24 & 31 and April 7 & 14.

Virtual Field Day

The District will produce a virtual field day in the next few weeks while District contract ag engineer Nich Kenny and other collaborators will be on-site participating in cotton harvest. The virtual field days were started last year, prior to the pandemic, to try to make the information more accessible to all District growers, as well as those outside the geographic area. Since the onset of COVID-19 the idea has even more merit and practical application. A live field day is still under consideration.