

Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District
Minutes of Hearing & Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 21, 2023
J.W. "Red" Pattillo Community Center
100 TX-118, Study Butte, TX

Regular Meeting

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Johnson at 10:00 a.m.
2. Determination of Quorum:
In attendance were Joan Johnson, Tim Leary, Ambrosio Valles, Kevin Urbanczyk, Colton Foster, Rush Warren, Tom Mangrem and Robbyn Hill, General Manager. Chair Johnson verified quorum.
3. Proof of Notice of Meeting
Proof of Notice of the meeting was posted appropriately and timely on the Brewster County Groundwater District website and with the Brewster County Clerk's Office. The Agenda was also provided to the District Interested Party Email List and to all directors via email.
4. Public Comment
Public attendees were Bill Gilles, President of Study Butte Water Supply Corp, Luke Hendryx with Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Brewster and Jeff Davis Counties and Sydney Bauer, in person and Sam Ballard, representing Dr. Stephen Daugherty, via Go to Meeting.
Bill Gilles spoke regarding Study Butte Water Supply Corp's efforts to obtain a groundwater study of their service area. It was pointed out by Chairman Johnson that the two Study Butte Water Corp wells need to be permitted in the near future.
5. Discuss/Act on: Approval of Minutes
 - A. The minutes of the Thursday, August 17, 2023, meeting were distributed to the directors at the meeting as well as being provided via email to Directors.
Director Urbanczyk moved to approve minutes as presented, 2nd by Director Leary. All in favor, motion passed.
6. Discuss/Act on: Well Applications and Approvals, Drilling reports, State Data
 - A. GM Hill reported the following activity:
 - Application for well deepening from Deborah Roberts, Pinon Rd, 9 acres. State Well Report rec'd, well deepened 9.11.23, 20GPM;
 - Administratively approved Exempt Applications from T&R Land Co., Hovey Rd., 25,000 acres;
 - Bill Gilles, 53760 Hwy 118, Terlingua, 12 acres.
 - Received drilling application from Willow Creek Camping Co., Terlingua Ranch, for well to serve 6 RV Spots. Arrowhead Drilling was provided with the paperwork to pass on for Production Permit.
 - B. State Well reports received for the following:

- East Rim Ranch, Hwy 118 South, Peter Malin, 5,800 acres, Dry Hole-Arrowhead Drilling;
 - Sean and Yolanda Coulthard, 113 High Lonesome, Sierra La Rana, 28 acres, Dry Hole-Arrowhead Drilling;
 - Mark Chiles, 22 acres, Terlingua Ranch, 3 GPM-Arrowhead Drilling;
 - Richard Dickerson, 104 acres, Marathon, 10 GPM-Spring Branch Water Well Drilling
7. Discuss application for Production Permit for Brad Obbink, Lechuguilla Ln, Alpine, TX
Application received on 9.13.23 and was deemed administratively complete. Hearing will be on October 19, 2023. Cutoff for Contest of the permit is October 5, 2023. The Notice of Hearing will be published in the Alpine Avalanche and Mr. Obbink will be notifying his neighbors of the hearing via US Mail. Copies of the application submitted will be provided to all directors via Email.
 8. Update on Eno-Scientific well monitoring equipment
Sydney Bauer, BCGWCD Intern, reported her findings regarding cost and details for what is needed to complete set up Eno-Scientific Monitoring equipment, including possible additions to enhance the equipment. Jason Bean will be in Alpine on October 4, 2023, for installation training for the Eno-Scientific Monitors which will now utilize the Signal Fire Ranger Communication Interface rather than WildEye. If possible one monitor will be installed.
 9. Luke Hendryx Report on water testing and Water Ambassador Program with 4-H Students
Luke spoke about the water testing educational event sponsored by Texas AgriLife which will take place October 11 – 13. He requested assistance in getting the test kits distributed to Brewster County Citizens. Texas AgriLife will be coordinating publicity. The results of the testing will be provided on October 13 at the Big Bend Telephone Community room. Luke also provided information about the 4-H Water Ambassador Program for High School Students. Currently there are two Brewster County students accepted into the program. AgriLife is also sponsoring a landowner symposium in the spring and information will be provided soon.
 10. Discuss Rule Changes
The most recent Texas Legislative session requires multiple rule changes for Groundwater Districts. Some are effective September 1 and others effective January 1, 2024. As discussed in previous meetings, BCGCD has identified other needed rule changes. A Rules Review Subcommittee was created to include Directors Urbanczyk and Leary and Chairman Johnson to review needed Rules Changes. The Goal is to have a draft of changes at the October Regular meeting. Efforts will be made to have the Suggested Rules Change Hearing at the November 16, 2023 meeting, with published notice in paper required by October 27, 2023. Additional bound copies of existing Rules will be ordered from Printco and distributed to directors needing a copy.

11. Discuss Website Update

Adeline Fox has brought the current website up to date and in compliance with new state laws. She will be revising the District Website to make it more user-friendly utilizing State of the Art technology. The Website goals include all current information, Events, Agendas, Minutes, Permits and Computer Completable Forms at a minimum, with District personnel to update the website in real time without hiring a third party. The current Website was created in the early 2000's after District Waterboard was established with minor amendments in 2017-2018.

12. Discuss/Act on Reports:

- A. Chairman Johnson – Reported on Groundwater Summit, passing around Program. Comments were made concerning the need to get Water Corps' wells registered in the most efficient way as soon as possible. Director Warren offered to assist with discussions with the Water Corps in South Brewster county.
- B. General Manager – Reported on the TAGD Groundwater Summit, Also confirmed the need for amended rules and updated website.

13. Discuss/Act on: Payment of Bills, Budget Line items, and Bank Reconciliations. –

Financial documents were circulated at the meeting among the Directors. A Motion made by Director Valles to approve with 2nd made by Director Foster. Motion passed.

14. CLOSED SESSION was called by Chairman Johnson at 11:56 am for the purpose of discussing consultation with District Attorney – Attorney/Client Privileged Consultation. Closed Session ended at 12:11 pm.

15. No Board recommendations required by Closed Session Discussions.

16. Discuss/Act on: Next Meeting,

October 19, 2023, 8 a.m., Val Beard Building in Alpine. Hearing on GPP-009 Application, Brad Obbink, will be held prior to regularly scheduled District Meeting.

17. Adjournment: 12:12 p.m.

Submitted by Robbyn Hill, General Manager

Joan Johnson, Chairman

Tim Leary, Vice Chairman

Secretary, Colton Foster

Member, Tom Mangrem

Member, Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk

Member, Ambrosio Valles

Member, Rush Warren