

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF
TRINITY BAY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
9:00 O'clock A.M.

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CHAMBERS

The Board of Directors of Trinity Bay Conservation District met at the offices of the District in Stowell, Texas on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 with the following Directors present:

Scott Kahla	President
Mark Mitchell	Vice-President
Tommy Gilbert	Secretary
Gregg Turner	Director

Also present were Sheri Jenkins, Danny Pringle, Mike Will, James Gibson, Barbara Sigut, David Hoyt, Thomas Bell (via zoom), Hubert Oxford of Benckenstein & Oxford, Wade Thibodeaux of The Hometown Press, Richie Devillier, Donnie Self, Dawn Pilcher of LJA Engineering, Sharisa Nelson and Gloria Roemer of The Seabreeze Beacon, Mike McBride, Sue Hawthorne of The Progress, Rick Nicely and Bobby Way.

Director Jenkins was absent.

Agenda Item 1:

President Kahla called the Regular Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Agenda Item 2:

The meeting was opened with a prayer by James Gibson.

James Gibson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

Agenda Item 3:

Under Public Comment the following spoke:

Wade Thibodeaux- commented on the Public Comment Policy to be discussed on the agenda.

Richie Devillier- spoke about grants the district might have missed and asked the board to please try not to miss out on any grant opportunities.

Sue Hawthorne-made comments about agenda item to fire district attorney and complimented the work Mr. Oxford had done for the district and asked the board to consider this item carefully.

Donnie Self-commented about the Public Comment policy and the agenda item to fire the attorney. Mr. Self commended the work done by Mr. Oxford. Mr. Self commented about multiple items of concern in the district. Mr. Self stated that he hope the new board members would continue to work for the benefit of the people. He stated he saw the benefits of keeping Mr. Oxford as board attorney. Mr. Self stated the agreed with Mayes Middleton that the district should be separated into a drainage district and a municipal district.

Agenda Item 4:

Director Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 4, 2021. The motion was seconded by Director Gilbert and passed by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 5:

Sheri Jenkins presented the Financial Reports for December 2020. Mr. Oxford commented on the changes being made to spending and that there has been a decrease in loss on the utilities side and discussed his legal fees and billing. After discussion, Director Gilbert made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. Director Mitchell seconded the motion and passed by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6:

General Manager James Gibson gave his report addressing the following items: Spring Branch easements, Brown Foundation completion of work, moving equipment to Spindletop (David Hoyt add to this with discussion about moving equipment to Spindletop), status of equipment and possibly looking at replacing some of the equipment, pipe bursting project, TCEQ/PUC rate study. Mr. Gibson gave an update on new methods he and the supervisors are working on to make work more efficient. Discussed the new purchasing program with Amos Roy as purchasing agent. Mr. Gibson discussed the constant controversy and the need for better communication and professional teamwork.

Director Mitchell commented on the spray program and the use of aerial spraying and any possible conflict of interest. Mr. Oxford added to the discussion about conflict of interest. Mr. Self commented on the work on Buccaneer and Campbell and the need for better flagging and safety concerns.

Agenda Item 7:

Discussion was held about the Public Comment Policy given to the board for review and possible adoption. Mr. Oxford commented on a possible change the board might want to consider to allow for public comment during agenda items. After discussion Director Gilbert moved to adopt the policy with the addition of allowing one minute after agenda items for public comment or questions. Director Mitchell seconded and the item passed with a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 8:

Dawn Pilcher with LJA Engineering gave a presentation on the Spindletop Study and grant issues. Extensive discussion occurred on various drainage issues throughout the district. No action was taken on this item, this was a discussion only item.

Agenda Item 9:

Mr. Oxford spoke to the Board about this item explaining his billing, items he completed without cost, issues he discovered during his time as legal counsel, etc. After discussion Director Turner moved to terminate the contract between Benckenstein & Oxford, LLP. Director Mitchell seconded and the motion. Directors Turner, Kahla and Mitchell voted for the motion and Director Gilbert abstained. The motion carried. Gloria Roemer asked Director Kahla for a comment on his reason to vote. He advised he would be happy to speak with her at a later time and provide his comment.

Agenda Item 10:

Director Gilbert moved to go out for RFPs for Attorneys. Director Turner seconded and the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11:

Danny Pringle presented the drainage report.

Agenda Item 12:

Water & Sewer Utility Report was presented by Mike Will and David Hoyt.

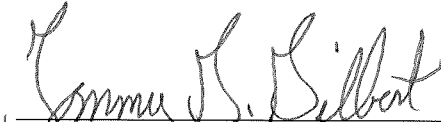
Agenda Item 13:

Gloria Roemer of The Seabreeze Beacon and Sue Hawthorne of The Progress asked questions of the Board during the Media Opportunity. Questions pertained to Agenda Item 9. Gloria Roemer

also asked about the budget shortfall. Director Turner asked about a picture from Gloria Roemer and discussion with Sharisa Nelson occurred in regards to this picture.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 11:27 A.M. on a motion by Director Turner and seconded by Director Gilbert. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

READ AND APPROVED:



Tommy G. Gilbert
Secretary



Scott Kahla
President