

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF
TRINITY BAY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Wednesday, February 24, 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, February 24, 2021 with the following Directors present:

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

Also present were Sheri Jenkins, Danny Pringle, Mike Will, James Gibson, Barbara Sigut, David Hoyt, Thomas Bell, Wade Thibodeaux of The Hometown Press, Richie Devillier, Donnie Self, Sharisa Nelson and Gloria Roemer of The Seabreeze Beacon, Mike McBride, Sue Hawthorne of The Progress, Bobby Way, Hazel Meaux, Jeremy Triska of Wathen, DeShong & Juncker, Kate Leverett of Germer PLLC, Terry Brown of T. Ross Brown and Cheryl Lieck, District Attorney.

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:

Hazel Meaux- spoke about the termination of Hubert Oxford as board attorney. She commented on the good work done by Mr. Oxford and asked the board to reconsider him as attorney for the board.

Donnie Self- asked to save his comments for Item 9.

The order of the Agenda was amended to address Item 9 at this point by President Kahla.

Donnie Self-commented about Item number 9 on the agenda. He gave examples of the work completed by Mr. Oxford for the Hospital Board and commented on the Germer firms previous work for the District. He commented on multiple issues discovered in the former general manager's emails. And gave his opinion on several issues facing the board.

Agenda Item 9: Only one proposal was received by the district for Legal Counsel. Kate Leverette spoke on her own behalf. She said the firm would be happy to rectify the previous time entry error if the board desired. She spoke about the nepotism issue and gave an overview of Germer's history with government entities.

There was discussion and Director Gilbert made the motion to hire Kate Leverette and Guy Goodson with Germer. Director Turner seconded. The vote was 4 in favor and Director Jenkins voted no. Motion passed. Gloria Roemer, of the Seabreeze Beacon, asked for clarification on the role of the new attorney.

It was explained the new attorney will only be responsible for legal representation. President Kahla explained that accounting work and managerial work will be done by those that are paid to do that work. Discussion proceeded on bond fees as well.

Agenda Item 4:

Director Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 27, 2021. The motion was seconded by Director Gilbert and passed by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 5:

Sheri Jenkins presented the Financial Reports for January 2021. After discussion, Director Turner made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. Director Mitchell seconded the motion and passed by a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6:

A-General Manager James Gibson commended the employees of TBCD for all the hard work they did during Winter Storm Uri. He addressed the issues we had throughout the district during the storm.

B-Mike Will reported on the work and issues faced during the winter storm. Multiple big valves froze at both plants however neither plant ever stopped sending water out. He stated that we did patch things up, but we will have big repairs in the future. He is compiling a list of expected repairs. The boil water confusion was addressed as well. David Hoyt stated the water was never cut off, but the supply could not reach customers because of line breaks throughout the system.

C-Danny Pringle gave an update on the locations of equipment on the drainage side. Thomas Bell spoke about the near completion of the Brown Foundation repairs. Discussion was had about some ditches that have been requested for cleaning. Mike McBride gave some information on a ditch the Stowell residents are requesting cleaning on.

Agenda Item 7:

Jeremy Triska with Wathen, DeShong and Juncker presented the board with the annual audit report. He stated that the audit was clean and exactly what you hope for in an audit. He discussed several areas of the report and stated that the report reflects exactly what you want to see in a government audit. Director Gilbert made the motion to accept the audit report. Director Turner seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 8:

Terry Brown with T. Ross Brown gave a brief overview of the benefits package given to TBCD employees and discussed the proposed early retirement insurance. Rule of 75 or 80 would be ideal and the board only needs to vote in favor of doing this and it can be implemented with TAC. District Attorney Lieck, spoke about TAC and that it saves taxpayers money because of lobbying on behalf of government employees. James will speak to eligible employees to see what the interest would be. This was a discussion item only, no action was taken.

Agenda Item 10:

James Gibson reported that time clock is being used but the winter storm disrupted the use. Barbara Sigut gave information on clock usage and that mobile downloads will be available to everyone within the week. Director Turner asked if employees were being compensated for using phones to clock in and out and Mr. Gibson explained that yes these phones are compensated or provided by the district.

Agenda Item 11:

Mr. Gibson reported that employees are driving their trucks home again and that GPS is installed in the trucks. He explained that any abuse and the truck use will go away. Director Jenkins asked about the fuel savings when the trucks were parked. Director Turner stated that he understands abuse cannot be tolerated but that the trucks are kind of like a reward for being a good employee, that you don't have to bring your own personal truck to sign in. Mr. Gibson said that he understands the employees might have worked somewhere else for more money but part of the deal working here was getting a truck to use.

Agenda Item 12:

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Agenda Item 12:

Had no further Drainage issues to discuss.

Agenda Item 13:

Had no further Utilities issues to discuss.

Agenda Item 14:

Mr. Gibson stated that the fee update would only effect new customers and not the monthly bills of current customers. This updated fee schedule would help to cover cost of the installation of new taps. Mike Will discussed the fees with Director Jenkins. Director Gilbert made the motion to adopt the updated fee schedule and Director Mitchell seconded. The motion carried with a unanimous vote, effective immediately.

Agenda Item 15:

Mr. Gibson stated that he would like to pass on this item as it is not ready for action.

President Kahla had to leave the meeting to attend a funeral and Vice-President Mitchell took over the meeting at this time.

Agenda Item 16:


Mr. Gibson discussed legislation that will affect the districts operations. This legislation would split the district and has been proposed by Representative Middleton, this has not been filed as of the date of the meeting. Discussion followed, non-action item.

Agenda Item 17:

Discussion was held about the need to possibly borrow money to cover repairs to plants, etc from the General Fund due to Winter Storm Uri. Director Jenkins stated concerns of being able to pay the funds back within the year set by the resolution. Director Jenkins moved to start the process to borrow money from General Fund for plant repairs. Director Gilbert seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous vote.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 10:53 A.M. on a motion by Director Turner and seconded by Director Gilbert. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

READ AND APPROVED:



Scott Kahla
President