

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
OF  
TRINITY BAY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022  
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, November 16, 2022, with the following Directors present:

Gregg Turner	Vice-President
Lester Hankamer, Jr.	Secretary
Richard Nicely	Director
Victor Caraway	Director

Also present were Jerry Shadden, Crystal Threadgill, David Hoyt, Mike Will, Diane Newsome and Amos Roy, District Employees; Kate Leverett of Germer, District Counsel, Gloria Roemer and Sharisa Nelson of the Seabreeze Beacon, Wade Thibodeaux of the Hometown Press and Derk Harmsen, Sr, Richie Devillier, Shawn Figari of Germer Gertz and John Mulryan, Chambers County Constable.

**Agenda Item 1:**

Vice-President Turner called the Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Agenda Item 2:**

The meeting was opened with a prayer by General Manager Shadden.

Vice-President Turner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

General Manager Shadden presented Jacoby Carrington with a Certificate of Achievement for passing his Commercial Pesticide Applicators License course.

**Agenda Item 3:**

Public Hearing by Telephone on Hazard Mitigation Plan

Presentation put on by Kristen Thatcher of Jeffrey S. Ward and Associates.

**Agenda Item 4:**

Public Comment:

Wade Thibodeaux of the Hometown Press- I noticed agenda item #19 is your 2023 Annual Meeting Schedule. We have a couple of relatively new Board Members and I think Les was here last year when I gave this speech, but, I just ask you all to keep these Board Meetings to a regular schedule, and you know, if it's not broken don't fix it. The middle of the month on Wednesday seems to work for everyone and obviously the Board can function with 1 or even 2 members missing as we have done in the past. So, I am just asking you all to keep them the same if possible.

General Manager Shadden – Does it bother you if we move it from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. sometimes to accommodate that if it stays on a Wednesday?

Wade Thibodeaux – The only problem with that is your impeding on another meeting that happens in this part of the county. The second Wednesday of the month is ESD's meeting at the fire station and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday is the hospital district. And that is what I am kind of getting into, everyone has their schedule and when you all start juggling things around it affects probably just Gloria and me. I understand if it is absolutely necessary, sometimes it just has to be moved. In that case, please move it forward so you do not miss the meeting that was yesterday and show up today thinking there was a meeting. You show up today and are advised that there is a meeting tomorrow so that way you do not miss it. Just try to keep it above board as much as possible. Thank you.

Vice-President Turner – Thank you Wade. Mr. Harmsen you want to discuss something?

Derk Harmsen, Sr – Yes, you haven't seen me here before, everything has been going pretty good. As far as the grants, I was president of the Hospital Foundation and we fought for years to keep that hospital open. We had a lot of resistance, but my goal and James Stratton's goal were to keep it open and it is still open and we have saved quite a few lives. The Grants, any Grants, we haven't had a Grant writer and so it was really economically hard on us, but we made it and go it sold and so long as it stayed open. Any Grants that the county can get, I think would be fantastic.

I would like to thank the Board for everything they are doing, I know it is not easy. Especially after being on a Board and you take a lot of heat for decisions, whether they are good or bad. I know it is not easy, but I would like to Thank you all for that. The other thing is, I love the ditch work and the spraying that is being done. The cleaning of the ditches, we have needed that for years and years and years. Everybody knows this, that South where it goes into Jefferson County, it has some issues. But we are getting (inaudible) from there through all the stuff that the County has done, I do not really know who



is responsible for that, but man in the last year or so it has been amazing. I like the idea, I was a helicopter pilot and a plane, and the helicopter thing, I think is a really great idea, because there is a lot of stuff you really can't get to and spray. That helicopter lets you get there, get it sprayed without even having to be careful with the spreading of the spray not liability. And the other thing that has really been great is, for the last few years, down on our end, and I am sure other places, we now have fire water in case of fires, we have sewage and we have water, and that has been amazing. Because we were on wells, I still have 3 wells. On well water, when we have hurricanes, unless you have generators or something like that, you have lots of cattle, horses and stuff, it's a big problem. So, I would just like to Thank the Board for all their work and go after those Grants.

Vice-President Turner – Thank you Mr. Harmsen.

**Agenda Item 5:**

Close public Hearing and Reconvene Regular Meeting:

Public Hearing was closed, and regular meeting resumed at 9:25 a.m.

**Agenda Item 6:**

Minutes:

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting held October 12, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Caraway and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 7:**

Financial Reports:

General Manager Shadden presented the Financial Reports for October 31, 2022.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve the Financial Reports for October 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 8:**

Tax Reports:

General Manager Shadden presented the Tax Reports for October 31, 2022.

Director Caraway made a Motion to approve the Tax Reports for October 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 9:**

Accounts Payable:

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve the Accounts Payable. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 10:**

2022 Certified Tax Rate Summary for Jefferson County:

Director Caraway made a Motion to approve the 2022 Certified Tax Rate Summary for Jefferson County. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 11:**

Amendment of Resolution 20-07 & Adopting Resolution 22-14:

General Manager Shadden – This is our operations standards. It was revised in like 2017. It was so restricted, I brought it to the Board last month about repairing Sand Gully Weir, building a bridge for Doornbos and doing some pipework for Bill White. It was so restricted that you could not do all of things at one time. It is pretty much the same standards except the Board has more of an option to say that they want to do it or not do it. And it also says that if the landowner pays for all of the material, Trinity Bay will install it since we have the people and the equipment to do it. That is the main changes in it.

Vice-President Turner – Does this also include the split?

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir. Landowner pays for the pipe and Trinity Bay will put it in.

Vice-President Turner – My own personal opinion is, I am all for that policy, for the simple reason, farmer's or whomever do not have the equipment to set it right, a standard procedure for setting a culvert is 30% of the diameter of the pipe needs to be at least 30% of the diameter below the level of the bottom of the ditch. That way if you come back and clean the ditch later you still have pipe to get full flow of the pipe.

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir.



Vice-President- We have the people that are qualified and knowledgeable enough to know how set the pipes. We have the equipment to do it. Its up to the Board, but we will take a vote if you all want to amend the resolution.

Director Nicely – I read over the work that we are wanting to do, that was asked of us to do. I did not see anything that was over and above what we are already requiring. They are going to pay us for the material and everything, and our people use these access ways anyways, right?

General Manager Shadden – Yes, in some places this is the only way we can get across the ditch to the other side.

Secretary Hankamer – That was one of the things, does this take into account we have an access way we have to use, and it has gone to pieces, and the landowner does not have the money and does not want to pay for any of it. Does this allow us to go in there and do what we have to do because otherwise we can't do our job?

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir, and I think this is where we put the language in there that the Board has the choice. If we are doing it on someone's property for that particular person, it is different than if there are 5 people upstream from him and this one thing takes care of all of these people. Now, you have the choice to say Sand Gully for instance, you have Spencer above it, Bill White above it and Sand Gully goes all the way up into town, but yet the landowner that is there now....we have ran into this by cleaning Sand Gully. So we started at the upper end going all the way down cleaning it and we ran across this weir that is in terrible shape, it needs to be repaired, but the landowner is not going to do anything, so this gives the Board the ability to say, yes, we need to fix this.

Director Caraway – This will give the Board the ability to vote on each individual project and make the decision how much or what portion of that project that Trinity Bay pays for?

General Manager Shadden – Yes, well like I say most of it like Gregg was saying is they pay for the for the material and we install it, is pretty much the best way to do it. And sometimes whenever you get into that, let just say we install a pipe, we might go ahead and put the head walls in while we are there also, so it doesn't erode away and we are not back there in 6 months. So, I might want to go ahead and spend a little money there to put head walls.

Vice President Turner – But we will still be in control says the length of the pipe needed and the size of the pipe needed?

General Manager Shadden – Yes. I am sorry Victor go ahead.

Director Caraway – And we get to determine if the project is good for Trinity Bay or not good for Trinity Bay?

General Manager Shadden – Yes, you do.

Director Caraway – Okay, and that to me is what is important, is, does Trinity Bay need that bridge or need that culvert. Do we need to get to the other side? If we do, and it is cost effective then we do it. If we don't, and a farmer needs a bridge that is not as important to us.

Director Nicely – It has to be a win-win situation.

Director Caraway – Sure, absolutely.

Director Nicely – That is the only way we need to look at it is if it is a win-win situation.

Director Caraway – I agree.

General Manager Shadden – After you amend the Resolution, the next 3 are on there for you to vote whether you want to do it or not.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve the Amendment of Resolution 20-07 & Adopt Resolution 22-14. The motion was seconded by Director Caraway and it passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Agenda Item 12:**

Updating AVR Workforce Management Mobile Application & Support:

General Manager Shadden – We use AVR for all our billing and stuff. What happens is that the ladies here in the office print out a work order and give it to the work crews to go out and do a job, or they will call then on the telephone and have to give them the work order. Actually what this will be able to do is they also have smart phones that they use to read meters with and this will give the ladies ability to send them a work order directly to their phones, to the meter readers and the work crews and they can fill it out in real time and send it back to the office without having to do your paperwork in the afternoon and paperwork doesn't get done. So this is a way for us to actually improve on our work management system to where we actually send them work orders in the field and when they finish the job, they fill it out right then and send it back and it can be taken off the board. There is a cost of about \$300.00 a



month for the service with a one-time fee to set it up and this will be able to send the work orders to the meter readers and also to the work crews and the water side.

Director Nicely – In the field?

General Manager Shadden – Yes. You will pick it up on your cell phone and you will put in all the data that you have finished and everything.

Mike Will – So if it is okay Jerry.

General Manager Shadden – Sure.

Mike Will - So when the ladies take in a complaint or anything grinder, let's say an alarm, they go in that account and they will generate a work order. A paperwork order will be put in the guys shelf upfront where we keep all the work orders. So, the service men will come in and collect that that day or the next day, and they have to call them in a lot of circumstances. So, they will get that work order, they will complete the work order by filling it out manually and they give it back to the ladies up front and they take that information in and enter back into that account. So, it is handled about three times. With this, the ladies will enter that data and it will go electronically, the guys will do the work and fill out their work and send it back electronically and it is never touched again. So the cost saving I think with the time and effort, and the guys having to come back here everyday to bring back their work orders it will all be done electronically.

Vice-President Turner – The only question I have Mike, is will there be a paper trail for when someone says I didn't get the order?

Mike Will – There will not be per say a paper trail. You will be able to go back on that account and show that it was sent to this time and of that day, yes sir.

General Manager Shadden – Or I would run a report at the end of the month, and it will show me all the jobs that they had.

Vice-President Turner – So, there will be accountability involved?

Mike Will – Yes sir.

Director Nicely – So there is an electronic paper trail?

General Manager Shadden and Mike Will – Yes.

General Manager Shadden – We are just trying to improve.

Vice-President Turner – Seems to me like it would be a wonderful tool. As long as I can see documentation where a project didn't get handled and some can't say I didn't get notified.

General Manager Shadden and Mike Will – Right.

Vice-President Turner –And you can so oh yes you did, her it is right here with the date and the time.

Mike Will – And we will have that ability.

Vice-President Turner – That's fine.

Director Nicely – And these people will support this system?

Mike Will – Yes.

General Manager Shadden – It is the system we have now.

Director Nicely – Yes, but they are there to support it?

General Manager Shadden – Yes, I want to say...I can't remember how long it was, but we had a billing system and I actually wrote a work management system to where the guys would actually fill out a work order card to put on there the time and materials and stuff to try to keep track of this stuff. So this is just building on that system and trying to make it better.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve Updating AVR Workforce Management Mobile Application & Support. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

### **Agenda Item 13:**

Installing New Electronic Lockbox Service to the AVR Billing System:

General Manager Shadden – The next one goes along with it. I will let Mike explain exactly how this works.



Mike Will – They are called electronic lock box service. What it is, we get well over 500 payments from the bank. So, if you are a customer of ours, you can go to your bank and send an electronic check. Per say likely comes to us in a paper check what it will do and have the customer's name and the account number on there. We then have to go on our system, find that account and print out a statement on that or a bill on that and then apply it to that customers account. What this will do, AVR once again is our billing software company, will intercept those payments and they will do all the work for us, they will send those to our bank, and we will never have to touch those again. There again it will save the ladies up front doing the billing the time and the effort trying to get all this stuff applied. Like I say, once we receive a paper check, it looks just like this from the bank (holding up paper) we have to print out a bill, apply it to the account and then file it. So, they will grab all of that information and do it for us and send it to the bank.

Director Caraway – What is the cost?

Mike Will – The cost is .25¢ per check that comes in. There is a monthly fee of \$50.00, as long as the check is greater than \$85.00. If it is greater than \$85.00 that monthly fee goes up to \$85.00. It is a time investment of \$500.00, so you are looking at \$50.00 plus if you have a minimal of 500 which is what they require, so that is \$250.00 so you're looking at \$300.00 per month at a minimum.

Secretary Hankamer – But this saves time that all the girls have to do printing?

Mike Will – Yes sir. And it saves the paper we have to print out as well.

Secretary Hankamer – That is true.

Director Nicely – Is the accuracy of their accounting is 100%?

Mike Will – Yes.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve Installing New Electronic Lockbox Service to the AVR Billing System. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hankamer and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 14:**

Purchasing 1200 Automated Read Meters:

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir. In the new neighborhoods we did a pilot project and I believe we put in 500 meters?

Mike Will – About 350.

General Manager Shadden – 350 meters. All the new meters we are putting in subdivisions now are electronic reading. Everybody knows that we have had awful trouble with meter readers and trying to find people that will work and do the job and can do it accurately. There is nothing worse than opening your bill and it is wrong, and we are charging you an extra \$1,000.00. We go through the steps to try to correct that but that still does not correct the problem. What we are proposing to the Board, is we got to the point where we added a meter reader a few years ago because each meter reader is reading 1200 meters a month. The other part is that we are in such a wide-open area, it is not like you are going to a subdivision and you walk down the road reading meters. You might travel ½ a mile or more. So, what we are proposing to do is eliminate a meter reader job and take the money, truck and benefits we would pay him and put that toward purchasing these automated readers in. We have discussed that we would like to put them in the difficult areas. Some places like Palm where the meters are in the back yards. So, you have to try to get in there and get past the dog to try to read. So, we were going to take this first 1200 and put them in the hard to read areas to where you just drive by in the vehicle and it automatically reads the meters. Again, this is just like the AVR stuff, we will try to improve on it every year to where eventually we get to all electronic readers.

Vice-President Turner – Is one of the meters that you have on display here.

General Manager Shadden – Yes. Mike Will has brought an electronic read meter in here. Like I said, you drive by in a truck or van, We have with the purchase of the first 350 meters, we have the software and everything to be able to read them and we feel like this is what most people are going to. I believe the City of Anahuac borrowed the money and went to all automated readings. So, we want to try to do it a little bit at a time. And move forward with it like that.

Vice-President Turner – How close will our meter reader have to drive to get a signal from that thing?

Mike Will – If I remember correctly, it is about ½ a mile. If it is in view it will pick it up. I rode with the guy who does it for us now, he is a rep for Neptune and they are all out there in the Oak Island community where we have the 350 or so, you can't even see the house yet and it is already collecting that data.

General Manager Shadden – And eventually what will happen is once you get these in, you can also automatically send these to say the water tower with a pick up and you will be able to go online and pull up our account and you can actually read your meter. You can look at the little dial and see if you have



a water leak. It's hard to make a couple million-dollar investment one time, so we want to try to move forward with it a little at a time.

Secretary Hankamer – What's our plan say we go to x-y-z homeowners meter and we haven't read it in 2 months, 3 months for whatever reason and we pull that meter and put in a new one, well now we have a read on that meter that all of a sudden we are going to send out a bill for \$285.00 or whatever the number might be, is our plan to swap them out and start from 0?

General Manager Shadden – What happens is, whenever you go out there, you get the reading off of that meter and your new meter is at 0, so you calculate it up and you adjust it in your software when the meter is changed out. David changed 46,000 meters. In how many months?

David Hoyt – It was 366 working days.

General Manager Shadden – 46,0000 meters and this is with them filling out the information and changing it in the system to do a complete meter change out.

Vice-President Turner – Every one of these has its own serial number so that the meter reader doesn't read my meter twice and skip his?

Mike Will – Yes, the meter itself has a serial number and the antenna aspect has a separate one as well. That is what it is picking up with when it is reading. They call it MUI number; I believe is what that is called. The good thing about these as well is when you do get a complaint about a high usage, we have a device right now where I can go out there and go to your location and get within a reasonable distance of it and I can type in that number right there and it will pull up 96 days of back history of your usage per day, per minute, per hour, with the day, the month or the week. And I can show that customer that on this day, this is how much water you used, 5 or 6,000. What happened on that day, I do not know, but I can tell you it went through that meter on this day.

Secretary Hankamer – And what time?

Mike Will – And what time, yes.

Secretary Hankamer – What is the life cycle of one of these? 10 years?

Mike Will – It is warrantied for 10 years after that it is pro-rated up to 20 years. So, these batteries, they say will last up to the 20 years. They really have improved that a lot since these meters came out. David can probably back this up. Back whenever they first come out, if you got 5 years out of a battery, you were fortunate. But they have improved that a lot with battery technology.

David Hoyt – These meters are pretty much full proof. The biggest problem that I have found over the years is that somebody accidentally runs over the cord or breaks that cord, that is usually the only problem. Otherwise, these meters are titled pretty much like a car, they have an identification number on them they have a reading number on them, just like the ones in the ground and when you change them out you just swap off information is all you do.

Mike Will – The other thing with this meter, let's say that the battery does go dead on it, this meter can still be manually read. It still has the register just like your meters do at your house. You can still read it manually. Or if a customer wants to verify that reading is correct, they can read it themselves.

David Hoyt – If something happens to that meter itself, that head will naturally be taken off all the Neptune we put in the ground for the past 10 years and put back on that meter and keep going with it.

Vice-President Turner – Is there a battery for transmitting on that thing?

Mike Will – There is.

Vice-President Turner – How often do we have to change the battery?

Mike Will – It is good for 10 years and then pro-rated up to 20 years.

Vice-President Turner – Okay, that is what you explained a while ago?

Mike Will – Yes sir.

General Manager Shadden – And the biggest complaint that everybody had was my meter is under water. Crawfish and everything get in the bottom and it gets covered with mud. You will not have to worry about that.

Director Nicely – What is that sitting next to it Mike?

Mike Will – That is the antenna. You do not need this part, but we do have them with every meter we do install. This meter can be picked up and read electronically, just as it is, but the antenna is more like a booster.



Director Nicely – That meter without the antenna is good for up to ½ a mile?

Mike Will – Without it I am not exactly sure.

Director Nicely – So then they would need the antenna for the ones that are in the back.

Mike Will – To pick up a little bit further, especially the ones in the wooded areas or maybe a couple of blocks over. Yes sir, I would say so. So, this is a protective cap right here, it will come off and you just screw this antenna at the end of it and then you put this little device through their meter lid.

Director Nicely – So it's not something someone can walk by and grab.

Mike Will – No, it does not stick beyond what you can see right here, ¼" at the most.

David Hoyt – And that antenna is included in the cost of the meter.

Director Nicely – As we talked before there was some questions about the size of the meters, whether it was a 5/8 or 1" and each individual customer whether they have small family, small house will go with a small meter if they have a swimming pool will go with a bigger meter so they get more water volume? So, it does not matter, this meter is accurate whether it is a 5/8 or a 1", whether it is filling a pool or flushing a toilet?

Mike Will – If memory serves me correct, this meter is accurate up to 1/8 of a gallon.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve purchasing 1200 Automated Read Meters at \$220.00 each. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

#### **Agenda Item 15:**

Repairing low water crossing at Hebert Road:

General Manager Shadden – This was on our agenda last month, and we made it to where we changed the rules to where we are able to do these things. Again, this is a low water crossing that has been in there forever and it is a weir also used for freshwater upstream. When we cleaned Sand Gully, this is what came up. David has gone out and looked at it and tell us what your plans are with it David.

David Hoyt – The property owner wanted us to rebuild that weir. It is washed out completely underneath. We looked at the easement, cause most of the easements are the same, but occasionally they change. And this is one they did change on us. The property owner is supposed to pay 50/50 on this repair. He does not want to do that now, he said the weir isn't doing him any good. This weir also affects Bill White and Ronald Spencer. I called Ronald yesterday or the day before and spoke to him about the wall and he said this weir is the only thing keeping salt water off of him and Bill as far as cattle water to keep the salt water intrusion off of them. Nobody is farming out there at this time but, it is still available to farm. From what I understand that he is telling me, is there are 2 pumps that are set up along Sand Gully to take water off this ditch for farming. What I would like to do is go in there and dry this weir up on both sides, pump it dry and possibly slip line some plastic through the existing pipes and put four sack underneath it.

Vice-President Turner – There is a pipe under it?

David Hoyt – Yes, there are two I think, 36's. It looks like they had flap gates on them at one time, but the gates are gone.

Secretary Hankamer – Do you plan on putting those flap gates back in there or are we are just going to have a set of pipes in there.

David Hoyt – Just a set of pipes. The way it seems to be working now the way the pipes are. It is washed out so bad, you can't hardly tell but if we go in there and just slip new pipe in there, if we have to come back at a later date and put gates on, because it's not working correctly then you are available to do that, but the way it is right now you can't.

General Manager – Then somebody will be wanting it with the flap gates, and they can help us pay for it then as well.

Vice-President Turner – Well the erosions right there and it looks like water is running over it.

David Hoyt – Water is running across the top of it and underneath it Gregg.

Director Nicely – How does this help Trinity Bay?

General Manger Shadden – It just keeps saltwater intrusion from backing up into the ditch. At some point it is either going to have to be taken out because it is breaking up and it is eventually going to stop up the ditch. We are either going to patch it and repair back or it is going to have to be taken out and this is why I had David contact Spencer upstream to see and their suggestion was to leave it in.



David Hoyt – Blanchard has a couple thousand acres there with cows on them and Spencer has around 1500 and you got Bill White there, so like I said it affects all the cattle water the way it is right now.

Director Nicely – This property owner is not going to help with this at all. So, we are doing this for upstream people.

David Hoyt – Right.

Director Nicely – Are they willing to help?

David Hoyt – I didn't go into that.

Director Nicely – Do we use this as a place where our people need to get across?

David Hoyt – We can cross it, but there are ways around it. It is further to go around it, but yes there are ways around it.

Director Nicely – And with the use of a helicopter we don't have to get in there to spray with a spray buggy?

David Hoyt – No.

Director Caraway – What is the cost to fix it?

General Manager – Just buying stabilize material and a dump truck we are thinking \$4,000 or \$5,000, that is drying it up and just packing it with cement around it and just pretty much patching it back up.

Vice-President Turner – You are going to use stabilize material.

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir.

David Hoyt – Four sack.

General Manager Shadden – Four sack, just dump truck load. Put it on the ground, pack it in underneath it. Others that we have done that were not quite as bad, we pumped flowable underneath them to do it, but this one would have to be dried up and packed.

Vice-President Turner – The culverts are not separated are they David?

David Hoyt – I do not know and that is why I wanted to go ahead, and slip line them. That way if it is, it will not matter. That way we will seal up around the outside on both sides with four sack and that should seal around the new pipe.

Director Caraway – If it gets worst, we will have to go back out and remove it we are going to incur expense there as well so...

Secretary Hankamer – You will incur a lot more expense later.

Director Caraway – So I guess the cheapest way out is to fix it, is that right?

General Manager Shadden – Patch it, yes.

David Hoyt – If we can get that thing dried up good and pack four sack underneath there, they will never go back and repair it in our time.

General Manager Shadden – But you never know when things will change either. Today everyone is running cows and 5 years from now, everyone might be just growing grain. You just never know. A lot of these ditches that we have, have pumps on them from previous rice field stuff.

Director Nicely – Do these pumps belong to Trinity Bay?

General Manager Shadden – No, they belong to the property owner.

Director Caraway – I guess the way that I am looking at it, our long term most effective way to pay for this to fix the problem is to go ahead and patch it. Is that correct?

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir.

Director Nicely – We have an easement to get down there obviously since you have been down there?

David Hoyt – Yes sir. And we put a bridge down on Sand Gully just down from this here.

General Manager Shadden – That is what about ½ mile away?

David Hoyt – Yes.



General Manger Shadden – It washed out during hurricane Ike, so we built a HS20 highway certified bridge further up for Spencer and it was paid for by FEMA.

Director Nicely – Can you make that into a weir?

General Manager Shadden – No, I don't think so.

David Hoyt – If you decide to fix it, I can go in there once we start working on it and see what would be more cost effective, dry up the ends and try to pump it full of flowable or pack it in there ourselves. Whichever would be more cost efficient we can do.

Vice-President Turner – That is predominately saltwater?

David Hoyt – Yes.

Vice-President Turner – Cement doesn't like saltwater. You would have to dam off on both sides and pump it out.

David Hoyt – Right.

Vice-President Turner – You can get an enhancer for your concrete, but you better be ready for it because it will set up in that truck.

David Hoyt – Right. Well I think even on the four sack you have about 6 hour to work and that is including the shipping, you have to be moving with it.

Vice-President Turner – How far is your closest road, county road, driveway or whatever? Are you going to have to truck it back in there to that point?

David Hoyt – I am going to have to truck it about ½ mile off of Hebert road into here.

Vice-President Turner – Is the truck going to be able to get to it?

David Hoyt – Yes. I would say ½ mile would be on the long side.

Vice-President Turner – Okay.

Director Caraway, made a Motion to approve repairing low water crossing at Hebert Road for Donald Loiacano. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hankamer and it passed by Vote of 2 to 1 with Director Nicely abstaining.

**Agenda Item 16:**

Removing dilapidated bridge and Installing two tank cars:

General Manager Shadden – This bridge is totally gone, and he would like to put a pipe back in there. But the ditch is so large that we feel like it would take 2 pipes to keep the ditch flowing properly.

Vice-President Turner – Tank car pipes?

General Manager – Yes. 2 Tank Car. And David was going to talk with him and I want to say they come 48 feet and we were talking about maybe sharing the cost with him on the pipe, and cutting it in half. With Wilcox didn't we buy one pipe and...

David Hoyt – He bought the pipe.

General Manger Shadden – He bought the pipe. This one here I think the 20' would be enough for him to get his cows across it, because the bridge isn't that wide.

Director Hankamer – And we need this bridge too.

Vice-President Turner – How deep, because you lose a lot of your pipe for slope? How deep does that pipe need to be set?

David Hoyt – That ditch is kind of deceiving looking at it in this picture Gregg. I went out there yesterday and looked at it myself. Those 9' pipes are going to take up that whole ditch. The way that ditch is made, it is pretty straight right there where that bridge is and if we cut one pipe in half and put it in there, it is going to fill up the whole ditch. We can probably drop those pipes 18" below the bottom of the ditch and still be in real good shape. We had the same problem out there like Mr. Harmsen was talking about earlier, there is mis-sized piping above it and below it with the biggest problem being that it's just across the Jefferson County line. I was going to talk to those people and see if there is anything, we could suggest to them to let us take the pipes out or what, there are just a lot of mismatched pipes out there.

Secretary Hankamer – Causing restrictions in the ditch?



David Hoyt – Yes, causing restrictions in the ditch. If we put two 9' pipes in there its going to fill that ditch up and there is not going to be any issues with the flow in there.

Vice-President Turner – What I am getting at David is, you are going to take a 40' pipe and you are going to cut it in half. You are going to have two 20's.

David Hoyt – You will have two 24's, the pipe is 48'.

Vice-President Turner – Alright, then you will have two 24's. By the time you get the pipe set, how much free board will you have on top?

David Hoyt – Probably 2' or about 30".

Secretary Hankamer – Are you going to sheet pile the ends?

David Hoyt – Yes, sheet piling those ends, that is a benefit to us to keep...

Secretary Hankamer – So your going to have at least 18' roughly.

David Hoyt – No, he is going to have a full 20'.

Vice -President Turner – That is what I was trying to get in my head, is how much service area.....

David Hoyt – I rode over there this morning and talk to him about this and told him, right now this bridge is 16', and if we buy a tank car , and these tank cars are getting hard to find, I had a guy a month ago that had some a little bit cheaper, and he won't return my calls now. So, I went back to the same company that I got the ones for Mr. Wilcox at. They are 48's. I told him, if I get a 48 and cut it in half and you have two 24's in there, would you have enough, and he said yes. So, if we put the sheet piling on there it will give him a full 24'.

Vice-President Turner – This being a saltwater ditch...

General Manager Shadden – No.

Vice-President Turner – Huh?

David Hoyt – This is up North of County Line.

Vice-President Turner – Okay. Your talking about using metal sheet piling?

David Hoyt – No.

Vice-President Turner – And you are going to see about Bill, paying half of the price of the pipe?

David Hoyt – Yes.

Vice-President Turner – And we will put it in.

David – Yes.

Director Nicely – And this is something that Trinity Bay needs?

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir it is. This is about the only way to get across the ditch right there.

Director Caraway – What is the quote, cost of that pipe?

David Hoyt – I do not know exactly right now, it is somewhere around \$22,400.00 and some change. And I think that is what we paid for Wilcox too. It is about the same. Now this is delivery and everything, this pipe is coming out of Oklahoma. I had a guy a couple of months ago that said he had some and he would hook me up for 17, and he will not return my calls. This guy is telling me all he has is 9' and he doesn't have any other size. The way prices are, pipe is getting harder to find.

Secretary Hankamer – It is usually about \$100.00 to \$150.00 a foot.

David Hoyt – This is the tank car.

Secretary Hankamer – Yes, instead of just pipe.

Director Nicely – This is two tank cars we are buying.

David Hoyt – One and cutting it in half.



Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve removing dilapidated bridge and Installing one tank car cut it in half in the west fork of Taylors Bayou for Bill White. The motion was seconded by Director Caraway and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 17:**

Building a 40' x 20' galvanized bridge:

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir, this was on our agenda last time. It has gotten to where the equipment, all of your combines, tractors, etc. have gotten so big and wide now, that they can not.....we built this bridge for them right before I came to work here in 2011. They built it out of high beam and it was enough for them to get across, but now with their equipment being so big, and they are wanting to farm rice back in there next year so they would like to add this bridge by next year. They are also driving rice truck across it that are loaded. They are willing to pay for the bridge and all the materials to build it, if we will install it. We have installed 18 of these I believe, 17 for FEMA and 1 for Jack Bauer. It is a total estimated cost of \$122,443.00 for the bridge, the rebar, the concrete, the pump truck and all the crane rental to build the bridge. So, they are paying everything, and we are installing it.

Director Nicely – What standards do we have to meet?

General Manger Shadden - This is a HS20 Highway certified 80,000 pound bridge. It would be the same thing as what you would have on a TXDot road to where you can drive an 18 wheeler rig across. And this is the reason we build them like this down in the marsh is that they are pre-certified and pre-engineered. Once we install it, you do not have to have someone come out and load grade it, because it has already been designed and we are basically bolting it together and several of them we put wooden decks on them because we couldn't get a concrete truck there.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve building a 40' x 20' galvanized bridge with a concrete deck for Doornbos at I-10 and FM 1410 on Ogden Ditch. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hankamer and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 18:**

Two 60 month lease with Caterpillar Financial:

General Manager Shadden – When the budget was passed, this was in the budget already. So the track loader, we have one already it does not have the cutting head on it but it is the same and it plumbed for the cutting head. You could use it on either machine if you wanted to.

Vice President Turner – Is the new one going to have the cooler on top of it.

General Manager Shadden – Yes. Th only attachment I bout was I bought a brush for it that way we can sweep the concrete around here and do stuff like that with it. So that is the only attachment other that then bucket we bought for it. They use this to clean right of ways. Separately in the budget we put to buy a mower that offsets to where you can drive and mow off to the side. This is in drainage. In water again we put money in the budget to lease 2 of these. I bought 2 of these when I first came in 2011, these things fix water leaks everyday and run everyday and they are at the point where they are completely worn out. I bought a third one two years later that we were using to lay line with for construction. So, these are the 2 that the guys are on the road everyday fixing water leaks and in the middle of the night. They need stuff that will run, and this has been budgeted for. I just wanted the Board to approve a Governmental lease. Which means that every year the lease will be in the budget and you have to approve it and if for some reason we can't afford to pay for it next year we can send them back.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve two 60 month leases with Caterpillar Financial for 1-299D3 XE Compact track Loader and 2-304-07 MHA DCA3A Mini Excavators. The motion was seconded by Director Caraway and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 19:**

2023 Board Meeting Schedule:

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve the 2023 Board Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Director Caraway and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 20:**

2023 Holiday Schedule:

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve the 2023 Holiday Schedule. The motion was seconded by Director Caraway and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 21:**

Annual Service Awards Lunch and Safety Awards for Employees:

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve the Annual Service Awards Lunch and Safety Awards for Employees. The motion was seconded by Director Caraway and it passed by unanimous vote.



## II. DRAINAGE REPORT:

Amos Roy presented the drainage report on various areas of the District:

Long Reach 60' – This machine has been working on the West side of Oyster Bayou. This machine is working South cutting and dipping the trees and debris that could not be reached by the short reach Fecon that came through this section earlier. This machine typically covers an average of 600 feet per day depending on the type of vegetation.

D3 Dozer – Correcting the shelf on Oyster Bayou as well as assisting the Long Reach 60' machine.

Long Reach 50' – This machine was in Double Bayou, however we recently placed the machine in Oyster Bayou's West side to work in a northern direction starting at Fairview. This machine is cutting in what the short reach Fecon could not reach when it came through this area.; We have also installed three new field drains in this area to prevent erosion. This machine averages about 600 feet per day depending on the vegetation. We moved this machine off of Double Bayou due to the machine that was cutting ahead of it is having mechanical issue and the vegetation is too big for this machine alone.

D-6 Dozer – This machine is correcting the shelf and assisting the Long reach 50' excavator.

Newest Fecon – This machine finished up on this section of Oyster Bayou. This machine is coming in for maintenance. It covers an average of about 450 feet per day depending on vegetation.

### MCBRIDE/DEVILLIER ROAD:

Slashbuster - This machine has cut and dipped this drainage ditch. This machine is typically on light vegetation and can cover about 700 feet per day.

### OGDEN DITCH:

Komastus Grinder – This machine started on the West side of Ogden ditch North of I-10. It is grinding and dipping debris heading in a Northern direction. This machine averages about 400 feet per day.

### ELM BAYOU:

Komatsu Mower – This machine is mowing and dipping this section of the ditch starting West of Canal Road and heading in a Northern direction. It averages about 450' per day depending on vegetation.

### MACHINES NEEDING REPAIRS:

Fecon 30' - We are waiting for repairs to be done on this machine by Lynn Hendrix Equipment. It is having hydraulic issues resulting in a severe surging effect on the cutter unit.

Vibratory Hammer Machine – This machine is currently at the yard and will be used for dipping lilies, drainpipe installs, or any pile driving that might need to be done. This machine also serves as a back up to the slashbuster machine.

### SPRAY CREWS:

1. Tractor with brush hog mower is mowing right of ways.
2. Using the skid steer with mower attachment when available for right of way mowing.
3. The herbicides applicators covered approximately 20 miles of ditch this past month.

## III. UTILITIES REPORT:

Mike Will reported on Water and Wastewater.

1. Updated on the new Hankamer WWTP.

- The clarifier is onsite and completed.
- The remainder of the plant has been moved onsite and is being assembled.
- The electrical equipment is still scheduled for delivery on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The contractor is tentatively scheduled to be completed by January 2023, weather permitting.

2. We received notice from our chlorine vendor, DXI Distributor Group that gas chlorine has increased from \$1.2835 to \$1.351 per pound effective in October.

3. We received Notice from LNVA that they are raising water rates on January 1, 2023 from \$0.315 to \$0.33 per thousand gallons.



Water and Sewer installations:

23-Water meters  
5 – Sewer Grinder stations  
1,567' – Sewer discharge line  
1 – 6" Fire Line Tap  
1 – 6" Water tap  
1 – 3" sewer tap  
1360' – Water Line

#### **IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

GOVERNMENT CODE 551, SUBCHAPTER D

SECTION 551.071 - CONSULTATION WITH DISTRICT'S ATTORNEY REGARDING POSSIBLE LITIGATION

SECTION 551.072 - DELIBERATION ABOUT REAL PROPERTY

SECTION 551.074 - MATTERS OF PERSONNEL

SECTION 551.075 - CONFERENCE WITH EMPLOYEE

SECTION 551.076 - TO DELIBERATE THE DEPLOYMENT OR SPECIFIC OCCASIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY PERSONNEL OR DEVICES

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this Notice, the Board should determine that a closed or executive session of the Board should be held or is required in relation to any agenda item included in this Notice, then such closed or executive meeting or session, as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, will be held by the Board at the date, hour, and place given in this Notice concerning any and all subjects for any and all purposes permitted by §551.071-551.084 of the Texas Government Code and the Texas Open Meetings Act, including, but not limited to, §551.071—for the purpose of a private consultation with the Board's attorney on any or all subjects or matters authorized by law.

#### **V. ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

#### **VI. Presentation of the January 2019., Water Distribution & Meter Management Audit Completed September 30, 2020.**

General Manager Shadden – I wanted to a presentation of the Water Distribution & Meter Management Audit Completed September 30. Gloria has brought this up here a while back. I just wanted to show that we did a proposal in March of 2019. We were losing a tremendous amount of water on the west side, up to sometimes 40-50%. So we need to try to find where we were losing this. So, we put a proposal together and hires JBS to come in and find where the lose was. Was it in the field or our meter management system. We already had our flowmeters and things check and still had problems. The study was completed while I was gone. What they suggested was that we could change some bigger meters to smaller meters. This is not cost effective cause what it will cost you to change the meters you could have paid yourself back.

#### **VII. Comments by the Members of the Board.**

Director Nicely – Just appreciate the Board and the way we are progressing; this is awesome compared to what is used to be when I stood out yonder. This is not in any way because I am here, don't get me wrong. I just witnessed and investigated a lot of things after Imelda. I got flooded out twice once from Harvey, the 500 year thing and the same amount in Imelda so I said something is for some fictitious trees. I got called out on that, on October 27, 2020 I was called a pawn and that was after I gave my report. There was no investigative reporting done by that paper. So, I asked the team, why is that. They found out who owned the paper so that explained the biased reporting. Then the team also found out that the person that owned the land with these fictitious trees was not the person that the check was written to. This was \$56,800.00. It was written to a citizen of Chambers County. The actual person that owns that land is a Board Member. I do not understand why there is no investigative reporting in the paper on that. There was also no reporting in this paper when a Director of this Board instructed to go clean out an easement a utility easement in teacherville that was located behind the then General managers home and a previous board members home where he was staying, not living, staying. There was no investigative reporting on that even when I questioned it. It makes you question the Seabreeze Beacon reporting. The logo is News you can Trust. And the logo news you can use, you can use it, well she is absolutely right, it is news you can use, cause on January 256, 2022, we told the paper, that is Cheryl Leake, she told the paper that she did not file any charges against anyone at Trinity Bay because the Statute of Limitations had expired and there was a lack of cooperation among certain parties and the extremely poor record keeping prevented effective investigative results. Now the rumor mill is going into overdrive due to the No Bill by the grand jury. On October 18, 2022, again commentary by Gloria Romer, I asked Cheryl Leake who is the District Attorney is Shadden was No Billed and here is her response. No, he was not, they are still under investigation. You can quote me, when there are millions of dollars in question the investigation is long and tedious no one is no billed. So on October 18 I called Cheryl Leake's office and they said they would have someone call me, 7 or 8 days later I called back and said I hadn't heard anything and I was told we can not tell you if someone has been no billed



or is under investigation, That tells me you can not trust the things you are reading in the paper. The team will be available to assist you since you have a inside track to Cheryl Leak and the team has found out all this stuff. We will assist you.

**VII. ADJOURN.**

Secretary Hankamer made a Motion to Adjourn. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

READ AND APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Kahla, President

Attest

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Les Hankamer, Secretary

Date: 1-11-23