

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF  
TRINITY BAY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Wednesday, January 11, 2023  
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 11, 2023, with the following Directors present:

Scott Kahla	President
Lester Hankamer, Jr.	Secretary
Richard Nicely	Director
Victor Caraway	Director

Also present were Jerry Shadden, Diane Newsome, David Hoyt, Mike Will 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, Brad Moon of the Chambers County Sherriff Department and Steve Fitzgerald..

**Agenda Item 1:**

President Kahla called the Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Agenda Item 2:**

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Jerry Shadden.  
President Kahla led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

**Agenda Item 3:**

Public Comment:

No Public Comments.

**Agenda Item 4:**

Minutes:

Director Nicely made a Motion to approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting held December 14, 2022 and a Special Meeting held December 21, 2022. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hankamer and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 5:**

Financial Reports:

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

**Agenda Item 6:**

Tax Reports:

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

**Agenda Item 7:**

Accounts Payable:

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

**Agenda Item 8:**

Consider building a lunchroom and bathroom in the maintenance shop at the Anahuac Water Plant:

General Manger Shadden – We built on the old plant itself, we put up a 40 x 50 metal building there, 5 or 6 years ago, we ran power to it and got it ready and put a grinder station in it and everything, got it ready to put this bathroom in it to give the employees that work on the Anahuac side a place to go to use the restroom and eat lunch during the day and it has just never been finished. So, I am asking the Board to approve the bid putting a nice lunchroom, it will have a sink in it and a bathroom in it.

President Kahla – 1 bathroom.

General Manager Shadden – Yes one bathroom. It will be unisex.

Director Nicely – What facilities do they have now?

General Manager Shadden – They do not have anything, other than going inside the water plant, which you must go through the laboratories and everything to get to the back to go to the bathroom. You must go inside the plant. Other than that, they go to gas station.

Director Nicely- Where do they eat lunch?

General Manager – In the truck under a tree, go to the park or something like that, because there are no other facilities on that side.

Secretary Hankamer made a Motion to approve building a lunchroom and bathroom in the maintenance shop at the Anahuac Water Plant in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

**Agenda Item 9:**

Transferring \$264,000.00 from Revenue Fund #15001792 to Water/Sewer Fund Capital Expenses-Utilities, Lines and Plants #77-80110-00-02 to pay for 1,200 electric read meters:

General Manager Shadden – These meters were not budgeted for. This was an afterthought going forward. So, we have a revenue fund for water where all our money goes into. We have 1.1 million dollars in it at the time. So, we are basically doing housekeeping to transfer this money into the operating budget, that way when we finish paying for it, we still have money in the operating budget. Otherwise we would use the \$264,000.00 of it up and that would only leave us a couple of hundred thousand to operate for the rest of the year. So, we are pretty much taking it out of pretty much, our savings account for water and moving it into the operating budget.

President Kahla – What do you think the total cost when we get it all changed out will be? Is this going to be the amount?

General Manager Shadden – No, this is one route, and we have 5 routes. And we have how many in the ground now?

Mike Will – We have a little over 700 right now.

President Kahla – And we are looking at 3,000 – 4,000 in total?

General Manager Shadden –We have 3000 accounts on this side and 3,000 on the other. So, we have a little over 6,000 accounts and we are putting in 1,200.

President Kahla – And this is eliminating how many meter-reader jobs?

General Manager Shadden – One. One meter-reader is reading 1200 right now. So, we have looked at several different things. Mike can expand on it if he wants to, but we looked at doing was possibly putting them in the harder to read area and all that would do is cut down in other meter-reader's areas, so to eliminate that person, which this is the Winnie area, so we decided to put all 1,200 in the Winnie area and that would eliminate that persons job.

President Kahla – So by the time we get them all changed out, you will be eliminating what, three jobs?

General Manager Shadden – Possibly Scott, but the only difference in us and say a bigger operation is these guys also fix grinder pumps, do meter repairs and other things so they do not just do meter reading. They only read meters how many days a month?

Mike Will – About 2 weeks out of the month.

General Manger Shadden – They read 2 weeks out of the month, the rest of the time they take care of pump stations, water leaks or help anywhere.

Director Hankamer - But this will help us ensure the account with more accuracy.

Mike Will – The other thing that it will do also is, is if the guys are reading meters, a lot of times we have to pull other resources from other crews to take up the slack of grinder repairs and water leaks that they normally do. By putting these 1200 in it will take care of that whole area.

Secretary Hankamer – Are all the new meters that we put in with these new subdivisions, are they electronic?

Mike Will – 2 are.

Secretary Hankamer – So they are going in as electronic? But that is not what this is doing, this is replacing old meters.

Mike Will – That is correct.

Secretary Hankamer – Okay.

Director Nicely – And all new meters for new construction are paid for by the developer?



General Manager Shadden – Yes, and they are electronic read.

Director Caraway- These meters that we are replacing are all old anyway and need to be replaced?

General Manager Shadden – Yes.

President Kahla – They are probably only about twice as expensive maybe as those are, I do not know what the other one's cost.

Mike Will – The standard meter, you can buy it for about \$60.

President Kahla – About 4 times the cost basically?

Mike Will – Yes.

General Manager Shadden – This is a pay as you go rather than going borrow \$2,000,000.00 to \$3,000,000.00 dollars all at once, and you can't change them all at once anyway. Therefore, we bought 600 and we will get these in and then get the other 600 and keep moving forward.

Secretary Hankamer – Well you know, the next time around, you know 6, 8 months a year from now you will order the next ones.

General Manager Shadden – Yes, I think we will do another 1200 or so. We also put in the budget to get an electronics technician to help with some of these grinder pumps and pump stations and stuff like that. But David has been having a hard time finding vehicles and stuff like that, so we really don't have anything for the guy to drive. So, we are waiting for a vehicle or something to come in and then we will hire him, and he is going to help with the pump stations. I would say, how many calls a day you think on grinders?

Mike Will – It varies. I would say on average, anywhere from 5 to 6.

General Manager Shadden – So you figure 5 to 6 sewer pump station jobs, if you are reading meters, you are tied up all day trying to get them up. And it is important if you cannot flush. So, this is the way we are headed.

Mike Will – We have probably in the ballpark of around 3000 residential grinder stations in the ground. So, at any given time, there is 7 days a week working on these things. It is just the nature of them, parts wear out.

President Kahla – The float on mine gets stuck sometimes. I just turn every hot water on in my house and fill it up and down and pump it out manually 3 or 4 times and it will unstick that float most of the time.

Director Caraway – This item basically is just adjusting our Budget, correct?

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir. It is the same money, it is just adjusting it and showing a route where everything is going for transparency.

Director Caraway made a Motion to approve transferring \$264,000.00 from Revenue Fund #15001792 to Water/Sewer Fund Capital Expense - Utilities, Lines and Plants #77-80110-00-02 to pay for 1,200 electric read meters. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

## II. DRAINAGE REPORT:

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

### OYSTER BAYOU:

Long Reach 60' – This machine is working on the East side of Oyster Bayou in a southern direction. The machine has made it past the main canal. This machine is cutting and dipping the trees and debris that could not be reached by the Short Reach Fecon. This machine typically covers an average of 600 feet per day depending on the type of vegetation.

**\*\*NOTE:** After one of the heavier rains that we received, we had to get the machine down to the main canal crossing o remove debris that had backed up. All is clear at the canal at this time and we are back to where we left off.

D-3 Dozer – This machine is correcting the shelf on Oyster Bayou as well as assisting the Long Reach 60' machine.

Long Reach 50' – This machine is still on the West side of Oyster Bayou. This machine assisted ion installing field drainpipes in five locations between Fairview and the main canal crossing. When cutting the remaining vegetation that the Short Reach Fecon could not reach, it will cover approximately 600 feet per day.

**\*\*NOTE:** We did pull the machine and took it to Jenkin's weir to remove debris that was putting pressure on the structure.

D-6 Dozer – This machine is correcting the shelf and assisting with the field drain installs.



Vibratory Hammer Machine – This machine is currently being used to assist in setting the pipes for the three field drains on Oyster Bayou.

**OGDEN DITCH:**

Komatsu Grinder – This machine started on the West side of Ogden ditch North of I-10. The ditch is cut up to McBride/Devillier Road on the West side. It is dipping debris from I-10 on the same side. This machine averages about 400 feet per day.

Newest Fecon – This machine started on the East side headed North from I-10 cutting the heavy vegetation. This machine averages about 400' a day at this location.

**ELM BAYOU:**

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

**\*\*NOTE** – We did pull this machine to remove debris from the crossing at Todd Road.

**CURRENTLY AT THE YARD:**

Slashbuster – This machine has finished up the ditch off of McBride/Devillier Road. Once it finished, we brought it in for repairs.

Cat 308 – Used this machine to remove debris from crossings after the rain event we had.

**MACHINES NEEDING REPAIRS AT THE YARD:**

Fecon 30' (Older Fecon) – We are still waiting on the filter housing and valves to show up.

Slashbuster – The crowd cylinder was removed and sent off for repair and it had some hoses that needed attention.

**SPRAY CREWS:**

The crews help with day to day tasks like installing pipe ext. They also scout our ditches for plugs and such.

The tractors will continue to mow whenever the weather permits.

General Manager Shadden – Cade and I are putting the finishing touches on our Ariel spray contract and we will bring it to the Board to approve going out for bid at the next meeting so we can go out and procure a helicopter company to do the spraying. In 2011 I had gone out and so it is pretty much the same contract with the miles and acreage of what we need to get done.

Director Nicely – Is there any update on our machine over in Houston being rebuilt?

General Manager Shadden – I got an update from him yesterday. He sent me pictures. He really hasn't done a whole lot as far as putting it all back together. He took all the tracks apart and says there is some wear in some of that stuff. But I told him I don't think we want to do a track job on it this time and let's get it back together. We want to get that hump out of Spindletop and when we finish that, we will get a track job. He gave me a pretty good detailed update, so he is moving forward. In fact, I would like to take a trip back over there and take a look at it again in a week or two.

David Hoyt – On the Winnie side, we are going to take spray crews to the wetlands tomorrow over here after dinner and try to do a controlled burn. All the proper authorities have been notified because we are going to try to do a controlled burn.

On these machines Amos is taking about on the break down of stuff, I am sure you all have had that in your day to day activity, on parts it is terrible right now trying to get stuff. Some things are down, and they are trying to use good judgment and do what is best to fix the machine, finance them and everything else. But like I said, we are having a hard time finding trucks and I am having a hard time finding parts, new or used and rebuilt. You just can't get them. Just going to have to keep that in mind.

President Kahla – My 4-wheel drive stopped working on my truck while I was deer hunting. I brought it to Mike Smith. I have a 5 year/100,000-mile warranty on it. I brought it in on Monday and it is going to 5 or 6 days before they can even do the check on it to find out what is up. They said my truck might be there for 3 weeks.

David Hoyt – We have 1 new Ford 1 Ton that is under Warranty, it has been to 3 different shops I have sent it to, to try to get it fixed. We bring it in to try to get it fixed and they let it sit. It has been in the shop for about 2 months now and they finally pulled the transmission out, the transmission it needs is on back order. The guy told me they have 7 sitting out there right now waiting on transmissions.

Amos Roy – It is a mess, trying to find fleet vehicles and stuff.

**III. UTILITIES REPORT:**

Mike Will reported on Water and Wastewater.

1. Updated on the new Hankamer WWTP.
  - The concrete foundations, underground electrical conduit & water stub up for the blowers, electrical controls, generators and chlorine building have been constructed.
  - The tanks foundation has been backfilled to proposed grades.
  - The Clarifier Internals and overhead bridge will be delivered this week.
  - Contractor has one more set of stairs to install on the chlorine basin.
  - The 2" waster line taps have not been completed to date.
  - The Contractor is requesting an addition 140 working days due to the back order of the generator. This item is out of his control and the delay is coming from the vendor/supplier.
2. The TCEQ performed a wastewater inspection at the Oak Island WWTP on November 18<sup>th</sup>. All of the alleged violations that were found have been corrected and documentation has been submitted to the TCEQ.
3. Vice President Turner ask in the last meeting if the new Hankamer WWTP tanks would be installed with anodes in the tanks. I checked with LJA; these tanks do not have them. The reason is that organics in the wastewater tend to adhere to the anodes and insulate them preventing the circuit.

**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.**

No action taken.

**VI. 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:

  
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Scott Kahla, President

Attest

  
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Les Hankamer, Secretary

Date: 3-23-23