

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF
TRINITY BAY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
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 10, 2024, with the following Directors present:

Victor Caraway	President
Les Hankamer	Secretary
Rick Nicely	Director
Annette Rayburn	Director

Also present were Jerry Shadden, Crystal Threadgill, David Hoyt, Mike Will and Amos Roy, District Employees; Kate Leverett of Germer, District Counsel, Brad Moon, of the Chambers County Sherriff Department, Gloria Way and Sharisa Nelson of the Seabreeze Beacon and Wade Thibodeaux of the Hometown Press and Susan Leblanc from Representative Leo-Wilson's office.

Agenda Item 1:

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

Agenda Item 2:

The meeting was opened with a prayer by General Manager Shadden, who then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American and Texas flags.

Agenda Item 3:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Item 4:

APPROVE MINTUES

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve Minutes of a Regular Meeting held December 21, 2023. 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, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6:

TAX REPORTS

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve the Tax Reports for December 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 7:

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Agenda Item 8:

RENEW DENTAL INSURANCE

General Manager Shadden – About 2 or 3 years ago, we had T. Ross Brown and Associates, our insurance coordinator, send it out for bid and The Standard Dental was the best company at the time. This year an employee is \$41.44, and it is going up to \$43.52, for employee spouse and children it was \$158.20 and it is going up to \$166.12, so it has gone up a little bit.

Secretary Hankamer – Is this basically the same thing that they had last year?

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir, it is the same policy that we had last year, it just went up a little bit, and Trinity Bay pays for all of it. I thought the employee had to pay some, but Crystal went back the last eight years and Trinity Bay has always paid it all.

Secretary Hankamer – What percentage of our employees have this insurance?

General Manager Shadden – They all do. Since Trinity Bay pays for it, it is 100%.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve renewing the district's dental insurance, group # 147343 with The Standard Insurance Company. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn and Secretary Hankamer and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 9:

RENEW GENERAL MANAGERS CONTRACT

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir...

Kate Leverett, District Counsel – Mr. President, I wanted to say that if you would like, you can go into Executive Session under Personnel if there is anything you would like to discuss regarding this, but you might not need to do that, I just wanted to point that out.

General Manager Shadden – There were no changes to it. It is the exact same contract that I have had since I have been here. I get the same things that the employee's get. I received a 5% raise in October when the employee's got it. I am not asking for anything else.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve renewing the General Manager's contract for 2 years. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

II. DRAINAGE REPORT:

Amos Roy reported on Drainage.

SPINDLETOP BAYOU S. OF SH65:

Komatsu Dozer – This machine is reworking the right of way of the drain.

Old Fecon: This machine is cutting the right of way.

Long Reach 326' – This machine is cutting the drain and the far side slope.

EAST FORK OF DOUBLE BAYOU:

Newest Fecon- This machine is cutting on one of the several tributaries that we have in this area.

Komatsu Grinder – This machine is cutting the main leg of the East Fork of Double Bayou. This machine will also dip out the drain after cutting.

EAST FORK OF DOUBLE BAYOU(Jenkins Weir Project):

Dragline, Long Reach Cat and Short Reach Cat – We have almost completed the wall across the bayou. We still have to do the wing walls and form up for concrete. I would say around 30% or more complete at this point.

GORDY MARSH BAYOU:

Komatsu Mower Long Reach – This machine is dipping vegetation out from in front of crossings.

Note: Our New Komatsu Short Reach that we took delivery of several months ago is getting outfitted with a pony engine and forestry cutter head. Also, the gentleman that will be looking at the salt check anodes is to be out on site after the 1st of the year.

SPRAY CREWS:

1. Through the off season we will continue to mow when possible. Crew members help with anything from moving equipment to helping with projects such as the weir project going on.

I. UTILITIES REPORT:

Mike Will reported on Water and Wastewater.

1. The contractor is still working to repair the clarifier rake are at the Hankamer WWTP. The have a solution and will be implementing it as soon as materials are available. The contractor has also contacted the company that built the clarifier drive unit, the dive unit is making noise and shaking. The holidays slowed these repairs down.
2. Update on the meter replacement project:
 - a. We have replaced 472 meters.
 - b. We have approximately 400 meters remaining to install.
3. We have been working with Plummer Engineering to correct the scaling issue at the West Water Treatment Plant. We have collected more raw water samples and sent them to the lab for analysis and we are waiting on getting the results back.

4. We have been preparing for the hard freeze coming up next week at all of the plants.

As Amos stated, Drainage is assisting us on getting ready for the freeze coming up next week. I would like to say, to get it out to the public, the 2 hard freezes that we have had in the last 3 years we have always been able to send water out and we have had excess water sending it out. But the problems that we have had is there are so many customer lines that break that we cannot send out enough water to make us the systems water. We are sending it out, we just can not pressurize it and that is when the pressure drops and it interferes with customers service and we realize it. If you get a line that breaks and you cannot get your water off, just give us a call and we will come out and assist to get that water turned off.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – I was going to ask after the meeting but to get this to the Public, that warning system that they can sign up for, how do they get on it.

Mike Will, District Employee – They will go online there is a description on there they can follow. It is very easy to do, I am not computer savy and I was able to do it. There is a QR code and you do that and it will prompt you to sign up.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – For those that do not have it, do they just call the main number at Trinity Bay?

Mike Will, District Employee – No, there is a number listed that they can contact, it is an organization called Regroup that we have it through and they will assist them in getting setup.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – But for those that do not have that, do they just call the main Trinity Bay line to get it.

Mike Will, District Employee – Yes, and if we are not here it will go to our answering service.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – Also, and this probably doesn't need to be said, but you have crews on standby.

Mike Will, District Employee – Yes ma'am we do.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – What can customers do now to prepare for this besides wrapping pipes?

Mike Will, District Employee – That is what I would recommend. Wrap any exposed piping that you have, under the house, outside of the house. Anything that you can do to assist. A lot of people turn their water off at the meter and we can assist with that. In this situation right here, I do not think we have a policy in place and I haven't talked to the Board yet, but under emergency circumstances like this we will assist the customers in doing so without an additional charge if that is okay with the Board?

President Caraway – Sure.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – Okay and then also when you lose water pressure will you automatically send out notifications like a boil water notice?

Mike Will, District Employee – Yes, we would if it came to that.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – Trinity Bay isn't on like Entergy, they call you and they say "The Power is out in this area", we are not there yet, where you would call?

General Manager Shadden – The Regroup does that. If you sign up for the system, you get a voicemail, email and text. You can choose how you want to receive it.

Secretary Hankamer – But the thing about it is, when you receive a call from them, it could like a spam call, because it could come from Ohio, etc. But the voicemail they leave you will have the information.

President Caraway – I have noticed that when I get the boil water notices, even though I live in Winnie, I get them for the other areas as well. Will we continue to do that?

Mike Will, District Employee – No, we will localize it at some point. It is under 100 people that had signed up last time I checked, so it is easier just to send it to all of them. Once we can get to 50% participation then we can go in and do just the street, or a certain area. But as it is right now, instead of going in there and finding those two people that it may affect, we just send it out to everybody.

President Caraway – We need to think of something to encourage people to sign up, but I do not know what that would be. We have not had very good luck in getting people to sign up.

David Hoyt, District Employee – I was questioned as soon as I walked in the donut shop this morning, if it was true that we were going to cut the system off, Monday in preparation for Tuesday, and I assured them that we were not, but it is already out there. During this freeze, if anyone sees water running on vacant houses or things like that, they need to call in so it can help keep the system up for everybody else.

Mike Will, District Employee – The first thing people think is we are not getting the water out to them, but that is not the case. We are sending it out just as fast as we can make it, we just can't make it fast enough because there are so many breaks out there.

President Caraway – And when you think about it, we make a million gallons a day there, that is a lot of water.

Mike Will, District Employee – And during the freezes we are pumping out like two million. We have doubled our output and we still cannot make it up fast enough.

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. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

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 9:25 a.m.

READ AND APPROVED:

Attest

Victor Caraway, President

Les Hankamer, Secretary

Date: _____