

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF
TRINITY BAY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Wednesday, February 14, 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, February 14, 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, 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 Susan Leblanc from Representative Leo-Wilson's office.

Agenda Item 1:

President Caraway called the Meeting to order at 9:01 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

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve Minutes of a Regular Meeting held January 10, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 5:

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve the Financial Reports for January 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 Nicely 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 Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 8:

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

General Manager Shadden – This is asked for by the auditor's, and it is just making sure that no one on the Board of Directors has any relatives that work for Trinity Bay. It had a Statute in there, but it was not the right one, so I removed it. Each one of you will sign that you do not have any relatives working here.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion that the District is currently following the constitutional provisions, statutory laws, public policies of the Texas Administrative Code. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and Secretary Hankamer and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 9:

RESALE OFFER – PARCEL 8687

General Manager Shadden – Every once in a while, when someone does not pay their taxes, they auction this stuff off and everyone else in the County must accept it. It goes through our attorneys to collect for us, so we get our portion of it.

Secretary Hankamer – So this is a resale piece.

General Manager Shadden – Yes and we will get our portion of it.

District Counsel Leverette – It probably went to a tax sale and if it is a homestead, they have the opportunity to purchase it back. That is probably what she did so you will all get your share of the back taxes.

Secretary Hankamer – So she bought this back?

District Counsel Leverette – Yes, you have 60 days if it is a homestead for you to get it back if it goes to the tax sale. She said she is going to purchase it, but she is also going to pay all the back taxes owed.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve accepting a resale offer submitted by Elva Carreon Tijerna for Parcel 8687 in the amount of \$6,000.00. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hankamer and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 10:

REPLACING DRAINAGE ALUMINUM BOAT

General Manager Shadden – I bought this boat somewhere around early 2012 or 2013. It was a construction boat when we were building all the bridge structures. It has been down in the marsh and they also used it at the water plant to put out copper sulfate and it got into the bottom of the boat and you can see there is holes in it right here, here and here. So, it basically ate the aluminum up and oxidized it. If put water on the inside it runs all the way through to the outside and you can't fix it because it is oxidized. So, we are asking to replace this boat.

President Caraway – So it was from the inside out.

General Manager Shadden – Yes.

President Caraway – So it is a cleaning issue.

General Manager Shadden – Yes, I agree with you 100% that it should have been cleaned whenever they go out of it. But evidently, they left some cooper sulfate in it. This is a double floor so once it got underneath, you cannot get underneath there and wash it out.

Secretary Hankamer – So, what about coating it once we replace that boat? Like coating it with a bed liner material and maybe keep that from happening.

President Caraway – Is the boat that you are buying double hulled?

General Manager Shadden – Yes, we are replacing it with the same boat we had. The original boat was about \$5,000.00 and the new boat will cost about \$14,000.00. So, with the boat and motor total is \$21,232.95. That is with the electric start, jack plate and the whole thing to go with it. Like I said we used this boat when we were building bridges, structures, we used it to go down the bayous. It had the spray rig also set up.

President Caraway – How often is it used?

General Manager Shadden – Quite often. We use it there and we use it in the wetlands to take aerators in and out when there is a problem with them and we use it to copper sulfate when we need to put it in the reservoirs to kill the algae and things to get taste and odor out. But we do need to correct get the chemical inside of it when they load it.

Director Nicely – I can approve this, but what about coating like Les said?

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir, I am sure there is some sort of chemical coating that we can use.

Secretary Hankamer – Yeah, I do not know that a bedliner is something that can be used, but there is something.

General Manager Shadden – There is all kinds of chemical stuff that you can put on there.

President Caraway – The problem is, is that it is going to get in between the hulls.

General Manager Shadden – Either way, they need to make sure they do not get it inside the boat and keep it on the outside. Does it come in powder?

Amos Roy, District Employee – It is like little rocks.

David Hoyt, District Employee – It is granulated. It comes in 40lb bags and they have to drag those bags to make it dissolve. Copper Sulfate is very corrosive.

General Manger Shadden – What I am asking is can we find a way to not get it in the boat?

David Hoyt, District Employee – Yeah, we will work something out.

President Caraway – Would you be better off buying a single hulled boat?

General Manger Shadden –The you would have to step on the ribs.

Secretary Hankamer – A double hulled would be a smooth surface on the inside.

Director Nicely – A single hull would be more of a hazard for what these guys are doing. But, if we are able to find something to coat it, we are going to take those costs out of miscellaneous?

General Manger Shadden –Yes. We have plenty of money in there, we have not spent any money on equipment or trucks yet.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve replacing the drainage aluminum boat and motor from Heritage Marine estimate. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11:

REPLACING BLOWER AT ANAHUAC SEWER PLANT

General Manager Shadden – Right now we share the two sewer plants, they have a 3 and we have a 2 and these blowers work both plants. There are 3 blowers in a room, and we have replaced one once before because one of the blowers had gone out. They are getting close to getting their new sewer plant up and running. We have had discussions about that, what would it mean if Trinity Bay shut down our old plant and they shut down their old plant and run everything through the new plant so we are not running these blowers on the old plants and run them on the new plant. I talked with Plummer and Associates, which are in the sewer business, and what we would have to do about amending permits and all the other stuff, because we do not want to lose what we have but it would be better for everyone by operating one plant that is brand new and more efficient rather than running 2 old plants and a new plant. They will be shutting theirs down and if we do, that means we will have to run 2 sets of blowers. At this time, their plant is not finished, so we have no choice but to replace this blower. That will be the discussions coming in the future, of us shutting our old plant down and running it through their new plant which is a .6 is what I think it is permitted for but it can go to a .8. With the two we have now it is a .5, so it is more than what we have now, but we would have to change the permitting, etc. There is a lot to it to discuss, and with the TCEQ regulations and everything else, and possibly when that happens we will tear down the old plants to have enough room there to add a new plant in the future.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve replacing the blower at the City of Anahuac sewer plant at TBCD's 50% obligation of \$22,155.00. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 12:

RESOLUTION 24-01 AMENDING HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN ADDING #39

General Manager Shadden – We have already applied for a winterization grant, but it is not in our Hazard Mitigation Plan so we are just going back and adding this into the plan that way if we do not get this in this round, if any other money comes up, it is already in our plan saying hey we need this. Our Grant Administrator's suggested that we add this.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve Resolution 24-01 amending the TBCD 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan adding item #39 installing insulation and other winter weatherization improvements at critical facilities, water storage tanks and water plants throughout the district. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 13:

PURCHASE OF NEW WATER TRUCK

General Manager Shadden – I put it in the budget to buy two of these trucks this year. This truck here is the one on the west side, it has 273,258 miles on it, and we have spent a fortune on it just to keep it running. These water trucks are very critical because, everything happens in an emergency situation on the water side and so when they call, these guys need to be able to turn the key and go. Even though it has 273,000 miles on it, while it is on the job at night with the headlights on and idling, there is no telling how many hours are on the motor. We have been putting transmissions, rear ends, etc. trying to keep them running. So, it is time to try to replace one and if we have any money at the end of the year, look at replacing the other one.

President Caraway – These trucks are getting so expensive, and I know we always finance equipment like excavators and stuff. This truck costs more than a mini-ex does. At some point as expensive as trucks are, we may have to look at financing them, especially the other one, it has basically the same number of miles on it and I would not want to put any more money into it, and if we are in a situation where it needs to be replaced and we do not have the money up front to do so, then I would go ahead and replace it versus putting more money in it.

General Manager Shadden – There are plenty of places like Sourcewell, BuyBoard and HGAC to do a governmental lease. We can do that on this truck if the Board thinks that is a good idea.

President Caraway – For those of you that do not have this in front of you, this truck is going to cost \$93,257.00, they are not cheap.

Secretary Hankamer – are you going to put the old truck on action?

General Manager Shadden – No, we had some discussions about it and if for some reason the other truck went down on this side, which has about the same miles on it, we would switch them over to that truck instead of putting more money into the other one, and then if both of them just break, we will buy a new one. So, it will be a back-up.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve purchasing a replacement 1-ton water service truck from Buy Board based on the quote of \$93,257.00. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 14:

REPLACE SLASHBUSTER ON CAT 308

General Manager Shadden – We are having trouble getting parts for Slashbuster, the brand itself. This is from Beaumont Tractor it is a 48” cutter and it will cut up to 6” trees on the 308. Usually we do not go that big. This is mainly for smaller stuff inside town. This is an alternative to slashbuster.

Secretary Hankamer – Is it U.S. made? Do we think we can get parts is what I am getting at?

General Manager Shadden – Yes, it comes from Beaumont Tractor and they tell me we can get parts for it.

David Hoyt, District employee – The main thing about this cutter, is the cutter we had we used it to do small stuff in small areas, and from the time that cutter was new it did not do what it was supposed to do. With this cutter, people say nothing but good things about it. Our Shop guy actually bought one of these at his previous job and said they are awesome. We are looking for something big enough that we can use and get in small areas with it as well. The actual part to fix that slashbuster is more than this cutter is.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve replacing the slashbuster on Caterpillar 308 in the amount of \$8,900.00. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hankamer and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 15:

REPLACE ZINC ANODE PROTECTION ON 7 SALTWATER STRUCTURES

General Manager Shadden – These are the zinc anodes that were put on the structures when they were installed. Some of these structures were installed in 2012, 2013 and 2014, etc. What they are saying is, when you go out there with your voltmeter, you have a 0.0850 is indicative of a minimum protective and they have another standard of -.750. If you look at the chart, most of them are below 7 except for the ones at the moody gate, (*inaudible*) and oyster bayou and are some of the last ones we put in. They are .77 and say for instance on Oyster Bayou he has in here on the land side it is at 8.74 which is good enough, but just barely. On the water side it is a .552, so we do not have enough anodes on there to protect the structure. It is pretty much time for us to put new anodes on all of them to protect them. They will come in and drill these next to the structure and put them in and hook them on there and make sure that the structure doesn't corrode and go away. They do this on pipelines with cathodic protection to keep them from rusting. I think we could look at doing 2 or 3 a year rather than spending \$100,000.00 to replace all 7 at once but that is up to the Board. We do have the money in savings to do this.

Secretary Hankamer – Is he going to be fine with that price over 2-3 years?

General Manager Shadden – Yes. It is possible that it could go up some. It is written on there that it could go up 5%.

Director Nicely – Is this the life expectancy?

General Manager Shadden – We really did not know, because we had never used it before. The wildlife refuge started putting these aluminum structures in from Seabreeze and we went and looked at it and decided to go with that rather than go with the wooden ones. The wooded ones like that stick up above the ground and what happens is when all the debris comes across, it knocked the tops of them off. These are all under-ground to where if it happens again, the debris goes over the top of them and we just clean it out and we are good to go, we do not lose them. So, this is the reason why we went with an under-ground structure instead of ones that stick out of the top.

Director Nicely – Is this on an annual maintenance thing? Do we check them annually?

General Manager Shadden – I have not checked them since we put them in. This was the first time that they have been checked, and some of them have been in there 10-12 years and some have been in there 8 years.

Director Nicely – I don't see going out and buying all 7 of them all at once, but I do see us installing the ones that are need now. Then when we look at it again next year, we have them all tested again because after they install it, they test it to make sure that everything is good. I would like to see it on some kind of annual thing, until we get all of them replaced.

General Manager Shadden – Do you remember how much they charged us? I think it was like \$10,000.00?

Amos Will, District Employee – Yes, for the 2 days they charged \$8,100.00. They checked all seven locations.

President Caraway – And seven is all we have, correct?

General Manager Shadden – Yes, seven is all we have, and we tested all of them.

Secretary Hankamer – So basically \$1,000.00 each.

Director Nicely – If we break this down over 2, 3 or 4 years, they are going to charge us that much money to determine which ones are going to need replacing next in the rotation.

President Caraway – They all need replacing, don't they?

General Manager Shadden – Yes, there are a few of them that are barely over, but most of them are at the bottom of the line and need to be done.

President Caraway – We have the money in Drainage. If were me, I would just replace them all and be done with it.

General Manager Shadden – Sounds good to me.

President Caraway – Or schedule half of them this year and half of them the next year. There is no need in dragging it out.

Director Nicely – I totally agree with that.

Secretary Hankamer – Once the corrosion gets started on it to.

President Caraway – Like I said Drainage has the money to get it done, so I would go ahead and do it.

General Manager Shadden – Aight we will do 4 this year and 3 next year.

President Caraway – That works.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve installing new zinc anode protection on seven saltwater flood structures at a cost of \$24,518.63 each doing 4 this year and 3 in 2025. 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 what the short reach cannot.

EAST FORK OF DOUBLE BAYOU:

Newest Fecon- This machine is cutting the remaining side of the tributary to the east fork.

Komatsu Grinder – This machine is now dipping out the section that has been cut on both sides.

EAST FORK OF DOUBLE BAYOU(Jenkins Weir Project):

Dragline, Long Reach Cat and Short Reach Cat – We have completed the weir wall on both sides. They are currently constructing a steel wall dam to block the upstream water which is diverted with M. Jenkins' pump. We felt that building a steel wall was a better, faster and safer way than constructing a diversion ditch.

GORDY MARSH BAYOU:

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

Note: Unfortunately, we had a boom pin issue and it did take a long time to get in. The correct pin finally came in and on 1-30-24 our shop foreman was able to get the pin installed and the machine is functioning and running as it should.

Note: Still waiting on the New Komatsu to finish being retro fitted with the new Fecon forestry unit.

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:

Jerry Shadden reported on Water and Wastewater.

1. The sewer plant on the Westside is still having punch items on it as far as getting it up and running like it is supposed to be in Hankamer. It has some rake problems and came out to be one of the motors is bad. That was one of the things in our audit that they were asking about but it actually hasn't been given to us yet, it belongs to the County until everything is completed and then they hand it over to us.
2. I got an update from Plummer and Associates; it looks like the corrosion in the piping on the Westside is being caused by the PH. It is too high. Normally you an 8.5, but all the water coming in has already got a higher PH in it. I did some testing way back when I first came to work here, so we had all those numbers from what it was and how it has changed. We should be able to lower the pH in it which means there will be less Caustic going in and will lower our chemical costs some.
3. We have run into a snag with the brick lining where we stopped at Chestnut and we were going to add onto the brick lining in there. The Core wants us to come back and instead of giving us the nationwide 3's to continue on with what we have, they want us to go back to the existing permit which means we will have to do a bunch of stuff. We were looking at doing 750 feet and it looks like below 500 feet that you might be able to get by with nationwide 3 where you do not have to do all of that. So, we might look at dropping it back from 750 feet to 500 feet and see if that does it. If not, it is almost like do it at a full-blown permit.

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:

Director Nicely – Only thing that I want to say is Amos, after those heavy rainfalls that we had, I went out and drove down the feeder road and looked at Spindletop and the flow was awesome. The water is draining out of our neighborhood a lot quicker than it used to. I looked out the windows at midnight and I see water in the yard, I didn't get much sleep that night with PTSD. But when I looked out there at sunrise, I was amazed that that water was gone. So, I went out and drove the ditches at 124, Spindletop and 363 and the water was flowing down Spindletop. It is totally awesome. You guys are doing great.

President Caraway – What about 1406, did you look at it?

Director Nicely – Oh yeah. That water used to flood that first guys house there in the corner.

President Caraway – But this time it didn't.

Director Nicely – It was running out. I haven't had a chance to talk to him to see what he thinks yet. Before, he used to flood all the time. The guy that lived there before he dug it out and tried to get it to drain faster, but it wouldn't go anywhere cause of the 24" culvert.

I did not go by Mayhaw and look over there by what used to be Al T's.

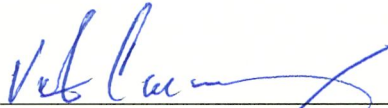
I am amazed at the blowouts you are talking about and the routine maintenance, how they shut it down and say it is going to take 8 hours and in couple of hours later it is done. These guys are doing a great job.

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 9:49 a.m.

READ AND APPROVED:



Victor Caraway, President

Attest



Les Hankamer, Secretary

Date: 11-10-24