

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF
TRINITY BAY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Wednesday, October 9, 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, October 9, 2024, with the following Directors present:

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

Also present were Jerry Shadden, Crystal Threadgill, David Hoyt, Mike Will, Brad Davis, Mark Mitchell and Joey Mouton, District Employees; Kate Leverett of Germer PLLC, District Counsel, Brad Moon, of the Chambers County Sherriff Department, Susan LeBlanc from Representative Terri Leo-Wilson's office, Gloria Way of the Seabreeze Beacon, Kalari Clark from The Progress, Wade Thibodeaux from the Hometown press..

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

NONE.

Agenda Item 4:
APPROVE MINTUES

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve Minutes of a Regular Meeting held September 11, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 5:
FINANCIAL REPORTS

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve the Financial Reports for September 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 6:
TAX REPORTS

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve the Tax Reports for September 30, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn 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:
2024-2025 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Board meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 9:
2024-2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve the 2024-2025 Holiday schedule. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 10:
CONTRACT WITH REGROUP

General manager Shadden – The contract that we have with Regroup (the mass communication) alert system is up for renewal. As of right now with have 295 customers that have signed up. We have put

it on the website, in the paper, and in the lobby of our office to get it out to everyone to sign up. The cost of this is \$4,515.00 a year. It is up the Board as to whether you want to renew this contract.

Director Nicely – How many more do we have if we only have 295 now?

General Manager Shadden – All together we have 6,000 accounts.

Secretary Hankamer – How long have we had this?

General Manager Shadden – We said we would try it for a year and see how it worked. Some people say they haven't received a message, but unless we are working in your area, you will not receive a notification. I get all of them, a text, email and phone call.

Secretary Hankamer – Is there a way to tell, how many new people have signed up? Can we tell if any one has signed up in the last 60 days?

General Manager Shadden – Diane could probably do that.

Secretary Hankamer – I was just asking the question so that we can maybe go for another year and if we don't turn around that amount another year then we cancel it.

President Caraway – When people are signing up for new service, do we encourage them to sign up at that time?

Secretary Hankamer – Is there a way that they can automatically be signed up?

President Caraway – I do not think we can force them to, but you can at least ask them right then. I know we have tried to get people to sign up. We might consider a one-time discount to get them to sign up, \$5.00 or \$10.00? It is something, they might do it.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – Victor may I say something?

President Caraway – Absolutely.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – While I like to see it in Seabreeze, when it goes on Facebook, it is shared over and over again so it reaches thousands of people.

General Manager Shadden – Even though they are not signed up through us they are getting it through social media.

President Caraway – I am with Les, I think we need to do it one more year and do what we can to encourage people to sign up.

Secretary Hankamer – If we do not get at last the same amount of people signed up next year than we do this year, then we cancel.

President Caraway – We are at 300, we need to be at least at 1,000 and that would only 20% of our customers.

Director Nicely – Susan brought up one time that State Representative Teri Leo-Wilson was receiving phone calls about water issues and wanted to see if we would do something and we did something. Only 295 people signed up when there are thousands. I agree with Les, we need to encourage the customers to sign up.

Secretary Hankamer – We could do another mailer in their water bill, maybe once a quarter.

Director Nicely – Yes, because otherwise I do not see how we can do this for just 290 people at that cost.

Gloria Way, Seabreeze Beacon – Maybe if you all could partner with Chambers Warnings, with the Chambers County Office of Emergency Management that they have and piggyback with whoever signs up for that can sign up for this as well.

President Caraway – Yes, I am sure we can talk to the County about that.

Susan LeBlanc, Representative Terri Leo-Wilson's office – Have the calls been more targeted recently, because yesterday I got a post late in the evening about a boil water notice, but I did not receive a phone call, which is was not my affected area, so I thought maybe the calls were more targeted.

General Manager Shadden – They are.

Susan LeBlanc, Representative Terri Leo-Wilson's office – I would rather get the annoying text or phone call, than to not know at all. But I did think maybe the system is more targeted now.

Mike Will – There were 27 people in that zone that we were in.

General Manager Shadden – We target the area.

Gloria way, Seabreeze Beacon – I got it twice because people on Social Media have shared it. All it takes is for 1 person to receive the notice to send it out. So, for every person of the 295 that is signed up, you are looking at 1000 people that are seeing it and I think it would be a huge disservice if it is an emergency and no one is notified.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve renewing a one-year contract with the Emergency Notification System with Regroup Mass Notification. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 11:
DECLARING DRAINAGE SURPLUS PROPERTY

General Manager Shadden – We have a 1 ton and 2 pick up trucks we would like to send to Auction. I replaced one truck in last year's budget and we bought another truck for drainage with this year's budget, but we have not bought the 1 ton yet. On the 1 ton we are waiting for BuyBoard or HGC. The pickup trucks are \$40,000.00 but the 1 ton are over \$70,000.00 and that puts it over the threshold to have to have formal bids. So we3 are waiting on Winnie Dodge to get on BuyBoard that way we can buy it locally.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to declare Drainage vehicles (#0168, #0179 and #0180) as Surplus Property. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hankamer and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 12:
GRANTS ACCEPTED BY FEMA

General Manager Shadden – Jeff Ward and Associates was the Grant Administrator on this. FEMA has accepted all of these and he feels like we should have the money sometime next year to do this. Some of the money is to pay for the engineering on the bridge and some is to widen the ditch. There is really no action to be taken, I just wanted to inform you all.

President Caraway – On the Mayhaw project, what to do you think we are...

General Manager Shadden – This is to look at where the boxes are underneath I-10. We have already done a study to say how much it will raise the water, but they have to go back also and say it is going to take \$10,000,000.00 to do the job to mitigate that 110. He is going to go back and look to say that it is a viable project and we are not spending \$10,000,000.00 to save two humps.

President Caraway – Not only that, when they are done with this study, we should have something in hand that says that this is what it is going to take to do this. Because last time that we did it all we received was no you cannot do it because it is going to raise the water.

General Manager Shadden – Right, and I think if you look at it the right way, if were to put in for a Grant to do something there without a study, they would be like we need the study to get the Grants.

President Caraway – Right.

General Manager Shadden – While we are on Grants, the brick lining starting off by your house on Chesnutt over here , we have to do a full blown permit through the court to be able to extend those blocks down and I asked him at the same time how much it would cost to go ahead and extend it all the way to Campbell so we do not have to go back again later and do it, but it ended up it was going to cost \$78,000.00 just to do the permitting. They budgeted \$15,000.00 on the project to begin with and it ended up being \$40,000.00.

President Caraway – It goes to LeBlanc right now?

General Manager Shadden – It goes to Chesnutt and it leaves there and goes toward LeBlanc. From my understanding it is not going to go completely to LeBlanc. Your looking at about \$1000.00 a foot and it is just not enough money there to go that far.

President Caraway – We should look at it internally and see what it would cost us to go from 1406 to where it is going to stop all the way to Campbell.

General Manager Shadden – This is one of the reasons that I told him no is because we haven't put in for any grants so there is nothing in the pipeline even started to be able to say hey it is worth doing the \$78,000.00 now. We will just have to do it at the next time.

President Caraway – Okay.

NO ACTION NEEDED

Agenda Item 13:
CRUSHED LIMESTONE TO REPAIR WINNIE WETLANDS ROADS:

General Manager Shadden – The wetland roads are getting very bad. You come in the front gate and you have to go up to the junction box (the new one is coming in and we need to install it) and then you go around to the back and take samples of the lagoon and a few other places. As you go through there, nothing has been done with the road in 10 years and it beat out and muddy and these samples have to

be taken every day. Rain or shine they are taken every day to be turned in. This was on Mike's list of things he needed done. The County said if we bought the material that they would bring their motor grader in and lay it down for us and beat it with a vibratory vibrator for us.

Director Nicely – Not only do we have to get back in there and do it, this is also a safety issue for our employees and our equipment going in there.

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir, and it is in pretty bad shape right now.

President Caraway – What is the dollar amount?

General Manager Shadden - \$82,600.00 for the rock.

President Caraway – Okay. And we will take this out of our construction fund?

General Manager Shadden – I do not know that it is necessary that we have to take it out of there, but it is possible.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve the purchase of 1,370 tons of crushed limestone to repair the Winnie Wetlands roads. The motion was seconded by Director Rayburn and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 14:
CANCEL SEABREEZE CULVERT MANUFACTURING A NEW BAR SCREEN COLLECTION BOX

General Manager Shadden – This is just a housekeeping item. In the beginning we were going to get them to replace the aluminum box and we ended up buying concrete and having a concrete box made for the durability and life of the bar screen. So this is just some housekeeping showing the people that may come after us that we did say we were going to buy it and now we didn't and so now it is in the record.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve cancelling Seabreeze Culvert manufacturing a new bar screen collection box for the Winnie/Stowell Sewer. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 15:
ADVERTISING FOR BIDS TO INSTALL 20" HDPE WATER TRANSMISSION LINE.

General Manager Shadden – The plans are complete and we have the permits. It is more than \$50,000.00 so it must go out for bid and to make sure we have the right ASTM, so we are going to have the engineer bid it for us. If it comes out decently, we might have the guy doing the bore to do HDPE all the way into the plant. He will be doing 300 and something feet across I10 and then down to the plant and he has to bore under the road again, so we were looking at possibly doing HDPE the whole way. I am going to let LJA advertise for this and go out for bids to make sure it is under an engineer's standards and it is done the right way.

President Caraway – If you do not do HDPE, what do you do?

General Manager Shadden - You would transition to PVC or you go double iron. Normally you would go to PVC, with just a transition coupling.

President Caraway – This is going a little more but be a lot better?

General Manager Shadden – They are there already and I want to say the HDPE is a little bit cheaper pipe.

David Hoyt – Yes, it is a little bit cheaper, it is longer joints and will go in a little quicker. You are going to have to use HDPE under the freeway and in your bores and you will have to transition to a C900 or whatever they use. It is cheaper to go HDPE all the way and I think it would go a lot faster and a lot smoother.

President Caraway – Okay.

General Manager Shadden – And you get a better product because when you get done with HDPE, they call it a Harvey, to where it has a hinge made on it so when you put it in the coupling and tighten it down, you do not have to put a 5' concrete kicker behind it because it has a flange welded to the pipe and when you tighten it on there, you don't have to have a good kicker behind it. It has several advantages and we have an 8" going beside it so I do not see any reason to tap it in the future, it is pretty much a transmission line. You can tap it with electrocution if you absolutely have to. We are going to cross the freeway and put a T there, that way we go East. I had somebody come in last week and they are looking at possibly doing 600 houses just past Nutty Jerry's on Highway 73 and they said that they would be willing to help us run it down that way if need be. All of these contractors that are around here, the plans are done, they are waiting on the right interest rate to come up they are going to start poking these things out there. That is the plans behind it.

Director Nicely, made a Motion to approve advertising for bids to install a 20" HDPE Water transmission line from the Winnie Water Plant across I10 2,200' with two directional bores. The motion was seconded by Secretary Hankamer and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 16:
POUR 100' X 100' CONCRETE SLAB AT STOWELL OFFICE FOR PARKING/STORAGE

General Manager Shadden – As you can see in this picture, we want to install off the back of the slab that is there already and it gives us a laydown yard to get the stuff out of the dirt. Aren't you going to use this for parking also?

David Hoyt – Yes, it will make it a lot easier for us if we can move a lot of that PVC and stuff, that we have on the side of the parking lot that is existing and put it in the back to get it out of the way so those guys can park there. Right now, peoples cars are getting in the way of the equipment and we do not want any accident's out there.

Director Nicely – So, you are going out towards the back, where you come right around here? So, you are going out to the backside?

General Manager Shadden – Yes sir.

Secretary Hankamer – Do you know what the price is going to be?

General Manager Shadden – I show it is about \$30,000.00 for the concrete.

Secretary Hankamer – Are we going to do it ourselves?

General Manager Shadden – We are going to try to see if we can get someone to do it.

President Caraway – I would guess it is going to be in the \$60,000.00 range.

Secretary Hankamer, made a Motion to approve pouring a 100' x 100' concrete slab in the rear of the Stowell office for parking and storage. The motion was seconded by Director Nicely and it passed by unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 17:
PURCHASE OF ½ TON PICKUP IN DRAINAGE

General Manager Shadden – I explained a while ago that the pickups trucks were like \$40,000.00 so we were able to just go get 3 bids and this is the truck we purchased.

David Hoyt – Winnie Dodge has been low bid by \$3,000.00 - \$4,000.00 on ½ ton trucks and the last Chevrolet, we normally buy from Ford through Silsbee and the last Chevrolet we bout there was like \$95,000.00 and they are \$73,000.00 up here. So, we are waiting for them to finish their BuyBoard so we can continue to buy here.

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

II. DRAINAGE REPORT:

Mark Mitchell reported on Drainage.

RUSH DITCH SOUTHOFF IH10:

Dragline. – Using the dragline to clean out the sand bars on Rush Ditch.

Komatsu Dozer – This machine is cutting and reestablishing the shelf and will tidy up the spoils to help speed up the dragline.

DOUBLE BAYOU TRIBUTARY:

Komatsu Mower Long Reach – This machine is being used to remove the vegetation from the drainage ditch.

Cat Fecon – This machine is cutting the heavy vegetation that the mower machine cannot handle.

SPINDLETOP NORTH OF FM 1663:

Komatsu Grinder- This machine is cutting the vegetation along the drainage ditch heading South back toward FM 1663.

RUSH DITCH NORTH OF IH-10:

Cat Long Reach 324 – Digging out materials that the smaller equipment brings them and loading into TxDOT supplied dump trucks.

WINNIE DITCH BRIDGE:

Cat 329 with Hammer – This machine is being used to do the demolition of the old bridge, dirt work, and pile driving for the new bridge.

SPRAY CREWS:

1. The ground crews are still spraying.
2. If the ground crews cannot spray, they will go mow with the tractors or other equipment.

I. UTILITIES REPORT:

Brad Davis reported on Water and Wastewater.

1. Update on the ground storage project at the West WTP.
 - a. Plummer Engineering is 30 percent complete with design.
 - b. Plummer has requested a 60-day extension from the TCEQ to complete plans.
2. The crews are completing the lead service line inventory. Documentation will be sent to the TCEQ this month.
3. The new bar screen has been received for the Winnie WTP. We will begin installation in the next couple of weeks.
4. The new rate increase will be on this month's water and sewer bill.
5. We received documentation from the TCEQ showing that the alleged violation for not having an up to date CT has been resolved for the Winnie WTP and that the system remains a Superior Water System.
6. We received documentation from the TCEQ showing that the alleged violation for an unauthorized discharge at Rose and Buccaneer has been resolved.
7. As part of our insurance requirement, we hired a contractor to perform thermal imaging on all of the electrical equipment at both water plants, this was completed last week.

Water and sewer tap installs

- Installed 1 gravity sewer tap
 - Installed 4 complete grinder stations
 - Installed 250' of sewer discharge lines
 - Installed 8 water meters
 - Relocated 1 grinder station
 - Installed 13 meters in Cypress Point
- Repairs**
- We repaired 8 sewer leaks
 - We repaired 30 water leaks
 - We responded to 116 grinder station call outs

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.

None.

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 9:55 a.m.

READ AND APPROVED:

Attest


Les Hankamer, Secretary


Victor Caraway, President

Date: 11-13-24