

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
BRUSH COUNTRY GROUNDWATER §
CONSERVATION DISTRICT §

The Board of Directors of Brush County Groundwater Conservation District (the “District”) met at a regular meeting, open to the public, January 23,2024 at the Brush Country Groundwater Building 732 W. Rice Falfurrias, Texas, in accordance with the duly posted notice of said meeting.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. and the roll was called. Board members’ presence at the meeting or absence is as follows:
 - i. David Kelly present
 - ii. Bill Botard present
 - iii. Mario Martinez present
 - iv. Robert Scott absent
 - v. A.C. Jones IV present
 - vi. Humberto Martinez present
 - vii. Paul Goranson present
 - viii. Jesse Howell present
 - ix. Mauro Garcia present

Also in attendance were General Manager Luis Pena, Felix Saenz Consultant, Bill Dugat Legal Counsel, Royce Carrera administrative assistant Brush Country GCD, Robert Howard Legislative consultant. Mr. Andy Garza Kenedy County GCD general manager, Mr. George Gonzalez Duval County GCD general manager, and Mrs. Irma Menchaca citizen of Brooks County.

2. Pledge of Allegiance. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Public Comment. Mrs. Menchaca mentioned that she wanted to thank our board for the aggressive approach, teamwork with neighboring districts, and the good comments of our board members, she mentioned that Doug Sheets spoke about the next terror attack could be on our water supply, so please continue doing the job of protecting our water resources.
4. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on Minutes of the Regular Meeting on November 28, 2023. Motion was made by Paul Goranson to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill Botard, motion carries unanimously.

5. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on General Manager's Report: General Manager Louie Pena mentioned that he had attended Kenedy County's GCD meeting, added that Senator Morgan Lamantia gave a legislative update, asked "What is needed? And that the concerns of local groundwater districts was invaluable, and that she and her staff are learning more about water issues. Mrs. Lamantia mentioned that funding for School Safety is a priority, a big achievement by adding 1 billion to the Texas Water Plan, flooding infrastructure, drainage issues, water bills, bills on broadband, more access to healthcare, asking about Texas Windstorm insurance, mentioned that the tax property bill passed, spoke about our population growth and the need for water since our demands are greater, we need more resources. Mentioned the constitutional right to farm."

Mr. Pena mentioned that Duval County will hold their meeting on January 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. mentioned that he will be attending the Region N meeting on Thursday January 25, 2024, and that he will be traveling to Round Rock for the TAGD bootcamp and meeting.

Mr. Pena mentioned that he had 4 new wells for plugging, John & Jane Daughtery Jim Wells County by Victor Vasquez, Visnaga Ranch (Steve Burns) Brooks County by Lynn Stapleton, well plugging for Richard Solomon Brooks County by Lynn Stapleton, and well plugging for Noemi Hernandez Jim Hogg County by Rene Molina. Informational purposes only.

6. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on Brush Country GCD employees job descriptions and evaluations. General Manager Louie Pena mentioned that they had a telephone conference with legal counsel Bill Dugat, David Kelly, Bill Botard, Jesse Howell, Mauro Garcia, and administrative assistant Royce Carrera. Mr. Dugat gave us direction and some ideas to include on the evaluations, Mr. Pena presented the evaluation forms and job descriptions that were drawn up by Mr. Bill Dugat, these evaluation forms should be done prior to the budget, they will be done for the fiscal year from October 1-September 30. Mr. Paul Goranson made the motion to accept the job descriptions and the evaluation forms. Humberto Martinez seconded the motion, motion carries unanimously.
7. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on TAGD Newsletter Sponsorship. General Manager, Mr. Pena presented the tiers and recommended that our district choose the bronze membership for \$250. Motion was made by A.C. Jones to sponsor the TAGD Newsletter with the bronze membership, seconded by Mr. Mario Martinez, motion carries unanimously.
8. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on ratifying December's bills and paying January's bills as presented. Motion was made by Mr. Paul Goranson to ratify December's bills and pay January's bills as presented, Mr. Humberto Martinez seconded the motion, motion carries unanimously.
9. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on monthly financial statement and pledge report. Mr. Felix Saenz presented the financial report, mentioned that Burkhart Peterson sends us a

financial statement that has the month expenditures and income, and also from the beginning of the fiscal year to the present month. Mr. Saenz mentioned that on all three accounts (operating, tax, and reserve) at the end of December we have 2.4 million. On interest we have \$90,000. On our pledge report we were over pledged. Motion was made by Mario Martinez to approve the financial statement and pledge report, seconded by Jesse Howell, motion carries unanimously.

10. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on US Drought Index report. General manager Louie Pena mentioned that it was rare to see our district at the current time without drought or severe drought, we are thankful for the recent rains, but we are always preparing for the next drought in the state of Texas. A motion was made by Bill Botard to approve the drought report as presented, seconded by Jesse Howell, motion carries unanimously.
11. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on 2023 annual report. General Manager Mr. Pena mentioned that he had emailed the annual report and wanted to mention that instead of committing ourselves to 100 wells being registered, we changed it on our management plan to 10, even though we average 100 per year. Mr. Felix Saenz also added that we easily meet our expectations, and it is better to have this approach because if you place high expectations and you do not meet them, when they audit they will hold you to those standards. Motion was made by Mr. Paul Goranson to approve the annual report as presented, seconded by Jesse Howell, motion passes unanimously.
12. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on legislative report from Robert Howard. Mr. Robert Howard mentioned that Texas Voters created a new “Texas Water Fund” that is being funded by a \$1 billion appropriation from the state’s general revenue fund. The fund and any associated transfers or expenditures will be administered by the Texas Water Development Board. Mr. Howard also mentioned that for the upcoming primaries on March 6th within our state delegation Mr. Ryan Guillen and Mr. Chuy Hinojosa did not have any opposition for the upcoming elections, and that Mr. J.M. Lozano has a challenger Mrs. Mariana Casarez. Mr. Howard also mentioned that he had visited with the chairs of the Senate and House committees for our water quality preservation that includes a state well-plugging program. Informational purposes only.
13. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on GMA 16 issues. General manager Louie Pena mentioned that we will hold or meeting on March 26th,2024. Information purposes only.
14. Discuss, consider, and possibly act on new business and select date for next meeting. Next meeting scheduled for February 27th,2024 at 9:30 a.m.
15. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Paul Goranson, seconded by Bill Botard, motion carries unanimously.

Passed and approved this 27th, day of February 2024.

President, Board of Directors

Attest by:

Secretary, Board of Directors