

IRION COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
May 11, 2026

Members Present: Chairman of the Board Bill Whitley, Robert Richey, Sid Sullenger, James Furr, Pete Barrera, General Manager Diana Thomas, and Technician Ashley Masters  
Public Present: Agrilife Extension Agent Rebekah Ross, Loye Tankersley, Rusty Owens, Frances Owens, Ryan McDonald, Frank Lindley, Gary Tankersley, Ivie Avery, Bill Avery, Jessica James, Andrew James, Scott Holland, Doug Gryder, Leon Standard, Tia Paxton, Justin Paxton, Casey Harper, Daniel Harper, Zack Vaughn, Cory Hofacket, Linda Hofacket, Carla Lindley, and Jeanette Hobbs

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM. by Bill Whitley, Chairman of the Board.

The public comment period was opened with Jessica James, who stated that she was against weather modification.

Andrew James expressed his opinion that taxpayer money should not be used on weather modification.

Ashley Masters read written comments submitted by Mayor Aubrey Stewart. Questions covered topics about chemicals used, effects, and effectiveness.

Linda Hofacket expressed her concerns with District involvement in the West Texas Weather Modification Association citing the lack of recent data collection or research. The research that is available illustrates the lack of meaningful recharge, an expressed purpose of weather modification. She expressed doubts about the cost effectiveness of the program and read Ch. 36 TWC stating that cost effectiveness is a required consideration before pursuing weather modification.

Sid Sullenger moved and James Furr seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried.

General Manager Diana Thomas presented the financial report and bills to the Board. The bills included standard monthly bills, student scholarship checks, San Angelo Standard Times annual subscription, and the purchase of materials for equipment repair. After reviewing the bills as presented, James Furr moved to pay all bills and transfer \$14,000 from the MM account. Pete Barrera seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Manager's report included: WTWMA in San Angelo, TAGD Education Committee in Waco, Data Center Community Meeting in Dove Creek, GMA 7 in Sonora, TWDB Field Day in Dove Creek, and TAGD Education Committee Virtual Meeting. The WTWMA conducted two flights in April before having their license pulled for additional information needed. The Howard County Commissioners Court petitioned and were approved to join the WTWMA. Ashley Masters attended the TAGD Education Committee in Waco, touring the Bledsoe-Miller STEAM Center and had the opportunity to see the various outreach program available to the community. Local tours of the Waco Mammoth Site National Park and the Lake Waco Wetlands

tours highlighted the importance of natural water cycling and how it can be incorporated for the benefit of community in a multifaceted approach to conservation. Ashley participated in Project WET Educator Training: Water in Earth Systems and now is a certified project WET educator. Diana Thomas attended a data center community meeting in Dove Creek to stay informed of potential heavy water use just across the ICWCD jurisdictional boundary. GMA 7 met in Sonora to vote on DFCs. Increased pumping in Schleicher County resulted in a slight increase in drawdown in Sterling and Irion counties. A 90-day public comment period on the DFCs is now underway. TWDB field day at Dove Creek, continued previous monitoring of spring conditions including water quality, spring flow, and invertebrate species sampling, new with Ben Schartz of Texas State University. District staff completed well surveys including utilizing the well camera, static water level measurements, and GPS database expansion of previously unrecorded wells. Ashley participated in the virtual TAGD Education Committee meeting which included a recap on the recent Waco meeting, made plans for an in-person meeting in October, finalized meeting plans associated with the June TAGD Business meeting, and opening the upcoming workshop around The Art of Gathering to all TAGD members. A presentation on the TREC Proposed Water Notice: Seller's Disclosure about Groundwater and Surface Water Rights was given noting that the form will be optional in real estate documents beginning May 4, 2026 and will be required starting July 1, 2026. Ashley also conducted education and outreach for the District to the local FFA for their regional competition, evaluating a student presentation on Environmental Impacts of AI Data Centers in West Texas.

Well surveillance for the monitor network was completed for 10 wells, 8 remained at static levels and 2 wells measured at decreased water levels. Additional static water levels outside the network were gathered for evaluation of additional possible monitor wells and by request of citizens. The well camera was utilized for well 707 on Dove Creek Ranch, C. Tankersley windmill well, and C. Tankersley metal cases river well in Irion County.

A Notice of Intent to Drill was received for B. West for two test/domestic wells, C. King for a domestic well, and R. Noelke replacement domestic well.

Water quality analysis was performed for Dove Creek Well 707, C. Tankersley SWD Well, C. Tankersley house well, Bailey house well, Bailey barn well, and Hayes house well.

Ashley Masters announced Presli Cormier as the recipient of the Vicki Tankersley Memorial Scholarship per the selection committee. Sid Sullenger moved to award Presli Cormier the Vicki Tankersley Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Pete Barrera seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Diana Thomas administered the Oath of Office for newly elected officers Bill Whitley Precinct 1 Director and Pete Barrera Precinct 3 Director.

Sid Sullenger moved to re-elect Bill Whitley as Chairman, Robert Richey as Vice-Chairman, James Furr as Secretary. Pete Barrera seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

At the request of Board Vice-Chairman Robert Richey, Loye Tankersley and Scott Holland addressed the Board on ICWCD'S history and participation in the West Texas Weather

Modification Association. Tax rate history, WTWMA funding mechanisms, performance evaluations, and the intent of the WTWMA were all discussed.

The Board expressed appreciation for hearing a history of the West Texas Weather Modification Association and the ICWCD's role in it. James Furr expressed sympathy to many of the public comments about the environmental concerns on the use of silver iodide and not being satisfied that it has been answered. Pete Barrera agreed and requested this agenda item be tabled to the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow for additional questions to be researched. No action was taken.

There being no further business James Furr moved and Pete Barrera seconded to adjourn at 8:38 PM.

James C. Furr

Attesting Signature

Pete Barrera

Presiding Officer

Date: 6-8-2026