

# IRION COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 11, 2023

Members Present: Bill Whitley, Chairman of Board; Robert Richey, James Furr, and Sid Sullenger, Diana Thomas, General Manger; and Ashley Masters, Technician.

Visitors Present: None

The Public Meeting on the FY 2023-2024 Budget and 2023 Tax Rate was called to order by Bill Whitley, Chairman of the Board, at 6:02pm. No public was in attendance. The public meeting was closed at 6:12 pm.

The regular meeting was called to order by Bill Whitley, Chairman of the Board.

James Furr moved, and Robert Richey seconded to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

District Manager Diana Thomas presented the regular monthly bills to the Board. After reviewing the bills as presented, Sid Sullenger moved to transfer \$9,000 from the MMDA to the checking account and to pay all bills. Robert Richey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Manager's report included: TAGD Business Meeting and TAGD Summit in San Antonio, and RMBJ Geo in Mertzon. The TAGD Business meeting included the bi-annual election of officers resulting in Manager Diana Thomas being elected as the Upper Edwards Trinity Aquifer Representative again. A deficit budget was also adopted for the upcoming fiscal year despite objection of many GCDs from our West Texas area. The TAGD Summit covered a variety of topics and speakers from managing groundwater in drought with a highlight of rainwater harvesting, multiple discussions on the DFC process, and current legal issues resultant from recent court rulings. RMBJ Geo spent an afternoon at the Irion office managing mapping issues.

Well Surveillance for August throughout Irion had 11 wells remaining at static levels, 5 wells measured a decrease in water level, 1 well measured increased water level, and 7 wells were unable to measure.

The following Notice of Intent to Drill were received for the month of August; R. Thorpe for a livestock well, J. Harrison for 2 livestock wells, K. Terrill for a domestic well, and K. Terrill for a change of use for plugging a well. Water quality analysis was completed for R. Cravens, J. Paxton, C. Schaule, and W. Bryant (3 total).

Following re-evaluation of the previous month's personnel evaluations at the request of the Board, James Furr moved to grant merit pay of \$4,000 for the District Manager and \$3,000 for the Technician in addition to the salary increases approved in the previous meeting. Robert Richey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Sid Sullenger moved to amend the FY 2022-2023 Budget. Major amendments included increasing Dues and Publications to account for QuickBooks price increase and above average newspaper postings, increasing Merit

Pay, and increasing Vehicle Service and Repairs. Total operating expenses were amended to equal \$173,120 with funds allocated from excess revenue not estimated. Robert Richey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Sid Sullenger moved to adopt the FY 2023-2024 Budget of \$175,900 in total operating expenses. Compared to the previous fiscal year Purchase/Reserve costs increased, Fuel increased, Dues/Publications increased, and Payroll increased. Robert Richey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

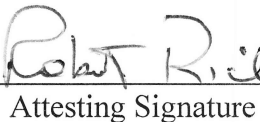
James Furr moved to adopt the 2023 Tax Rate of \$0.006165 which is the No-New-Revenue rate. This tax rate is estimated to raise \$173,310 in funds for the District at a 99% collection rate. Sid Sullenger seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

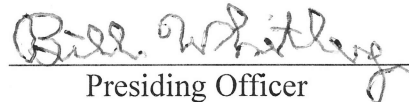
Sid Sullenger moved to adopt the Tax Collection Agreement for tax assessing and collection services with Irion County. James Furr seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

James Furr moved to adopt a tax discount of 3% if paid in full in October, 2% if paid in full in November, and 1% if paid in full in December. Robert Richey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The rules workshop overviewed changes to the Irion County Water Conservation District Rules as required from the 2023 legislative session. The two major changes included adding a section on how to petition the district for a rule change and amending the appeals and SOAH hearing process. A few recommended minor changes were also presented that resulted in uniformity across definitions and the removal of unenforceable regulation of strictly injection wells.

There being no further business James Furr moved and Robert Richey seconded to adjourn at 7:38 PM.

  
Attesting Signature

  
Presiding Officer

Date: 10-9-2023