

IRION COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 10, 2026

Members Present: Chairman of the Board Bill Whitley, Robert Richey, Pete Barrera, James Furr, General Manager Diana Thomas, and Technician Ashley Masters

Public Present: Accountant Macy Hartley, Clay Thorp, and Leon Standard

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Bill Whitley, Chairman of the Board, at the Commissioners Courtroom in the Irion County Courthouse.

No public in attendance gave comment.

Robert Richey moved and Pete Barrera seconded to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion carried.

Accountant, Macy Hartley presented the financial report and bills to the Board. The bills included standard monthly bills, PO Box annual renewal, merit pay, and lab/field supplies. After reviewing the bills as presented, James Furr moved to pay all bills and transfer \$19,000 from the MM account. Robert Richey seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Ashley presented to the Board an opportunity to sponsor the December 2026 community luncheon in Mertzon. After discussion, the Board directed Ashley to confirm sponsorship and to include a line item in the FY 2026-2027 budget for outreach and education.

The Manager's report included: WTWMA in San Angelo, GMDA Conference in Lubbock, West Texas Legislative Summit in San Angelo, virtual TAGD Executive Committee meeting, and Sterling County Commissioners Court in Sterling City. WTWMA reported that one of the airplanes will need a complete engine overhaul due to accumulated flight hours. The estimated cost of the overhaul is \$30-50,000 and can be scheduled in the off-season. Forecasts predict a typical Texas August of increasing temperatures and declining precipitation. Ashley attended the Groundwater Management Districts Association 2026 Summer Conference in Lubbock. This meeting covered the importance of data collection utilizing various methods and why this is key in understanding and relating information to constituents. It also focused on the importance of education programs for all ages to ensure better understanding and participation in conservation efforts. Speakers with City of Abilene and City of Lubbock detailed what challenges they face and how they are addressing the water issues and planning for the future. Senator Perry spoke on the future issues he believes are coming for Texas water and his thoughts on how groundwater districts should address them. Rainwater harvesting on a large scale was demonstrated at a tour of the Samuel Jackson, LLC facility; the entire facility uses collected rain water to run operations from evaporative cooling fans to the kitchen sink. The West Texas Legislative Summit in San Angelo saw a large number of state legislators and industry representatives discussing healthcare, nuclear power generation, data centers, and the upcoming 2027 legislative session. Infrastructure, including water supply infrastructure, and property taxes look to dominate the 2027 legislative session. Emerging technology in the small and mid-size nuclear reactors that dramatically reduce water usage was discussed. Data centers do not see a saturation point in the market and expect growth to continue, sharing their hopes for an open market as Texas figures out the water and energy supply issues. The TAGD Executive Committee met virtually to discuss FY 26-27 budgets and the need for long-term strategic planning. Diana talked with the

Sterling County Commissioners' Court on the status of local aquifer resources and how the SCUWCD is achieving the DFC.

Well surveillance was completed with 9 monitor wells remaining at static level, 4 wells measured increased water level, and 6 wells measured a decrease in water level. A new well, the Parish Well, was measured with a static level of 30.99 ft and a water quality test completed. The rain gauge network was downloaded for the 1st and 2nd quarters. We will need to find a replacement location for the old Sugg gauge, the Apache still needs to be replaced with the newer gauges, and the Lawdermilk needs to be replaced and launched. The Masters gauge will be deployed when construction at the location ends this fall.

The well camera was utilized for L. Hofacket and two wells for J. Gray. A water analysis was performed for K. Smith, D. Smith, and D. Parrish. A Notice of Intent to Drill was received for K. Aldrete for a new domestic well and a Change of Ownership was received from 4-Star Tank Rental LP for an industrial well and a domestic well.

Ashley Masters presented an application for a minor amendment to the Cinco Alto water sales permit in the form of a Change of Ownership. It is not owned by 4-Star Tank Rental and no other changes to the permit are being requested. After discussion Robert Richey moved to accept the minor amendment of Change of Ownership on the Former Cinco Alto Well Permit to 4 Star Tank Rental LP. James Furr seconded and the motion passed.

Diana Thomas presented the Board with a draft budget reflecting the previously adopted payroll changes. Adjustments due to increased insurance premiums, increased scholarship funds due to the loss of outside funding, increased service/repairs for the vehicle, and decreased telephone expenses due to the past conversion to a VoIP line were all reflected in the draft budget as well as the complete removal of the recharge enhancement line item. A new line item of Education and Outreach was discussed. The completed TNT worksheet was presented to the Board with the NNR tax rate highlighted. Differing tax rates below the NNR were calculated and discussed.

Pete Barrera moved to propose a FY 2026-2027 budget totaling \$185,830 in expenses. Compared to the previous year, Recharge Enhancement was dropped, Insurance increased, Payroll increased, and Office expenses decreased resulting in a net decrease of \$17,400. James Furr seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Robert Richey moved to propose a 2026 tax rate of 0.010683 which is below the No New Revenue Rate. The proposed tax rate will reduce the tax burden by 9.7% compared to the previous year. Pete Barrera seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business James Furr moved and Robert Richey seconded to adjourn at 8:00 PM.



Attesting Signature


Presiding Officer

Date: 9/14/2026