

# IRION COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

August 14, 2023

Members Present: Robert Richey, Vice-Chairman of Board; Pete Barrera, James Furr, and Sid Sullenger; Diana Thomas, General Manager; Ashley Masters, Technician.  
Public Present: Macy Hartley, accountant

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 P.M. by Robert Richey, Vice-Chairman of the Board.

Sid Sullenger moved, and Pete Barrera seconded to accept the minutes of the previous meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

Accountant Macy Hartley presented the regular monthly bills, including the bi-annual WTWMA assessment. After reviewing the bills as presented, Sid Sullenger moved to transfer \$25,500 from the MMDA to the checking account and to pay all bills. Pete Barrera seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Manager's report included: WTWMA in San Angelo, an Irion Co. landowner meeting, TWON-TAGD webinar, and the Sterling County Commissioner's Court in Sterling City, Region F in Big Spring, NRCS/USDA Lunch and Learn in Mertzon, TAGD virtual Executive Committee, GMA 7 in Sonora, West Texas Legislative Summit in San Angelo, WTRGA conference call, and WTWMA in San Angelo. The WTWMA had a very busy May and early June with increased cloud response. Discussion was held on raising the yearly assessment for all participating districts, though nothing formal was proposed. Ashley met with an Irion County landowner to discuss our current monitoring efforts, our rules, and some potential additional spring monitoring. TWON and TAGD held a joint webinar updating membership on the TWON program including an overview and record of success. Diana updated the Sterling County Commissioners on changes from SB 2440 in the recent session and how the water district can assist in the review of Water Availability Certificates. The Region F planning group reviewed population projections and per capita water use for municipalities. The NRCS/USDA Lunch and Learn discussed grant opportunities for small-scale agriculturalists including assistance installing water saving technologies such as drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting. The TAGD Executive Committee met virtually to finalize materials for the big Summit including budget proposals for the next fiscal year. Disagreements in payroll and setting an overall deficit budget resulted in a non-unanimous budget proposal. GMA 7 met to complete yearly requirements of management plan review and provided updates on the TWDB's update of our aquifer model. The annual West Texas Legislative Summit was held at Angelo State and had speakers with a more federal perspective. Oil and gas still dominates the energy panel discussion despite a federal push for alternative technologies. China was cited as a constant threat across all topics of

discussion. The defense industry has surpassed agricultural in terms of Texas economy dominance. The 14 constitutional amendments on Texas's November ballot were highlighted a number of times. WTWMA reported on the slowest one-month period in 10 years with no opportunities to even try seeding since the opening weekend of July. The WTWMA will also have almost full pilot turnover after the close of this season.

Well Surveillance for June included 8 wells remaining at static levels, 5 wells that measured increasing water levels, 4 wells that measured with decreasing water levels and two wells not measured for the month. Water Levels for July included 10 wells measured at static levels, 6 wells measured decreased levels, 2 wells measured increased levels, and 2 wells had no recorded measurements. Rain gauges measured an average rainfall during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 3.38 inches for the entire county. The range of rain fall was from 8.09 inches in the Northeast of the county to 0.13 inches in Barnhart.

Water Quality Analysis was completed for J. Callaway (2 wells), Dove Creek Survey (2), Spring Creek Survey (7), Price (2 wells), J. Parker, P. Hale, S. Wilson, T. Ford, and H. Hale.

The well camera was utilized for Stacey Hight, and Charlie Tankersley

The following Notice of Intent to Drills were received for the month of June and July: Comstock 2 oil/gas supply –1 withdrew, J. Parker domestic, C. Williams domestic, C. Williams domestic, C. Williams 2 irrigation, Arrott Ranch Holdings LLC 2 domestic/livestock, C. Tankersley livestock, B. Elliott livestock, and B. Elliott Oil/Gas Supply. The following Change of Ownership was received for the month of June and July: Callaway 2 wells, C. Williams, Arrott Ranch Holdings LLC, Honea, C. Tankersley, and R. Pulver 2 wells.

Following discussion, Sid Sullinger moved to accept RMBJGeo's RFQ for professional services related to hydrogeology and groundwater management. Pete Barrera seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion, Pete Barrera moved to grant the Industrial Well Permit for William C. Tankersley located at Parcel 2893, Abstract 129 & 655, Section 33& 712 for no more than 77-acre feet of water per year. James Furr seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion, Pete Barrera moved to grant the renewal of an Irrigation Permit for Harvey Hale, located at Parcel 1651 & 1652, Abstract 460 & 660, Section 726 & 725 for no more than 20-acre feet of water per year. Sid Sullenger seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.



Following discussion, James Furr moved to grant the renewal of an Irrigation Permit for Linda Hofacket, located at Parcel 6702, Abstract 512, Section 708, for no more than 30-acre feet per year. Sid Sullenger seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion, Sid Sullenger moved to grant the renewal of an Irrigation Permit for Racheal Pulver, located at Parcel 1580, Abstract 512 & 433, Section 708 & 709, Chico Field Well, for no more than 104-acre feet of water per year. Pete Barrera seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion, Sid Sullenger moved to grant the renewal of an Irrigation Permit for Racheal Pulver, located at Parcel 1580, Abstract 512 & 433, Section 708 & 709, Scout Camp Well for no more than 104-acre feet of water per year. Pete Barrera seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Pete Barrera moved to accept the Most Recent Drought Index. James Furr seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Sid Sullenger moved to accept the 2023 Q2 Investment Report as presented. Pete Barrera seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion, Sid Sullenger moved to accept the Recycling Program Exemption Declaration. Pete Barrera seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following the personnel evaluation James Furr moved to grant a 3% cost of living increase for the salary for the General Manager and a 5% salary increase for the Technician in the next fiscal year, and to increase the accounting contract with Macy Hartley by an additional \$100 a month. Pete Barrera seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The budget workshop included an estimation of total operating expenses by the end of the current fiscal year and implications for the next fiscal year. The auto purchase reserve was found to be insufficient to cover the full cost of a vehicle and is proposed to be increased. Notice on increasing insurance rates, recent increase in TAGD meeting costs, and ongoing WTWMA discussion on increasing the assessment were all factored into expenses.

Pete Barrera moved to propose a FY 2023-2024 Budget of \$174,900 in total operating expenses. The proposed budget reflects \$4,780 of additional expenses over the previously adopted budget. James Furr seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pete Barrera moved to propose a 2023 Tax Rate of \$0.006165 which is the No-New-Revenue Tax Rate. The 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.

There being no further business James Furr moved and Robert Richey seconded to adjourn at 8:31 PM.

  
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Attesting Signature

  
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Presiding Officer

Date: 9-11-2023