

IRION COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PUBLIC
RULEMAKING HEARING FOR PROPOSED CHANGES AND INCREASING
EXPORT FEE AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2026

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

Public Present: Accountant Macy Hartley, Justin Paxton, Tia Paxton, Linda Hofacket, Eugene Vinson, Leon Standard, and Calley Fitzpatrick

The public hearing on the proposed revised Irion County Water Conservation District Rules and increased export fee was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman of the Board Bill Whitley. Diana Thomas explained the purpose of the hearing and that a red-line copy of the proposed changes had been available online and in office. Ashley Masters confirmed that no public comment had been submitted via postal service nor email. Public in attendance made no comment.

Pete Barrera motioned to close the public hearing. Robert Richey seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 6:10 PM.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Bill Whitley, Chairman of the Board.

Linda Hofacket provided public comment on her concerns with the amount of money paid to participate in the West Texas Weather Modification Association. She would like to see better and more efficient use of district funds.

Justin Paxton provided public comment on his concerns with district involvement in weather modification and specific concern of an unusually large hailstorm on June 9, 2025 which caused over \$100,000 of damage to vehicles, property including barns, hunting lodge and deer camp, and loss of wildlife.

Calley Fitzpatrick provided public comment on her desire for the District to no longer participate in weather modification and agreed with Mr. Paxton's classification of the June 9th storm.

Leon Standard provided public comment on his desire to receive better notification about seeding activities. He described a lack of science behind weather modification in general and expressed a desire for more efficient use of District funds.

Eugene Vinson provided public comment on his experience with weather modification and his assessment that it is not worth the almost nickel an acre that is being spent currently.

James Furr moved and Robert Richey 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, newspaper printing of public hearing notice, and quarterly appraisal district payment. After reviewing the bills as presented, Robert Richey moved to pay all bills and transfer \$39,500 to the MM account. James Furr seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Manager's report included: WTWMA in San Angelo, virtual HNRC Hearing, Irion Agrilife Water Education Seminar, virtual TAGD Executive Committee meeting. WTWMA received a presentation from a new meteorological services company, Recast Systems. They proposed a 3-year contract for a 6 month cloud seeding season each year. The HNRC held a 6.5-hour long hearing about groundwater in Texas. Diana Thomas expressed that the West Texas group is actively sharing their perspective with legislators on subjects broached in the hearing. Ashley Masters presented at the Irion Agrilife Water Education Seminar providing information on the services and science that the district provides to the community. The TAGD Executive Committee met virtually to plan upcoming meeting details.

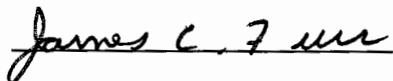
Well surveillance was not completed for Irion County due to installation of rain gauges to replace the entire network in Sterling County. Two rain gauges are still needing replacement in Irion County. A new monitor well, called Sugg Switch, has been added to the monitor network.

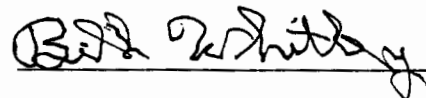
No Notice of Intent to Drill were received. Ashley Masters received notice of the presence of oil in a water well and alerted the RRC. The situation is being investigated by the RRC and continuously monitored.

After receiving the Certificate of Unopposed Candidates, James Furr moved to cancel the general election and declare Bill Whitley Pct. 1 and Pete Barrera Pct. 3 duly elected. Robert Richey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Diana Thomas reviewed the timeline of Board review of the rules and reiterated that no public comment was received throughout that process. Pete Barrera moved to adopt the Proposed Revised Irion County Water Conservation District Rules and increased export fee. James Furr seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business Rober Richey moved, and Pete Barrera seconded to adjourn at 6:52 PM.


Attesting Signature


Presiding Officer

Date: 4-13-26