

MINUTES OF THE PERMIT HEARING
AND MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MIDDLE TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
HELD: March 7, 2024

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF ERATH

On this 7th day of March 2024, the Board of Directors of the Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District convened in a PERMIT HEARING at 930 Wolfe Nursery Rd, Stephenville, Texas at 1:00 PM with the following members present:

Charles Ferguson – President
Fred Parker - Secretary
Kenneth Bullington – Director
Butch Ronne – Director
Frank Volleman - Director

Barbara Domel – Vice-President
Jerry Hinshaw - Director
Robert Payne – Director
Shane Tucker – Director

Board Members absent were Rodney Stephens, Joe Altebaumer, and W.B. Maples. Also present were Johnny Wells, Debbie Montgomery, and Rachael Phillips. Patrick Wagner, Stephanie Keith, and Ty Embrey (legal counsel) attended the meeting via Zoom.

President Charles Ferguson called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present and that the meeting was duly convened and ready to transact business.

Notice of the hearing was given, stating the time, place and purpose, all as required by Chapter 551 of the Government Code.

1. Hearing called to order by Charles Ferguson.
2. Roll Call of Members was given by Debbie Montgomery.
3. There was discussion on the 22 operating permit applications listed on the agenda. Six of the permit applications are for Domestic use on under 10 acres, 11 permit applications are for Irrigation use, 2 permit applications are for Commercial use, 1 permit application is for Fire Department use, and 2 permit applications are for Livestock use. One permit application was moved from the February agenda due to the need for more information. Three of the applications are already drilled, 2 requesting an increase in GPM and one was drilled as an exempt well, now to be equipped for Irrigation use. Three permit applications were previously approved to drill 2 years ago but were not able to be drilled before the permits expired. One permit application is requesting an exception for spacing.
4. Motion to adjourn permit hearing made by Fred Parker. Second by Jerry Hinshaw. All members voted yes to adjourn.
5. Charles Ferguson adjourned the permit hearing.

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1. Meeting called to order by Charles Ferguson.
2. Roll Call of Members was given by Debbie Montgomery.
3. The invocation was given by Charles Ferguson. A Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.
4. Guests present were Paul Gaudette of The Dublin Citizen, Eric Seeger of Thornhill Group, Inc., David C Whaley, Ben and Tammy Bartlet and RJ. Vannucci of BoreTek, LLC who attended the meeting in order to answer possible questions about their permit applications.
5. There were no public comments.
6. Kenneth Bullington made a motion to approve all operating permit applications, second by Frank Volleman. All members present voted yes to approve the operating permit applications. Robert Payne abstained from voting on the two Wagon Road Ranch LLC permit applications.
7. There was a review of the minutes of the February 1st, 2024, monthly Board Meeting. Kenneth Bullington moved to approve the minutes, second by Shane Tucker. All members present voted yes to approve the February 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.
8. Check Detail Report was reviewed for dates 2/1/2024 through 2/29/2024, for check numbers 12790 through 12836, and including electronic checks 2152024 and 2292024. Motion was made by Robert Payne, second by Jerry Hinshaw, to approve and ratify the payment of the bills. All members present voted yes to approve and ratify the payment of the bills.
9. Financial Report was given by Patrick Wagner.
10. Patrick Wagner went over some District Rules violations by well drillers and landowners. Butch Ronne made a motion to send a letter from Legal to the landowners and to request a show cause hearing for the driller. Second by Kenneth Bullington. All members present voted yes to send a letter from Legal to the landowners and to request a show cause hearing for the drillers.
11. Patrick Wagner went over updates from the Rules Committee. Discussion included the addition of a new Section 11.6 of the MTGCD Rules that would enable the District to prevent anyone who is attempting to register a well or apply for a permit or permit amendment to obtain the well registration, permit, or permit amendment without resolving any outstanding rules violations or civil penalties owed to the District.
12. Frank Volleman made a motion, second by Butch Ronne, to table scheduling the Public Hearing on Proposed Rule Changes and Proposed Changes to the District Compliance Policy until next month's Board Meeting in order to make some amendments to the proposed changes. All members present voted yes to table scheduling of the hearing.
13. Frank Volleman made a motion, second by Butch Ronne, to table scheduling the Public Hearing on Proposed Rule Changes and Proposed Changes to the District Compliance Policy until next month's Board Meeting in order to make some amendments to the proposed changes. All members present voted yes to table scheduling of the hearing.
14. General Manager's Report given by Patrick Wagner.
15. Received Monthly Staff Reports
 - a) Monthly Drought Status Report given by Patrick Wagner.
 - b) Monthly Investment Report given by Patrick Wagner
 - c) Well Registration Report given by Debbie Montgomery. In addition to the 22 permit applications listed on the permit agenda, there were 30 exempt registrations, 28 new registrations and 2 replacements.
 - d) District Field Tech Report given by Johnny Wells. One well was plugged in the month of February, in Comanche County. Six water quality tests were completed, 5 in Erath County and 1 in Comanche County. All tested with good water quality. Comanche County wells were monitored in February, and Coryell County wells will be monitored in March.
 - e) Education / Public Relations Report given by Stephanie Keith.
16. There was discussion on equipping the Harbin VFD well for long-term monitoring. Butch Ronne made a motion to increase the amount from \$5000 to \$6210.80 to equip the well with a sounding tube and pressure transducer. Second by Jerry Hinshaw. All members present voted yes to increase the amount in order to equip the well for continuous monitoring.

17. There was discussion on the purchase of downhole camera equipment by Laval Underground Surveys, LLC. Two estimates were provided. Jerry Hinshaw made a motion to purchase the DW-1500 portable camera system, second by Butch Ronne. All members present voted yes to purchasing the Laval Underground Surveys, LLC DW-1500 portable down-hole camera.
18. Patrick Wagner and Stephanie Keith reviewed the additional signage for both the Ditch Water Discovery Center and the sign in front of the District office. The signage would encompass the adopted guest policies (tobacco-free, no alcohol, no firearms, no pets), the 911 address (950), and county identity markers on the map in the building breezeway. Kenneth Bullington motioned to approve the entire package, seconded by Fred Parker. All present members voted in favor of purchasing all additional signage as presented.
19. Patrick Wagner went over some proposed FY 2024 line-time Budget amendments. Robert Payne made a motion to approve the amendments as presented, second by Frank Volleman. Budget amendments approved.
20. There was no Executive Session.
21. No actionable items.
22. There was discussion on agenda items for the April Board Meeting.
23. Frank Volleman moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Fred Parker. All members present voted yes to adjourn. Meeting adjourned by Charles Ferguson.

MINUTES approved this 4th day of April 2024.

Joe Altebaumer/Erath Co.

Fred Parker

Fred Parker/Erath Co.

Jerry Hinshaw

Jerry Hinshaw/Erath Co.

Shane Tucker

Shane Tucker /Comanche Co.

Frank Volleman/Comanche Co.

Rodney Stephens

Rodney Stephens/Comanche Co.

Charles E. Ferguson

Charles E. Ferguson/ Bosque
Co.

Barbara Domel

Barbara
Domel/Bosque Co.

Robert Payne

Robert Payne/Bosque Co.

W.B. Maples, Jr.

W.B Maples/Coryell Co.

Kenneth Bullington

Kenneth Bullington/Coryell Co.

Butch Ronne/ Coryell Co.

DISCLOSURE AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTIES OF COMANCHE, ERATH, BOSQUE, AND CORYELL

AFFIDAVIT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Before me, the undersigned notary, on this day, personally appeared, Robert Payne, a person whose identity is known to me. After I administered an oath to him, upon his oath, he said:

“My name is Robert Payne, I am of sound mind, 18 years of age or older, and competent to give this affidavit. The facts stated in this affidavit are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

I, Robert Payne, make the following disclosure pursuant to Section 171.004 of the Texas Local Government Code. I have substantial interest in a business entity or in real property that affects an agenda item, Application for Operating Permit, which are before the Board of Directors of the Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District on 7 March 2024.

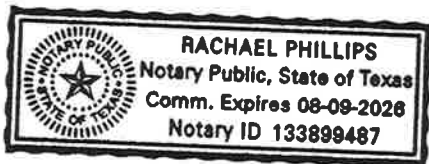
The nature and extent of the interest are as follows:

Business Partner

Signature of Affiant 

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on 7 March 2024

Seal




Notary Public in and for State of Texas

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date 3/7/24

Name: Eric Seeger

Address: Thornhill Group Inc

Phone: _____

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date 3-7-24

Name: David C Whaley

Address: 500 CR 309
Dublin

Phone: 559 972-8826

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date 3/7/24

Name: BEN + TAMARA BARTLEY

Address: 299 CR 1175
Kopperl, TX 76652

Phone: 307 690 5288

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date 3/7/24

Name: Paul Gaudette (DUBLIN CITIZEN)

Address: 938 N. PATRICK
DUBLIN

Phone: _____

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date _____

Name: RJ. VANNUCT

Address: 639 LEED

HAMILTON TX 76531

Phone: 530-304-9484

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

MTGCD Board Meeting

Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____
