

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PLUM CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT
LOCKHART, TEXAS 78644
March 21st, 2023

Notices of this regular meeting were posted in the Caldwell and Hays County Courthouses at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Receipts of the notices are on file in the office of Plum Creek Conservation District.

Checks were reviewed and signed just prior to the call to order by Treasurer/Secretary, Mrs. Lucy Knight.

1:00 PM The meeting/hearing was called to order by President of the Board, James Holt, with the following Board members present: Peter Reinecke (Vice President), Lucy Knight (Secretary/Treasurer), Fred Rotherth (Director) and Tom Owen (Director). Also present were PCCD Attorney Bob Wilson, PCCD Geologist Feathergail Wilson, and PCCD staff members Daniel Meyer, Nora Lopez-Castillo, Alan Burklund, and Robert Barron. The minutes were transcribed by Nora Lopez-Castillo.

1:00 PM President Holt requested public comments. There were no public comments.

1:00 PM President Holt requested motions or comments regarding the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting held on February 21st, 2023. Mrs. Lucy Knight made a motion that the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting held on February 21st, 2023, be accepted as mailed out. Mr. Peter Reinecke provided the second and the motion was approved unanimously.

1:01 PM President Holt asked if there was any unfinished business that required the Board of Directors' attention. Mr. Meyer stated that there was no unfinished business.

1:01 PM President Holt requested discussion of agenda item V regarding quotes received for the Fertilization and Weed Spray Project. Mr. Daniel Meyer stated that two quotes had been received for the project. The project includes 22 sites, for a total of approximately 552 acres, with the first application planned in April and the second planned for the first week of May. President Holt then announced the bid amounts with Ehrig Brothers at forty-five thousand two hundred sixty-four dollars and zero cents (\$45,264.00) and Lindemann at forty-eight thousand six hundred three dollars and zero cents (\$48,603.00). Mrs. Knight made a motion to select the lowest bidder, Ehrig Brothers, for the fertilizer/weed spray project for several of the District's Flood Control Structures. Mr. Owen provided the second and the motion was approved unanimously.

1:04 PM President Holt requested discussion of agenda item VI regarding quotes received for the Site 38 Revegetation Project. Mr. Meyer stated that the project area is approximately 4.1 acres and includes light tilling, application of a 3" base of topsoil, seed, fertilizer, mulch, and tackifier. Mr. Holt asked if the area was overgrazed. Mr. Meyer stated it was a combination of overgrazing, drought, and soil conditions. Mr. Holt stated that 3 bids had been received. President Holt then announced the bid amounts with Diamondback Landscaping at one hundred forty-nine thousand three hundred fifty-six dollars and zero cents (\$149,356.00); TerraSol at fifty-two thousand eight hundred forty dollars and zero cents (\$52,840.00), and Sexton, Inc. at sixty-five thousand seven hundred eighty dollars and zero cents (\$65,780.00). Mrs. Knight made a motion to select the lowest bidder, TerraSol, for the revegetation project. Mr. Rotherth provided the second and the motion was approved unanimously.

1:08 PM

President Holt requested discussion of agenda item VII regarding matters pertaining to the Site 2 State Upgrade Project. Mr. Meyer stated that PCCD had conducted lengthy negotiations with the contractor regarding claims for time and additional funds. A contract modification was issued, which extended the contract 94 days and included additional funds for excavation. The contractor signed the modification, so the issue has been resolved.

1:17 PM

President Holt requested discussion of agenda item VIII regarding a Property Access Use Agreement for the drilling of a Wilcox monitoring well. Mr. Bob Wilson stated that this agenda item involved an easement and access use agreement as well as the location of the monitoring well on Mr. Tom Owen's property. Mr. Bob Wilson stated that the statute required Mr. Owen to sign an affidavit that stated that he would abstain from voting on this matter and would not participate in Board discussions. Mr. Owen signed the affidavit prior to the meeting. Mr. Bob Wilson informed the Board that the location of the well and access had been set and were described in the agreement. Mr. Meyer informed the Board that Mr. Owen had requested a single payment of \$1000.00. Mr. Holt had asked whether the Board had voted to approve the Wilcox monitoring well. Mr. Meyer stated that the Board had only consented to research this matter. Mr. Meyer showed a slide on the location of the well. A lengthy discussion ensued on the proposed location, what equipment would be used to monitor the well, and how often Mr. Owen's property would be accessed. The Board agreed that further discussion was needed regarding the location of the well. Mr. Holt requested an estimated cost of the well be presented at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Knight made a motion that if PCCD decided to drill a Wilcox monitoring well that an agreement be made with Mr. Tom Owen for the payment of \$1000.00. Mr. Rothert provided the second and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Owen abstained from voting.

1:47 PM

President Holt requested discussion of agenda item IX regarding Site 28 Rehabilitation. Mr. Meyer stated that the designs are 98% complete and Mr. Bob Wilson was working on the land rights. Mr. Meyer informed the Board that he has continued to speak with the landowner, Mr. Walter Stephens, who has concerns and questions. Mr. Stephens requested that a Live Oak tree located in the auxiliary spillway not be removed. Mr. Stephens was concerned about the lake being drained during the construction project and asked if he could construct a berm to keep water in a particular area. Mr. Meyer informed Mr. Stephens that this would need to be reviewed by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) engineers. Mr. Stephens also wanted to ensure that he would have an appropriate entryway and access. Mr. Meyer reminded the Board that PCCD had previously signed the Site 28 O&M Agreement, but Caldwell-Travis Soil and Water Conservation District and Hays County Soil and Water Conservation District still need to sign. Mr. Meyer stated the rehabilitation project may require fish relocation. Mr. Meyer stated that a metes and bounds survey will be needed. The Board requested that Mr. Meyer move forward with finding a surveyor.

2:04 PM

President Holt requested a report from PCCD Geologist, Mr. Feathergail Wilson. Mr. Feathergail Wilson's presented a slideshow on several topics including the number of saline and freshwater aquifers in Caldwell and Hays Counties, various sand and clay formations found in the 150-mile Carrizo Barrier Island System. Mr. Feathergail Wilson showed a pie chart that demonstrated PCCD's Groundwater Reserves were at 80% saline from the Edwards, 10% fresh from the Wilcox, and 10% fresh from the Carrizo. Mr. Feathergail Wilson stated that the Edwards Aquifer has the greatest potential for a desalination project.

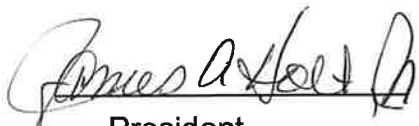
2:26 PM President Holt requested a report from the NRCS' District Conservationist, Mr. Jeremy Hasty. Mr. Hasty was not in attendance.

2:26 PM President Holt requested a report from PCCD Executive Manager, Mr. Daniel Meyer. Mr. Meyer stated that the consultant who had been hired for GMA-13 had indicated there were some issues with the new Carrizo-Wilcox, Queen City, Sparta Aquifers Groundwater Availability Model, which the consultant would be working to rectify. Mr. Meyer stated that GMA-10 had a meeting on March 1, 2023, and a new coordinator was elected. A contract administrator was also needed to manage the technical consultant's contract and Mr. Meyer volunteered PCCD for that role. Mr. Meyer informed the GMA-10 members that if PCCD incurred any administrative costs while functioning as the contract administrator, these costs would be passed along to all members. Mr. Meyer stated that Mr. Bob Wilson has been working on a GMA 10 interlocal agreement that would include a proposed cost matrix. GMA-10 published a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select a consultant by May of 2023. Mr. Meyer informed the Board that a landowner had come in to the PCCD office to discuss a well he had drilled down to 800 feet but had not found water. The landowner stated that he might consider coming before the Board to see if PCCD would consider a partnership pilot desalination project on his property. Mr. Meyer informed the Board that another landowner, Mr. Steve Platt, requested PCCD's assistance with measuring springs located on his property, but the details are still being worked out. Mr. Meyer will keep the Board updated as needed. Mr. Meyer gave a status report on Site 12 and stated that he has continued to negotiate with D. R. Horton on an access entrance and PCCD's proposed campsite for the rehabilitation project and that he has asked Bob Wilson to draft an agreement to secure a campsite location. Mr. Meyer gave a status report on Site 2 and stated that they had begun the roller-compacted concrete (RCC) construction. Mr. Meyer gave a status report on Site 10 and stated that they were also constructing the RCC, but were further along in the process. Mr. Meyer mentioned that the revised project end date conflicts with the temporary access easement agreement that will expire on 07/31/2023. Mr. Meyer showed slides of the Site 21 project including the V-notch and principal spillway riser. Mr. Meyer gave a status report on Site 17 and indicated that the landowners may attend next month's meeting to voice their concerns regarding sedimentation buildup issues. Mr. Meyer explained the dam had suffered wave bite erosion due to Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Meyer indicated that he had applied for assistance from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, but was told by NRCS that PCCD did not qualify because an organization only has 60 days to file after a qualifying event has occurred. NRCS informed Mr. Meyer that PCCD could only re-file if there was another emergency/flood event in the county. Mr. Meyer also applied to the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's (TSSWCB) repair program, but was informed that there was no funding available during this fiscal year. Mr. Meyer informed the Board that he had a meeting scheduled with the developers of Site 34 regarding a proposed roadway that would go through the auxiliary spillway. Lastly, Mr. Meyer presented a letter from the Caldwell County Commissioners' Court to the Board, which stated they would be holding a public hearing to consider the designation of a reinvestment zone as well as a tax abatement for a company located west of PCCD's Site 21.

3:04 PM President Holt requested a report from PCCD's Attorney, Bob Wilson. Mr. Bob Wilson informed the Board that one of the bills making some progress in the State Legislature would create additional funds to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board for water projects, but would ultimately need to be passed by voters.

3:05 PM President Holt requested public comments. There were no public comments.

3:05 PM Mr. Fred Rothert made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Owen provided the second and the motion to adjourn passed unanimously.


President


Vice-President