



Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

601 West Main Street, Johnson City, Texas 78636 | (830) 868-9196 | <https://bpgcd.org>

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2025, at 1:30 pm.

District Office at 601 West Main Street, Johnson City, Texas

Present: Directors: President Jimmy Klepac, Tom Murrah, James Sultemeier, George Cofran, Bob Reed, Jr.

Staff: General Manager Erik Kubinski, Office Manager Amy Haynes

Administrative Assistants Greg Stevens and Joyce Waldroup, Technical Manager Frank Blagg

Citizens: See Sign-In Sheet

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Board President Jimmy Klepac at 1:30 PM on April 17, 2025.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Jimmy Klepac asked everyone to rise for the invocation. Admin staffer Greg Stevens then led the prayer, asking for guidance and wisdom in their deliberations over Blanco County's groundwater resources. He emphasized the importance of stewardship of the aquifers entrusted to them.

3. Public Comment:

Ken Welch made a public comment, asking for updates on discussions with the county regarding monitoring well electronics and water availability studies. He also inquired about the status of existing monitoring wells.

4. Recognition of Volunteers

General Manager Erik Kubinski recognized the volunteers who helped with the landscaping project at the district office. He introduced Rob Wier and Robert Remlinger, who designed and built a carpenter beehive for landscaping. Jill Golf from the Highland Lakes Master Naturalist group was also recognized for her team's contribution to the project.

Rob Wier, Captain of the BPGCD volunteers, explained the landscaping project in detail. He mentioned that they used drought-tolerant plants and implemented water-saving techniques like using river rock instead of wood mulch. He suggested the possibility of future demonstrations for local residents on maintaining such landscaping.

Jill Goff provided information about the Highland Lakes Master Naturalist organization, explaining that it covers four counties and is part of a statewide group. She noted that their volunteer hours contribute to funding for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

5. Approval of Minutes for the March 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Director Sultemeier moved to approve the minutes for the March 20, 2025 regular board meeting. Director Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



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6. Financial Report

- Monthly Financial Report:

Erik Kubinski presented the monthly financial report. He explained that as of April 16, 2025, the district had collected \$642,000 in revenue, which is 92% of the budgeted amount. Expenditures for the fiscal year starting in October totaled \$302,000, about 36% of the budget. He detailed the cash balances in the operating bank account (\$467,000) and savings account (\$571,000), emphasizing that these funds are already earmarked for various expenses and reserves.

Kubinski highlighted that tax revenues for the last month in March were \$14,000, and registration revenues were \$2,000. Total revenue for everything was \$21,000. He noted that the district spent \$40,000, of which \$5,500 was for contract services. He mentioned that they had not received a bill from legal counsel in the last six months and expected that amount to increase soon.

George Cofran commented that the presentation was much easier to read and appreciated the clarity.

- Investment Report

Kubinski presented the quarterly investment report, stating that the district's cash position as of the end of March totaled \$1,049,000. He noted that Texas Regional Bank was providing a 3.56% interest rate on their operating account, while Security State Bank was yielding 4.43% on their savings account. The total interest earned for the first calendar quarter was just under \$10,000.

7. General Manager, Staff, and Committee Reports

- a. Operational Updates

- i. Operational Metrics

Kubinski presented operational metrics, noting 17 new well registrations for the month. He mentioned there were no new permits in March but two in February. He also reported one water availability study for a new development.

- ii. Election Update

Kubinski provided an update on the upcoming election. He explained the legal requirements for publishing election notices and the process for canvassing the results. He mentioned that the board would need to schedule a meeting to canvass the election results between May 11 and May 14, 2025. He suggested holding the monthly meeting and canvassing on May 13, 2025.

- iii. Cypress Creek Study Update

Kubinski reported that the Cypress Creek Basin study, partnered with the Meadows Center, was delayed. He stated that the center aims to complete it by mid-May and present the results at the June board meeting.



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iv. Monitoring Wells

Kubinski discussed updates on monitoring wells, including potential new locations for telemetry wells. He mentioned ongoing discussions with the county judge and commissioners regarding recommended regulation updates for monitoring wells.

v. Operating Permit Updates

Kubinski provided updates on operating permit amendments for Johnson City and the Flat Creek subdivision. He also mentioned two TCEQ operating permits for wastewater in the city of Blanco.

vi. Subdivision Development Updates

Kubinski discussed updates on two subdivision developments: Puerto del Lobo and Hye Development. He mentioned discussions about water impoundment and potential permit amendments for both projects.

vii. Consulting Hydrologist Updates

Kubinski presented a letter from the consulting hydrologist regarding the potential for subsidence due to high-volume pumping near residential foundations in the Rockin J development. The hydrologist's conclusion was that the risk of subsidence would be negligible.

George Cofran suggested that in the future, such studies should be conducted and paid for by the client rather than the district to avoid liability and cost issues.

viii. Central Texas GCD Groundwater Management

Kubinski informed the board about an upcoming meeting of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District in Briggs on April 22, 2025. He mentioned that Frank Blagg would attend in his place due to his unavailability.

ix. TAGD Scholarship to Attend 2025 Summit

Kubinski presented information about a scholarship opportunity from the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) for young adults to attend the upcoming TAGD Summit in August. He encouraged board members to share this information with their networks.

x. Cybersecurity Training

Kubinski reminded the board about the annual cybersecurity training requirement. He mentioned that all staff members who use computers for at least 25% of their duties, as well as all elected and appointed members, need to complete this training by July 31, 2025.

xi. Legislative Advocacy

Kubinski provided an update on legislative activities related to groundwater management. He mentioned that he had earlier shared the district's positions on various bills with the Directors and with their elected state representative. He highlighted a bill related to brackish water management and another bill concerning enforcement of operating permits.

xii. News Updates

Kubinski shared several news updates, including information about SBA loans available for businesses affected by drought, an AgriLife program, and Blanco trash off day.



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b. Conferences and Online Seminars Attended

i. GMA9

Kubinski reported on a recent Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA9) meeting in Boerne. He presented maps showing water level data across the GMA9 area and explained the challenges in establishing baseline measurements due to varying data availability among districts.

c. Rules Committee

Kubinski informed the board that the Rules Committee had postponed bringing forward their recommendations. He explained that this delay could be beneficial given the ongoing legislative session, as it would allow them to incorporate any relevant changes from new legislation into their rules.

8. Continuing Business

a. Discuss and possible action on district drought status and drought conditions

Kubinski presented the latest drought monitoring data, showing that water levels in most monitoring wells were either stable or slightly increasing. Based on this information, he recommended remaining in drought stage 3.

Kubinski also brought up a previously tabled work order for \$3,920 to develop a more precise methodology for entering and exiting drought stages. The board gave general consensus to move forward with this work order, provided the price remained the same.

9. New Business

a. Discuss and possible action on Financial Auditor Service Proposal.

Kubinski presented a proposal from Seidel Schroeder for financial auditing services. The proposed fee for auditing the 2024 financial statements was \$15,000, which was higher than the \$10,000 previously authorized by the board. The proposal included a three-year package with increasing annual fees.

George Cofran suggested attempting to negotiate the price down, possibly by offering to take on some of the workload. The board directed Kubinski to negotiate with the firm and try to secure a better deal for the district.

b. Discuss and possible action on consulting work for evaluation and enhancement of groundwater monitoring network.

Kubinski presented a new work order for consulting work to evaluate and enhance the district's groundwater monitoring network. The work order, not to exceed \$12,500, would involve reviewing the existing monitoring network and providing guidance on strategically placing new monitoring wells.

The board gave general consensus to proceed with this work order, as it was already included in the budget.



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c. Set future meeting dates and propose future agenda items

The board agreed to schedule the next meeting for Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 1:30 PM. This meeting would combine the regular monthly meeting with the canvassing of election results.

The subsequent meeting was tentatively set for June 19, 2025.

10. Adjournment:

Tom Murrah moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by James Sultemeier. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

We hereby attest that the minutes of the meeting held on April 17, 2025, accurately reflect the discussions and decisions made by the Board of Directors:



Bob Reed, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer



Jimmy Klepac, Board President

