



# Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

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

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 1:30 pm.

District Office at 601 W. Main St., Johnson City, Texas

Present Directors: President Jimmy Klepac, Tom Murrah, James Sultemeier, George Cofran

Not Present Directors: Bob Reed

Staff: General Manager Erik Kubinski, Office Manager Amy Haynes

Administrative Assistant Greg Stevens, 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 February 12, 2025.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Greg Stevens led the invocation, expressing gratitude for health and rain, and asking for wisdom and clarity for the board members in their decision-making.

### **3. Public Comment:**

- Ken Welch apologized to General Manager Erik Kubinski for missing discussions about water availability reports. He expressed hope that the discussions would lead to a resolution of differences between two professional geologists' opinions. Welch emphasized the importance of water availability in Blanco County and the validity of water availability reports for future development. He urged the district to review accusations made to ensure future availability studies are as complete and accurate as possible.
- Welch also expressed disappointment that his proposal to require telemetric systems for groundwater monitoring in new subdivisions was not among the district's recommendations to the county. He argued that this would provide valuable data to the district at no cost to the county or district.
- Director George Cofran asked Welch about his previous proposal for minimum requirements for subdivisions to provide adequate fire protection, water and containment. Welch confirmed that there are already requirements for water containment, but his proposal was to add telemetry to the well to benefit the district with constant monitoring.
- Scott Courtney addressed the board regarding the county development rules. He stated that he was brought in to provide comments and review county ground development reports. Courtney expressed frustration that his findings had been ignored since November and claimed that he had not been paid in full for his work. He read comments from the general manager regarding his preliminary report and recommendations.
- Courtney threatened civil action against the district, board, and general manager if he did not receive payment by the end of the week. He accused the board of shirking their responsibilities and ignoring his work.



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## 4. Approval of Minutes for the January 14, Regular Board Meeting

Director Tom Murrah moved to approve the minutes as written. George Cofran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## 5. Financial Report

- Erik Kubinski presented the financial report for January 31, 2025. He reported (in round numbers) that the total cash assets were \$825,000, with \$260,000 in the Texas Regional Bank operating account and \$565,000 in the savings account. Tax revenues had increased significantly, with \$226,000 received from the central appraisal district. Total revenues for the month were \$231,000, and total expenditures were approximately \$42,000.
- Tom Murrah raised a question about discrepancies in the contract services totals between different reports. Erik Kubinski acknowledged the discrepancy and committed to following up with an email explanation after drilling down into the QuickBooks data.
- Tom Murrah also pointed out an error in the meals category, showing \$8,600. Office Manager Amy Haynes explained that this had been corrected and was due to a credit card bill being improperly categorized.

## 6. General Manager, Staff, and Committee Reports

a. Operational Updates: Erik Kubinski presented a chart showing well registrations, new well drilling applications, well inspections, permits, water availability reports reviewed, and water quality tests requested. He noted that the district was about 7% through converting paper records to digital format. Kubinski also reported on an amendment to the Cypress Creek study, extending the deadline from January 31 to March 31. He also discussed the Texas Water Caucus and legislative priorities, including meetings with Representative Troxclair and Senator Campbell's office.

b. Conferences And Online Seminars Attended: Erik Kubinski reported on his attendance at the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts' winter business session and a "Boot Camp Tools for Trade" training focused on social media. He also mentioned attending the Water for Texas conference organized by the Texas Water Development Board.

c. Standing or Ad Hoc Committee Reports: Erik Kubinski reported on three Rules Committee workshops held on February 4, where testimony was heard from county government representatives, real estate agents, and municipal stakeholders regarding potential District rule changes.

## 7. Continuing Business

a. Discuss and Possible Action District Drought Status and Drought Condition: Erik Kubinski presented the monthly well monitoring report, showing an overall improvement in water levels. He recommended maintaining Drought Stage Three status, citing the Texas Water Development Board's Water Weekly report and the governor's ongoing drought proclamation for Blanco County.

Tom Murrah suggested eliminating the Amil Baker well from the monitoring list due to its unreliability. Erik Kubinski acknowledged this concern and mentioned plans to revisit the drought status measurement process in the future.



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## **8. New Business**

### a. Discuss And Possible Action On Financial Auditors

Erik Kubinski reported that the district's previous auditor, Neffendorf & Company, had declined to continue their services. He presented information on three potential auditors and stated that he would bring a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

### b. Discuss And Possible Action On Elections Contract Amendment

Erik Kubinski sought the Board's approval to sign an amendment to the elections contract with the county election administrator. The amendment reflected updated cost allocations due to additional entities participating in the upcoming uniform election on May 3. The District's estimated cost share was 82% of the total, approximately \$12,341.

### c. Discuss And Possible Action On Order Of Elections

Director James Sultemeier moved to approve the Order of Elections. Tom Murrah seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Erik Kubinski presented the Order of Elections form, which listed the offices up for election, early voting locations and times, and information about mail-in ballot applications. The Board approved the order, authorizing the president and secretary to sign it and for it to be posted on the website and front door.

### d. Discuss And Possible Action On Hydros Service Order B-6

Erik Kubinski presented a service order from Hydros for \$14,900 to implement a spatial layer showing subdivision boundaries and well locations within the district. He explained that this would help with inspection focus and drought outreach initiatives. The board gave informal approval for Kubinski to proceed with the service order.

### e. Set Future Meeting Dates and Propose Future Agenda Items

- The board set the next meeting date for March 20, 2025, with a subsequent meeting on April 17, 2025. Erik Kubinski proposed adding discussions about Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) and the Groundwater Management Area (GMA) meeting to the next agenda. He also suggested discussing the letters sent to the county and state representatives regarding legislative priorities.
- Director Cofran requested adding explanatory notes to financial reports for unclear items.

## **9. Executive Session**

- President Klepac closed the open session at 3:15 pm and the Board convened in Executive Session to discuss legal matters.
- The Board returned to open session at 3:59 PM. There was no further action or discussion.



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## **10. Adjournment:**

Tom Murrah moved to adjourn the meeting. James Sultemeier seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 PM.

We hereby attest that the minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2024, accurately reflect the discussions and decisions made by the Board of Directors:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Reed, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy Klepac, Board President



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