



## Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

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# Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 15, 2026

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

Staff: Erik Kubinski (GM), Gregory Stevens (Project Manager)

Greg Ellis (General Counsel)

Citizens: Sign-In Sheet filed separately

1. **Call to Order:** President Jimmy Klepac called the Regular Board Meeting of the Blanco Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District to order on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 1:30 PM.

2. **Invocation:** Gregory Stevens led the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments

#### 4. **Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included approval of minutes from December 18, 2025, Board Meeting and Public Hearing, monthly financial reports, quarterly investment reports, and monthly operational reports.

General Manager Erik Kubinski summarized the consent agenda, reviewed the budget versus actuals, balance sheet, revenues and expenditures, bank statements, check copies, credit card transactions, and investment reports. He stated that the district earned over \$6,000 in interest for the previous month and nearly \$36,000 for the entire year. Kubinski also noted that the operations report showed the District is approximately 30% complete with digitizing files.

*Motion: James Sultemeier moved to approve the consent agenda. George Cofran seconded, and the Motion carried unanimously.*

#### 5. **Discuss and possible action to appoint a new Director for Precinct 4 to replace retired Director Bob Reed**

President Klepac presented the committee's report on appointing a new Director for Precinct 4 to replace retired Director Bob Reed. The committee recommended Gregory Stevens for the position.

*Motion: James Sultemeier moved that the board approve Gregory Stevens as the new Director for Precinct 4 to serve the remainder of the term vacated by former Director Bob Reed, with the new Director to be sworn in at the next month's regular Board meeting. George Cofran Seconded and the Motion carried unanimously.*

## **6. Discuss and possible action on Johnson City Permit Amendment #20240028**

General Manager Kubinski distributed materials related to the Johnson City permit amendment negotiation. Kubinski explained that the city was requesting a variance to reduce the well settling period from 24 hours to 6 hours for health and safety reasons and noted that a contested well was outside the required 700-foot distance.

*Motion: James Sultemeier moved to approve permit amendment #20240028 and the combined settlement agreement with the redline changes. Jimmy Klepac Seconded. The Motion failed with Directors Klepac and Sultemeier in favor and Directors Murrah and Cofran opposed.*

*Motion: Tom Murrah moved that negotiations with the City of Johnson City continue and that the issue be revisited at the regular Board meeting in February. George Cofran Seconded, and the Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion continued on the merits of the permit.

*Motion: Tom Murrah moved to reconsider the vote on permit amendment #20240028 and the combined settlement agreement. James Sultemeier seconded, and the Motion carried unanimously.*

*Motion: Tom Murrah moved that the combined settlement agreement, including the redline amendments, between the City of Johnson City and protestant Lanny Counts be approved, and the pump test be allowed to proceed. James Sultemeier seconded, and the Motion carried unanimously.*

## **7. Discuss and possible action on proposed Rule 3 change for exempt wells and Rule 9 for enforcement**

Greg Ellis presented proposed amendments to Rules 3 and 9, explaining that these changes would resolve conflicts in the current rules regarding exempt-use wells and bring the District's rules in line with recent legislation. Director Sultemeier expressed interest in adding a requirement that all well owners report production data to help the district gather information for management purposes, without requiring meters. Ellis and Kubinski agreed to draft language for consideration at the next meeting.

No action was taken on the proposed rule amendments.

## **8. Discuss and possible action on proposed moratorium on processing permit applications**

General Manager Kubinski presented a resolution for a temporary moratorium on processing permit applications until the Board adopts the proposed rule amendments.

*Motion: Tom Murrah moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-001 declaring a temporary suspension of the acceptance of new permit applications. George Cofran Seconded, and the Motion carried unanimously.*

**9. Discuss and possible action on district drought status and drought conditions**

General Manager Kubinski presented information on aquifer management and drought impacts, including a graph that normalizes all monitoring wells into a single chart. He noted that despite the lack of recent rainfall, well levels appeared to be stabilizing, possibly due to decreased vegetation and irrigation during winter months.

No action was taken to change the current Stage 3 drought status.

**10. Discuss and possible action on Central Appraisal District's Proposed Budget Amendment**

General Manager Kubinski explained that the Central Appraisal District had notified the District of a \$112,000 surplus from 2024 and was requesting to retain \$50,000 of that amount for their capital improvement reserve fund. The impact on the district would be approximately \$630.50 contributed to the fund, with a credit of \$787.51 toward their appraisal district costs.

Kubinski recommended accepting the request conditioned on the majority of other taxing entities also agreeing to the amendment, as required by state statute.

*Motion: James Sultemeier moved to approve the Central Appraisal District's request to retain \$50,000 of the 2024 surplus for its capital improvement reserve fund, providing the majority of other tax entities also consent to the amendment. Tom Murrah Seconded and the Motion carried unanimously.*

**11. Discuss and determine Board direction on the GMA 9 joint planning process, including draft future conditions, aquifer relevance under §36.108 of the Texas Water Code, and related considerations**

General Manager Kubinski outlined the GMA 9 planning timeline, noting key dates including a results review on January 30, a backup meeting on February 24, and adoption of a proposed Desired Future Condition (DFC) on March 31, with a statutory deadline of May 1, 2026.

Kubinski recommended continuing with Scenario 6 from Task 10-005, which specifies a 19.2 foot drawdown for the Trinity Aquifer in Blanco County. He also suggested retaining the current list of non-relevant aquifers (those under local rather than regional control) and presented a draft statement on the achievement of DFCs *Motion: James Sultemeier moved to direct the GMA 9 representative to convey at the next GMA 9 meeting the Board's intent to: 1) continue DFC planning under Scenario 6 on GAM Task 10-005 for the desired future conditions; 2) retain the current list of non-relevant aquifers as identified for regional*

*planning purposes with these aquifers to be maintained locally by the District; and 3) accept the attached draft statement on the achievement of desired future conditions for regional planning purposes. George Cofran Seconded, and the Motion carried unanimously.*

## **12. General Manager's Report**

General Manager Kubinski reported on several items:

- The District's 25th anniversary celebration is scheduled for January 21, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the District office. The event will include demonstrations of equipment and water testing, along with literature and handouts.
- Kubinski mentioned the TML claim center report on the District's auto insurance.
- He noted that the Texas Water Development Board is offering grants for infrastructure planning, with over \$1 billion available.
- He also discussed GCD grant funding available through the Texas Water Development Board, with \$7.5 million to be distributed to groundwater conservation districts in amounts between \$50,000 and \$300,000. The application period runs from January 16 through March 13, and the District is considering several potential projects, including Phase 3 of the Cypress Creek study, studies of the Pedernales River springs, and research on the Little Blanco River.
- Kubinski shared information about appointments to the Blanco Central Appraisal District Board, noting that Lanny Counts was among those appointed.
- He reported on a proposed annexation by Johnson City of a 50-acre property off Highway 290.
- Kubinski shared news articles about the District's drought status and data centers being developed in neighboring counties, noting that data centers could potentially come to Blanco County as well.

## **13. Set future meeting dates and propose future agenda items**

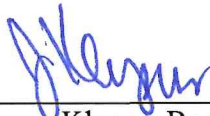
The regular meeting dates: February 19 and March 19.

**14. Adjournment**

*Motion: Tom Murrah moved to adjourn. James Sultemeier seconded, and the Motion passed without objection.*



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Greg Stevens, Board Secretary-Treasurer, Director Precinct 4



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Jimmy Klepac, Board President, Director At-large

