



Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District

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Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2026

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

Staff: Erik Kubinski (GM), Danielle Mauldin (Administrative Assistant)

Citizens: Sign-In Sheets filed separately

1. Call to Order

President Jimmy Klepac called the Regular Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District to order at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2026.

2. Invocation

The invocation was led by Director Greg Stevens, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments

Four members of the public commented, all expressing concern about a proposed limestone quarry (McCar Quarry) near Highway 281 and FM 473 in South Blanco County. Speakers raised concerns about water usage — citing estimates of 25,000 to 37,500 gallons of groundwater consumed per hour for dust suppression — as well as noise, vibration, and potential contamination of nearby private wells. Blanco City Mayor Cargill urging the Board to take a firm stand against unchecked development and over-exploitation of the Hill Country's water resources. A written comment from Rachel Halliday was also submitted and read into the record.

4. Consent Agenda

Director James Sultemeier moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written. Director Tom Murrah seconded. The motion carried.

5. Public Hearing for the 2026 Desired Future Conditions for Regional Planning

Purposes

The public hearing was opened at 1:35 pm. Additional public comments were received regarding the proposed McCar quarry, including concerns about contaminated runoff into the Little Blanco River and downstream waterways. General Manager Erik Kubinski clarified

that the district's primary regulatory concern regarding quarry operations centers on the risk of breaching the water table, as deep excavation can compromise local aquifer integrity and contaminate groundwater supplies. He noted that under current Texas law, the district has no jurisdiction over water that floods into a quarry pit below the water table, as it is reclassified as surface water. At that point, the jurisdiction moves to the TCEQ. However, the District is proactively sampling nearby monitoring wells to establish a baseline before quarry operations begin for water quality. General Manager Kubinski also reported that he has been working with state legislators to close this regulatory gap. The public hearing was closed at 1:56 pm.

6. Discuss and possible action on 2026 Desired Future Conditions

General Manager Kubinski reviewed the DFC process timeline. The public comment period will remain open through July 9, 2026, for written comments. Staff will compile all comments for discussion at the GMA 9 meeting on September 29, 2026, with final submission to the Texas Water Development Board due by late December 2026. The Board noted that the approved drawdown figure for Blanco County is 19.2 feet over 50 years, measured from 2008 baseline levels. No formal action was required.

7. Discuss and possible action on INTERA amendment to Master Service Agreement Fee Schedule and new Work Orders 7, 8, and 9

General Manager Kubinski presented an updated fee schedule from consulting firm INTERA, reflecting a 13.5% rate increase spread over three years — effectively 4.5% per year. Two new staff roles were added at lower billing rates. He also presented Work Order 7, covering support for the Python-based drought monitoring software from June 1 through September 30, 2026, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Work Orders 8 and 9, covering DFC modeling and general professional geology services respectively, were presented but deferred to the next fiscal year budget process.

Director Greg Stevens moved to approve the updated INTERA Master Service Agreement fee schedule and Work Order 7. Director Sultemeier seconded. The motion carried.

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

General Manager Kubinski reported that groundwater levels improved significantly in May. The Pedernales watershed neared Drought Stage 1, while the Blanco watershed remained in Drought Stage 3. Considering surrounding counties still in severe or extreme drought and

the uncertainty of rainfall forecasts, the Board agreed to maintain Drought Stage 3 district-wide. No formal motion was required.

9. General Managers Report

a. Update on Lagom Ranch Permit P-20250112

General Manager Kubinski reported that a hearing examiner, Judge Alicia Franklin York, has been secured. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for July 20, 2026, and will be held at the District office and open to the public. Twenty-three protestants have been identified. General Counsel Greg Ellis cautioned board members and the public against any ex parte communication with board members regarding this contested case, as doing so could jeopardize the integrity of the proceeding and expose the district's decision to legal challenge.

b. Update on Johnson City Permit P-20250028

The district is still reviewing the pump test results submitted by the city's consultant, KT Groundwater. While the technical data appeared to meet board order requirements, the submission lacked the required demand and population report. A letter was sent to the city's chief administrative officer on May 19, 2026, requesting that information within 20 business days.

c. Texas Capitol visit on April 29, 2026: Met with Senators, Representatives, and staff to discuss Resolution #20260416-1 and secure support

General Manager Kubinski reported on meetings held at the Texas Capitol. Senator Charles Perry, chairman of the water committee, declined to carry legislation providing legal defense coverage for GCDs but advised the district to engage the Lieutenant Governor's office and the House Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. Appointments were secured with both for June 26, 2026. Senator Perry indicated that GCD-related bills are more likely to originate and advance through the House in the next regular session. General Counsel Ellis added that both the Texas Water Association and the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts have formed large legislative committees to identify and prioritize water-related bills for the upcoming session.

d. Update on 2026 Groundwater Availability Model

The new Southern Trinity Plateau Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) was formally approved by the Texas Water Development Board on May 8, 2026. The district plans to use

this updated model for the next DFC cycle, with planning expected to begin after the New Year.

e. TCEQ Permit Notice – City of Blanco

The Board was notified of a TCEQ permit allowing the City of Blanco to discharge daily flow not to exceed 225,000 gallons per day. The district is a recognized stakeholder in this matter.

f. Replacement of TRB Credit Card

Texas Regional Bank notified the district that its existing credit card program is being discontinued. The district currently holds two other cards and will transition accordingly. The existing TRB card balance will be paid off by mid-June 2026.

g. Employees Retirement System of Texas Invoice

The district's annual payment of \$35 to the Texas Social Security program was made on schedule.

h. Hill Country Alliance Photo Contest

General Manager Kubinski noted that the Hill Country Alliance is accepting photo submissions throughout May for its 2027 calendar. The district plans to submit a photo taken by drone.

i. Latest news from local newspapers and industry publications

The general manager's report included a press release on the district's recently adopted rules published in the local newspaper, outreach letters to well owners and drillers regarding new rule requirements, an article in the Texan News on the district's data center resolution, and letters to the editor regarding the McCar quarry. A map from a legislative briefing by Senator Perry's office was also reviewed, showing Blanco County as a potential target area for data center development.

10. Set future meeting dates and propose future agenda items

The Board set the next regular meeting for Tuesday, June 23, 2026, noting that the General Manager will be attending the Texas Water Association meeting on June 18–19. The following meeting was set for July 16, 2026.

11. Adjournment

Director Tom Murrah moved to adjourn at 3:05 pm. Director Sultemeier seconded, and the motion carried.



Jimmy Klepac, Board President

Date Signed: June 23, 2026



Gregory Stevens, Board Secretary-Treasurer

Date Signed: June 23, 2026

