

**POST OAK SAVANNAH GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Public Hearings & Board of Directors Meeting
POSGCD District Offices
310 East Avenue C
Milano, TX 76556
June 13, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

POSGCD Board Members Present

Ward Roddam
Jay Wilder
Steven Wise
Becky Goetsch
Bob Wilson
Kit Worley
Buster Evers
Ed Savage

Board Members Absent

Tommy Tietjen
John Redington

POSGCD Staff Present

Gary Westbrook
Doug Box
Courtney Gentry
Michael Redman
Kelli Timmerman
Gregory Perry
Craig Andrews – online
Jeff Fisher

POSGCD Consultants Present

Barbara Boulware-Wells	The Knight Law Firm
Steve Young	Intera

Public Attendance

Stefan Schuster	EPCOR
Jaclyn Wise	TWRI/AgriLife
Gordon Richardson	Landowner
James Lane	Landowner
Robby Cook	Riceland Consulting
Andy Wier	SAWDF

Bob Harden
Alan Gardenhire
Keith Baker
Julie Baker

HH & E
SLR
Landowner
Landowner

Public Attendance via online

Shan Rutherford

Terrill & Waldrop

Board Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Ed Savage led the pledges to the flags of the United States and Texas.

2. Invocation

General Manager Gary Westbrook gave the invocation.

3. Call to Order and establish quorum

Board President Ward Roddam called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. GM Westbrook confirmed all notices had been properly posted and noticed. Barbara Boulware-Wells, general counsel, confirmed a quorum was present.

4. Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

5. Public Hearings on Application filed by Lane Ranch, LLC, 5617 CR 324, Caldwell, TX to produce 7.41 Acre Feet per Year from the Carrizo Aquifer at that location for domestic use.

President Roddam opened the Public Hearing at 5:33 p.m. and asked if anyone had requested to speak or participate. GM Westbrook stated there were none. Michael Redman provided an overview of the application submitted by Lane Ranch, LLC. The application is a 40-year term permit to produce water from the Carrizo formation for domestic livestock use. Mr. Lane has a total acreage of 83.18 acres. 7.41 Acre Feet will be used during year 1 to fill a pond. Years 2 and 3, the well will be used to offset evaporation. After year 3, evaporation rate will be offset with a rainwater harvesting system. After that, the well will only be used during times of drought. An 18,800-gallon storage tank will be used and the excess overflow will be directed to the pond. Mr. Redman confirmed that Mr. Lane did complete all requirements for the permit application.

President Roddam asked Mr. Redman if there were any well spacing concerns in regards to adjoining neighbors. Mr. Redman stated there were not any well spacing concerns.

Mr. Lane noted there would be very little, if any, draw from the well after the first year. Director Steven Wise asked Mr. Lane if the pond he is planning to fill is

already constructed. Mr. Lane stated that he is in the process of constructing the pond. Director Wise asked Mr. Lane if the pond will be in an area that will catch natural rain and water flow. Mr. Lane stated yes, the pond will be in an area that will catch rain and water flow. There were no further questions from the Board.

President Roddam closed the Public Hearing at 5:39 p.m.

6. Consent Agenda – *All of the following items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be self-explanatory by the Board and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board Member requests.*

- a) Minutes of May 9, 2023 Board Meeting**
- b) Update on Aquifer Conservancy Program (ACP) enrollments**
- c) Water Well Monitoring Update: Number of wells and frequency of measurements**
- d) Groundwater Well Assistance Program (GWAP) Update: Investigations and corrective actions taken**
- e) Bills received, current financial status, Investment Officer Report**
- f) Review of Recent Education Efforts and Activities**
- g) Receive report from General Manager on recent District activities and take appropriate actions**
 - 1. Permit applications filed with the District and Hearing Dates; Emergency Permits Granted**
 - 2. Well Drilling activities: registrations, applications, plugging, inspections**
 - 3. Recent and future District presentations and activities**
 - a. Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts Meetings of June 6-7, 2023**
 - b. Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) Conference of June 14-16, 2023**
 - c. Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit August 17, 2023**
 - d. Texas Groundwater Summit of August 29-31, 2023**
 - e. Groundwater Rights and Real Estate Seminar of June 27, 2023**
 - f. Groundwater Management Area 8 meetings of June 27, 2023**
 - g. Groundwater Management Area 12 meetings of June 29, 2023**

Director Becky Goetsch asked about item 6b., regarding the difference in total amounts paid from the ACP between May and June. GM Westbrook stated the change is due to the payments going from only being paid out yearly to being paid out monthly. Director Goetsch also asked about the GWAP numbers for

May not being present. Gregory Perry stated there were no changes to GWAP in May.

President Roddam asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Jay Wilder moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and was seconded by Director Wise. Approval of the Consent Agenda as presented was unanimous of all present.

7. Regular Agenda

a) Application filed by Lane Ranch, LLC, 5617 CR 324, Caldwell, TX to produce 7.41 Acre Feet per Year from the Carrizo Aquifer at that location for domestic use.

President Roddam asked if there were any questions regarding the application filed by Lane Ranch, LLC. No questions were asked. President Roddam asked for a motion to approve the application filed by Lane Ranch, LLC. Director Buster Evers moved to approve the application filed by Lane Ranch, LLC and was seconded by Director Goetsch. Approval of the application filed by Lane Ranch, LLC was unanimous of all present.

b) Report from EPCOR on recent events and activities concerning Vista Ridge Permits and Pipeline

Stefan Schuster, EPCOR, provided an update on the temporary permit amendment for Vista Ridge and the Vista Ridge Pipeline. He stated there is a mechanical limitation on the Simsboro Wells, therefore the desired 82%-18% Simsboro/Carrizo blend cannot be achieved mechanically. Currently, Vista Ridge production is running somewhere between 77 to 79% Simsboro, with the balance coming from the Carrizo. This is the blend under full summer deliveries, which is approximately 48.6 million gallons a day. During May, the flow was reduced to 46.3 mgd in order to achieve true 82-18 blend. At that flow rate, all source waters were sampled for water quality. Mr. Schuster noted that Vista Ridge is turning over the data as it is received. He stated that everything is operating as expected. Up to 3 Carrizo wells are shut off at a time, and they are looking at production going down in Carrizo and monitoring carefully. He said it is too early to tell where trends are for water levels coming back up in the Carrizo wells at this time but one of the wells has seen up to an 80-foot improvement in terms of drawdown. Mr. Schuster noted that generally, a reduction in the slower recovery in the Carrizo is being seen and he hopes for continued improvement.

Mr. Schuster also gave an update on the corrosion assessment. An evacuation plan for having to drain portions of the line to make repairs is currently being worked on with the project company for evaluation before proceeding with the official evacuation plan. Over 20% of repairs have been completed. He projects to have a plan developed this month regarding the evacuation and then getting water back into line once drained.

c) Report from Intera and District Staff concerning effects of temporary amendment to Vista Ridge Permit

Dr. Steve Young, Intera, reviewed slides 1-8 of a presentation entitled Update on Vista Ridge Temporary Amendment Production & Water Levels and answered questions from the Board. GM Westbrook noted that Vista Ridge was reducing production in the Carrizo as outlined in the Temporary Permit Amendment issued by the Board and had begun the process of drilling PW-18 Simsboro well to make this change permanent.

d) Report from Intera and District Staff concerning water levels and trends observed from most recent water level measurements

President Roddam recognized Gordon Richardson to make public comment under this item as requested. Mr. Richardson expressed concerns over the impacts seen because of Vista Ridge production and the future of the aquifers in the District.

Gregory Perry, Water Resource Management Specialist, stated there are currently 423 monitoring wells. 131 of the wells are classified as Carrizo wells and 68 are classified as Simsboro. Monitoring is done using transducer recording, WellIntell measuring devices and by taking manual measurements. He noted that at SLR, there are 7 Simsboro monitor wells, 3 Calvert Bluff monitor wells and 1 Hooper monitor well. Vista Ridge has 4 Calvert Bluff monitor wells, 10 Carrizo monitor wells, 1 Simsboro monitor well and 1 Queen City monitor well. Mr. Perry recognized the District's field techs, Jeff Fisher and Craig Andrews for their outstanding work on well monitoring and contacting landowners concerning monitoring efforts.

e) Report from staff concerning progress on work on new POSGCD offices, education and meeting center

GM Westbrook gave an update on the new POSGCD education and meeting center and offices. He presented a draft floor plan that has been submitted to GLS. GLS will work on the floor plan and send back several options that can then be reviewed by the Building Committee. GM Westbrook overviewed the layout options of the property with consideration to parking. He stated more information should be received back from GLS later this week and a Building Committee Meeting will possibly be scheduled for next week.

f) Report from Robby Cook of Riceland Consulting and General Manager on legislation filed during the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature

Robby Cook, of Riceland Consulting, and GM Westbrook overviewed bills which had passed the legislature and provided discussion on each. Mr. Cook noted particular success in conveying the District's message and concerns during the interim through meetings with legislators and staff, as well as testimony provided. GM Westbrook noted several issues which the District still believes are important and which will be pursued during the interim in preparation for the next regular session.

8. Dates, locations, and times for future meetings

The next Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 11, 2023.

9. Adjourn Board Meeting

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE POST OAK SAVANNAH GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT HELD ON JUNE 13, 2023 WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THAT BOARD ON _____, 2023

Ward Roddam, President

Attest:

Gary Westbrook, General Manager

Date_____