

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
BASTROP COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #2

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Bastrop County Water Control and Improvement District #2 was held on Thursday, August 19, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was conducted by videoconference and telephone.

**Present BCWCID #2 Board Members:**

Mary Beth O'Hanlon, President  
Scott Ferguson, Vice President  
Sam Kier, Treasurer  
Ron Whipple, Secretary  
Butch Carmack, Director

**BCWCID #2 Staff/Other Professionals:**

Paul Hightower, General Manager  
Tony Corbett, Attorney  
Alma Rodriguez, District Administrator

**MEETING DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- 1.) Call to Order and Establish a Quorum  
President O'Hanlon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of Board members was present.
- 2.) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3.) Texas State Flag
- 4.) Public Comments/Announcements (The Board respectfully requests that persons limit comments to three (3) minutes. Under the Open Meeting Act, the Board may not deliberate or take action in response to any matter raised during public comment that is not a separate agenda item.)

President O'Hanlon asked for Public Comments and stated one person was registered for Public Comments but they are not on the line.

- 5.) Discussion and possible action regarding scheduling of future meeting dates:
  - a. Regular Board of Director's Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 16 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bastrop Convention Center

President O'Hanlon announced that the September Board meeting will be an in person meeting at the Bastrop Convention Center.

- 6.) CONSENT AGENDA: (*Consent Agenda items are generally routine. Unless removed by a member of the Board or General Manager, items listed on the consent agenda may be acted on together and without prior discussion.*)
  - a. Approval of minutes from the July 15, 2021, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors;
  - b. Approval of minutes from the August 2, 2021, Special Meeting of the Board of Directors;

- c. Approval of monthly financial report for July 2021; and
- d. Approval of Release of Liens held by District on Real Property.

**Motion: Sam Kier moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Seconded: Butch Carmack.  
Vote: Four (4) in favor, motion carries.**

- 7.) Discussion regarding the following items to be presented in the General Managers report:

Paul Hightower reported on the following items:

- 7a. Status of TTHM compliance:

We were able to get the contract fixed and notated where it was written correctly and allowed for the deliveries and such to take place. It has been executed and we are on-track for a December to January delivery. As in the original contract, the District will build the concrete base needed to set the system on, we will provide a crane or device to unload the system and provide the piping hook-ups to our well head. We will have an approximate \$10-15k in expenses doing these 3 items in the next 4-5 months so we can spread it out and be ready for it to arrive. We have received the drawings and it is in the production stage now.

- 7b. Update on district water plants and lift stations:

No updates at this time.

- 7c. W/WW maintenance & Capital Improvements update:

We have a meeting scheduled with BEFCO on August 25<sup>th</sup> to start scheduling the projects.

- 7d. Roads maintenance & improvement projects update:

19/20 Road Construction: Waiting for County chip-sealing.

20/21 Roads: The team is doing a great job. We have taken several tours of the roads that have been constructed and so far, the County crews are very happy with what has been done. The County was able to secure their own reclaimer, so in the end, we may be able to use this where needed, for some road construction. The groups that have been done by our team so far, Mel and Gus both have driven and have stated that our team is doing such a good job rolling and packing, that there may only be a few spots where the base might need touching up and once it passed compaction tests, they would pave it and no reclaimer or further construction necessary. This is excellent news for us and in the end, means we are saving money to use somewhere else! Hopefully we can continue to have more good news in the future and get the road plan up and going quicker.

- 7e. Employee update:

We have hired 2 employees for the water/wastewater crew, one started this past Monday and the other is starting on August 30<sup>th</sup> then we have an interview scheduled tomorrow.

- 7f. General Office Update:

New Maintenance Facility: The project is moving forward slowly, and we are still hoping for an August/September finish time.

Office Meeting Location: We spoke about this last month in depth and came down to basically staying at the Convention Center. I did speak to Tony about remote possibilities, and this is what we learned.

1. A board member may not participate remotely by telephone conference; and
2. A board member may participate remotely by visual conference as long as certain requirements are met, which I have summarized below:
  - a. A quorum is physically present at one location;
  - b. The agenda is written to specifically state that there will be remote participation by a director;
  - c. A monitor at least 27 inches is set up at the meeting location where the remainder of the board is meeting so that the public may view the face of the remote board participant; and
  - d. The technical AV requirements are met. I have attached a document that summarizes those requirements.

With this, Sam has requested to be remote with traveling and/or being out of town and Scott has requested remote, due to some health concerns due and personal reasons. That leaves Mary Beth, Butch and Ron to form the quorum at the Convention Center.

- 8.) Discussion and possible action regarding the Road Committee:
  - a. Receive Monthly Committee Update

Paul Hightower stated this meeting was mainly a review and update. Joe Egitto did bring up a question regarding having a better understanding for the process of the city roads being completed so I contacted the city and they stated it is basically the same process as we have with the County.

Jo Egitto stated Mr. Hightower covered everything and she didn't know if there were two separate Interlocal Agreements since there are a few roads coming up in the plan that are both in the city and the County.

- 9.) Discussion on future capital improvement projects and financing analysis by SAMCO Capital Markets

Paul Hightower stated we received the final memo for the closing but just to review we had a Special meeting on August 2 to review the bids and the bid was awarded to Truist at a rate of 1.75%. The final closing documents have been reviewed by President O'Hanlon and Director Kier and approved. The next step is to have a formal confirmation from the Attorney General's office. We are on schedule for receiving the funds on August 30<sup>th</sup>. There is a meeting schedule with BEFCO next week to get all the projects in line and get moving forward.

- 10.) Discussion and possible action regarding Investment Strategies for District funds  
Director Whipple reported that during his research regarding investment strategies for the District he contacted several public investment advisory firms, and it doesn't seem like these firms are going to be able to help us much due to the cost

and the return. One firm charges \$20,000 annual which is not cost effective for the District. We are just too small for these management firms. We are doing good with the investments we have currently and are safe.

The Board thanked Director Whipple for his research.

President O'Hanlon ask for Public Comments again.

Mr. Reddy suggested the District go out for stated funding to improve the infrastructure of the District to improve property values.

President O'Hanlon responded to Mr. Reddy by stated we appreciate your comments, and we certainly will keep them under advisement, but one thing you should know is that very recently, this board took a bond issue to do some of what you're talking about, to do the roads all at once, to our voters and the voters, voted against the bond issue. The voters have made it very clear to us that they want us to continue collecting road fees every year.

- 11.) Board suggestions on future agenda items  
Paul suggested to the Board that the September meeting we set a date for a Budget workshop in October.

Director Whipple stated he read an article regarding Perfluoroalkyl and it contaminating water supply so he would like to have an agenda item to discuss this and test for this substance.

Paul Hightower stated we will also look at all the test results.

- 12.) Adjourn

**Motion: Butch Carmack moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded: Scott Ferguson. Vote: Four (4) in favor, motion carries.**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:10 P.M.

MaryBeth O'Hanlon  
Board Director

9-16-2021  
Date