

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, September 16, 2021, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Bastrop Convention Center.

Present BCWCID #2 Board Members:

Mary Beth O'Hanlon, President
Ron Whipple, Secretary
Butch Carmack, Director

Videoconference

Scott Ferguson, Vice President
Sam Kier, Treasurer
Tony Corbett, Attorney

BCWCID #2 Staff/Other Professionals:

Paul Hightower, General Manager
Tyler Walsh, Sr. Operations Manager
Alma Rodriguez, District Administrator

MEETING DISCUSSION TOPICS

- 1.) Call to Order and Establish a Quorum
President O'Hanlon called the meeting to Order at 6:31p.m. and announced there was a quorum of the Board. Director Kier and Director Ferguson as well as Tony Corbett are attending the meeting remotely.
- 2.) Pledge of Allegiance
President O'Hanlon led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3.) Texas State Flag
President O'Hanlon led the Pledge to the 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.)
Bruce Loomis stated he owns property in Tahitian Village and would like to get a water line to his property, but the line extension would cost him roughly \$60k and wanted to know if he paid for the extension and someone else builds on that line would he get a reimbursement.
Paul Hightower stated that is not something we have in place at this time, but we are looking into it.
- 5.) Discussion and possible action regarding scheduling of future meeting dates:
 - a. Schedule a Budget Workshop
 - b. Regular Board of Director's Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bastrop Convention Center

President O'Hanlon stated we need to schedule a Budget Workshop and asked for suggestions.

The Board agreed to have a Budget Workshop on October 26, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Director Carmack stated he may not be able to attend it depends on his work schedule.

President O'Hanlon announced the next Board meeting will be held on October 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. 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 August 19, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors;
- b. Approval of monthly financial report for August 2021; and
- c. Approval of Release of Liens held by District on Real Property.

President O'Hanlon asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the minutes and financials.

Alma Rodriguez presented the Release of Liens.

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:

a. Status of TTHM compliance:
No updates at this time.

b. Update on district water plants and lift stations:
No updates at this time.

c. W/WW maintenance & Capital Improvements update:
The capital plan is off and running. We had an initial planning and review meeting with BEFCO, to line out projects. We have grouped the water lines into two categories, Priority & Maintenance. They are being assigned IDs now and we will be putting together two bid packages for the two groups. Our hopes are to get 1 company that bids on both packages, but they will be written separately. We are lining out the remainder of the projects and more details will be brought back soon. The maintenance items are the loops and priority items are water line replacements. We are looking at properties between the reserves in Unit 1 and Unit 2 for the ground storage tank. We will have more information on this at future meetings.

d. Roads maintenance & improvement projects update:

19/20 Road Construction: Still waiting for County chip-sealing. Spoke with Commissioner Hamner this morning and he stated the crew should be able to complete the roads within the next couple of weeks.

20/21 Roads: No major updates to this. Tyler Walsh and his crew are doing a great job on these roads. The team is getting these completed on schedule and waiting for the County.

e. Employee update:

We have successfully hired two field W/WW employees, moved one parttime office to fulltime and are in the process of hiring one fulltime for the vacant road position. At that point, we will be up to full staff.

f. General Office Update:

New Maintenance Facility: Spoke with the contractor earlier this week and he is projecting to be completed by the end of September. We have contractors lining out the remainder of the utilities now to get it moving forward. We will have an Open House once the building is completed.

Director Kier asked for an update on the Tahitian water line project, water meter project and the temporary office building.

Mr. Hightower responded the project has been published and there is a bid opening meeting on October 1st at 10 a.m. We will be presenting the bids to the Board at the October meeting. The order for the meters has been placed and are due in by the beginning of October. We did a 3-month lease for no additional cost but can go on a month-to-month rental for the temporary building and the parking lot space.

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

Paul Hightower stated there are no updates at this time. The committee did not meet in September but will be meeting in October.

- 9.) Discussion and possible action regarding District monthly board meetings
President O'Hanlon suggested this item stay on the agenda since we are now holding meetings remotely and on site. There may be a possibility at some time that Board members cannot attend in person and asked the availability for in person meeting next month.

Director Whipple stated he would need to join the meeting via videoconference in October.

Director Ferguson stated he could attend in person with special provisions.

Director Kier also stated he could attend in person.

- 10.) Discussion and possible action regarding renewal of District's employee medical, dental, vision and other related employee benefits
Paul Hightower stated we just received the renewal for medical and dental benefits as far as the medical renewal from BlueCross Blue Shield, the renewal increase was 1.43% which is a gold plan but the changes that were concern for employees are the Office copays which will be going from \$30/\$50 to \$40/\$80. Urgent Care will increase from \$30 to \$75 and prescription coverage will change from tiers to deductible and an employee deductible is \$3000.

Mr. Hightower proposed moving to the Platinum Plan P621CHC which will lower copays and deductible for only an extra \$2,400 for the year and for the employee reimbursement on deductible it is proposed the reimbursement goes from \$1,750 to \$750.

Mr. Hightower also stated the dental renewal from Ameritas was a 3.9% increase which was very little and proposed the renewal with Ameritas.

Motion: Butch Carmack to renewal the BlueCross BlueShield medical insurance with the Platinum Plan P621CHC. Seconded: Ron Whipple. Vote: Four (4) in favor, motion carries.

Motion: Butch Carmack to renewal with Ameritas for dental insurance. Seconded: Ron Whipple. Vote: Four (4) in favor, motion carries.

- 11.) Discussion regarding testing for Perfluoroalkyl
Director Whipple stated his initial concern was that this material is found in fire fighting materials and since we had the fire here in Tahitian it raised concerns with him but in his research, he found out that the foam was not used in the wildfires in Tahitian. However he would propose to the Board to have the water tested if it can be done for under \$500.

President O'Hanlon asked Mr. Hightower if there are labs that can do this testing and can it be done for under \$500.

Mr. Hightower responded there is a lab in Austin that can test and stated he also reached out the Bradley with BEFCO Engineering and he in turn reached out to TCEQ and TWDB and receive information back from TCEQ stated these contaminants are not currently regulated under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not established enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for them. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system.

The EPA determined in Spring 2021, that a rule making process should be initiated for two of the PFAS that have been studied, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). Once completed, this process will result in numeric drinking water standards for these two PFAS, but a timeframe has not been established. If the EPA establishes drinking water MCL standards for PFOA and PFOS under the SDWA, public water systems will be required to meet the new

federal regulations. TCEQ would then evaluate the new federal regulations and make a determination regarding the adoption of state standards that are at least as equally stringent. TCEQ has a Drinking Water Advisory Work Group that is a good resource for the public drinking water community and will be used as a way to communicate PFAS developments as they occur.

Regarding testing recommendations, public water systems may choose to test for PFAS in their systems for their own planning purposes. EPA has developed PFAS Drinking Water Laboratory Methods and non-regulatory Health Advisory Levels for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water to help consumers and water systems sample and gauge any measured levels.

TCEQ will be having a sampling program starting 2022 and public water systems will be picked at random, and it will be at no cost to the system.

The LCRA lab can do sampling, but it is \$435 per sample with the sampling being 8 to 12 samples. The cost at a minimum would be \$3,400.

Director Carmack stated he thinks they should hold off until there are standards.

Director Kier agreed.

O'Hanlon stated this is an important item and asked if we should hold off on this item for a year and maybe we will be picked as a testing site.

Mr. Hightower stated we will be notified by TCEQ about the sampling program and any regulations.

Director Carmack stated this item should be on hold until we receive information from TCEQ.

The Board agreed.

- 12.) Board suggestions on future agenda items
Alma Rodriguez suggested the Board prepare for Paul Hightower's evaluation at the October meeting.

- 13.) Adjourn

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40 P.M.


Board Director

10-21-2021
Date