

January 24, 2024

The Board of Directors of Bell County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 of Bell County, Texas met in Regular Session, open to the public, in the Conference Room, 201 South 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Killeen, Texas 76543, at 09:00 a.m., on the 24th day of January 2024, and the roll was called of the duly constituted officers and members of the Board.

Robert R Robinson	President	Richard Grandy	Director
Kenny Wells	Vice President	Dale Treadway	Director
Sandra Blankenship	Secretary	Brian Dosa	Fort Cavazos Representative
Ricky Wilson	Director	Ricky Garrett	General Manager
Dr. Joyce Bateman Jones	Director		

Public attendees were John Del Rio, citizen of Salado; Jana Lynn Kilcrease, KDH; Steve Kana, City of Killeen.

With all said members present except the following absentee(s): none, thus constituting a quorum.

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 09:00 am. Public comment from Mr. John Del Rio addressing the board regarding water issues at his property behind the Stillhouse Water Treatment Plant. Expressing urgency of the matter, Mr. Del Rio requested a meeting with the board to discuss his concerns further. President Robinson stated that the board would look into this matter.

The first item of business was the consent items, which included the minutes of the regular Board Meeting, held on December 06, 2024, approval of November and December Financial Statements, and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Investment Report. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to approve the minutes of the December 06, 2023 meeting as presented, and seconded by Director Wilson. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

The next item was to discuss and consider approval of financial statements for November and December 2023. LaFranshonna McAllister went over both the water and wastewater financial statements. Water spent 57.0% of their total budget and wastewater spent 56.0% through December. A motion was made by Director Treadway to approve both November and December financial statements and seconded by Director Grandy. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

The final consent item was the approval of the 4th quarter 2023 Investment Reports. Mr. Garrett, General Manager, stated that there was normal movement for the Belton Pump Station Project. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to approve the 4th quarter 2023 Investment Reports and seconded by Vice President Wells. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

New Business Items: Discuss and consider awarding a bid to Big Chief Distributing, Killeen, Texas for water and wastewater fuel delivery at approximately \$25,000 annually and take appropriate action. Vice President Wells recused himself for this agenda item. Mr. Garrett, General Manager stated that two bids were received for the fuel supply. Big Chief Distributing is a local vendor and has a reputable track record, demonstrating reliability and service quality and the difference between both bids were minimal. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to award a bid to Big Chief Distributing, Killeen, Texas for water and wastewater fuel delivery at approximately \$25,000 annually and seconded by Director Grandy. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

The next item was to discuss and consider awarding a bid for fence replacement to Fence USA in the amount of \$13,650 and take the appropriate action. Mr. Garrett stated that the wrought iron fence along the front entrance and south side of the 38th Street Wastewater Plant is in poor condition. Funds were allocated to replace 340 feet with polyvinyl-coated chain link, including a walk-through gate and staff contacted multiple fence companies for quotes. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to award a bid for fence replacement to Fence USA in the amount of \$13,650 and seconded by Vice President Wells. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

The last item was to discuss and consider entering into a non-disclosure agreement with Edmonton Power Corporation for long term water supply and take the appropriate action. President Robinson announced the commencement of an Executive Session at 9:21 a.m. The meeting resumed its regular session at 9:33 a.m. A motion was made by Director Wilson to enter into a non-disclosure agreement with Edmonton Power Corporation for long

term water supply and seconded by Director Treadway. All members present voted in favor of the motion, except Secretary Blankenship, who abstained. The motion was subsequently approved.

Staff Reports: Trevor Butler, Wastewater Superintendent, informed the board that Plant 1 is averaging 12 mgd. The aeration basins are now fully operational following repairs to address leaks. Additionally, some of the filters were temporarily out of service due to bearings and drive shaft repairs. Although all filters have been restored to service, one filter is experiencing a cabling issue leading to a loss of data to SCADA. The necessary parts are currently on order.

Plant 3 is averaging 4 mgd. The peak was 7.5 mgd during recent rain events. The 2007 Mac Truck is in the shop, and there is an issue with the ECM. Unfortunately, the required ECMs are on back order. However, a solution has been found, and remanufactured ECMs with a lifetime warranty have been secured. These replacements are expected to arrive later this week.

Compost facility is doing great. Compost operations are being maximized with the South Plant delivering twice the usual number of sludge trucks. Additionally, a new turner essential for composting has been successfully delivered, and employees have undergone training to ensure efficient utilization.

The wastewater staff was recognized for their commendable efforts during the recent freeze event. Their diligence and preparedness were evident, resulting in minimal issues. Although there was a small pipe break and the headworks froze, the staff did an excellent job promptly addressing the situation and completing necessary repairs.

Keith Baker, Operations Manager, gave an update on both lake levels; Lake Belton down 14.7 feet and Lake Stillhouse down 17.5 feet. Belton treatment plant averaging 27 mgd; a minimum of 22 mgd; and max is 30 mgd.

The replacement of filter media has been successfully completed, and the contractor is currently in the cleaning phase.

The Belton Pump Station project is finalized and fully operational.

Currently, quotes are being received for the intake inspection for both Belton and Stillhouse and anticipate having them by next week.

The mag flow meter project for Plant 1 and Plant 3 is on track for completion by the end of February. Plant 2's project will be handled in-house.

The elevator is currently not in working condition. Actively seeking a company for repairs to address the issue promptly.

The backup generator project is progressing, and currently awaiting the switch gear, expected at the end of February. Building A has undergone testing and has successfully passed. On February 10th, a load test is scheduled to determine the optimal settings for the regulators.

The water staff was recognized for their outstanding preparation during the recent freeze event, resulting in minimal issues.

Stillhouse Plant is averaging less than 1 mgd.

Mr. Garrett, General Manager, stated that an amendment to the wastewater discharge permit is required for the outfall at the golf course. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has been contacted, revealing complications with the amendment process as it qualifies as a major amendment. This would result in a reduction of the permit amount from 18 to 14 mgd. Additionally, a phosphorus limit will be imposed, impacting the sludge delivered to the compost facility. Given the substantial challenges involved, the current recommendation is to opt for a straightforward renewal at this time.

The Verizon lease has been signed, and we are currently awaiting the fully executed copy.

West Water Well Services is the second bidder for the Fort Cavazos Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project. Upon commencement, they will have a 90-day timeframe to complete the project.

Before the August 2023 WCID 1 Board meeting, a discrepancy in invoicing was noticed, where WCID 1 had billed customers more than the amount invoiced by the Brazos River Authority (BRA) by \$66,107.52. Investigation revealed a similar discrepancy in 2021, amounting to \$63,943.68. The water rights under contract with the BRA include Option/Election or Two-Tier water rights and System Water rights. The latter is significantly higher in cost. The billing error occurred due to the District and BRA "freezing" two different option/election combinations since 2007. The cumulative error since 2007 amounts to \$851,960.75. To rectify the error, it is proposed to credit each city on the annual payment and issue additional checks to Harker Heights and WCID 3.

A free chlorine conversion is scheduled from February 1st through February 29th. Public notice has been posted, and all entities have been notified.

There will be an Annual Water Conservation Meeting on February 7th to discuss the impact of the drought, strategize for the future, explore solutions and best practices for water conservation.

The next Board Meeting will be held on February 28, 2024.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m. by President Robinson.



A large, flowing handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sandra Blankenship".

Sandra Blankenship, Secretary  
Board of Directors

