

GREEN DeWITT DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Special Meeting Minutes

May 5 • 11:15 a.m. • District Office Conference Room, Gonzales Street

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Green DeWitt Drainage District was called to order at **11:15 a.m.** by the presiding officer.

An invocation was offered.

2. Roll Call / Quorum

- All Board Members were present.
 - The General Manager was present.
 - A quorum was established.
 - No members of the public were in attendance.
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3. Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

4. Southwest Engineers – Phase Two Watershed Presentation

Engineer **Aaron** of Southwest Engineers presented the findings from **Task One**, which focused on identifying the **historic drainage area** of the District. The study incorporated:

- 1908 Army Corps of Engineers topographic maps
- Field observations north of Gohlke Creek
- Historical watershed flow patterns

Purpose of the Study

The long-term objective is to prepare a defensible watershed boundary map to support discussions with:

- State representatives
- State senators
- Texas Water Development Board
- Other agencies with authority over drainage and taxing boundaries

The Board noted that the District's current boundary was historically aligned with city limits rather than true watershed boundaries, leaving the District responsible for downstream flooding while lacking authority to manage upstream flow.

Boundary Expansion Discussion

Key points included:

- The **North Cuero watershed** contributes flow to our current boundaries as well as others in the county. Since no single agency is assigned full responsibility, the North Cuero Watershed collects funding from several partners to ensure proper management.
- Historic man-made structures (ditches, berms, dams) altered natural flow paths.
- The District must manage water **from its source**, not only at the lower end of the system.

1998 Flood Review

The Board discussed:

- The 1998 Guadalupe River flood (49.7–49.9 ft)
- Backflow into town
- The need for accurate high-water-mark data, much of which was lost under prior county administration

Potential Levee Study

The Board reviewed a **state-initiated grant** under the Texas Flood Plan to evaluate whether a levee near Highway 72 could prevent future backflow into Cuero.

The District would likely maintain the levee if constructed.

Regulatory and Mapping Issues

Discussion included:

- Misclassification of man-made ditches as “natural streams” on state maps
- Conflicts between Texas rules and federal (Corps of Engineers) rules
- The need to correct designations to avoid unnecessary environmental permitting

- The importance of mapping man-made vs. natural channels clearly for future presentations

Task Two Planning

Task Two will include:

- Three one-hour meetings in Cuero with city, county, and local stakeholders
- Two meetings in Austin with state legislators and the Texas Water Development Board
- Additional meetings as needed

The Board agreed that no presentations should occur until after the **new county judge** takes office.

Political Considerations

The Board discussed:

- The need for support from the new judge, city officials, and state representatives
- The likelihood of resistance from some voters if a tax expansion were put to a vote
- The possibility of avoiding a public vote if the state approves the boundary expansion directly
- The potential to **lower taxes for current District residents** by expanding the tax base

Operational Considerations

The Board discussed:

- Current maintenance limitations
- The possibility of hiring contractors again for mowing and clearing
- Upcoming work on Channel 3 funded jointly by the District, city, and county
- The need for clearer maps showing:
 - 1914 watershed
 - Current watershed
 - Current District boundary
 - Man-made vs. natural channels

5. Action Items

Approval of Task One

A motion was made and seconded to approve **Task One** of the Southwest Engineers proposal, which includes:

- Preparation of the watershed presentation
- Collection of photos
- Compilation of maps and supporting materials

Motion passed unanimously.

Task Two

Task Two (stakeholder meetings) will be scheduled later in the year.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.
With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at **12:25 p.m.**

APPROVED

BY THE BOARD ON

May 15, 2026

Pat Hevins

SIGNATURE, OFFICE