

# **GREEN DEWITT DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**May 28, 2026 – 11:00 A.M.**

**Conference Room – 107 N. Gonzales Street, Cuero, Texas**

The Board convened in a Regular Meeting to receive, discuss, consider, approve, adopt, and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

---

### **1. OPENING PRAYER**

- Opening prayer offered.
- 

### **2. ANNOUNCE QUORUM & CALL TO ORDER**

- Quorum announced: **Director Larry Coppedge absent; Director John Varela and the presiding officer present.**
  - Meeting called to order.
  - No public attendees; public comment skipped.
- 

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No public present; no comments received.
- 

### **4. MINUTES — Review and Take Appropriate Action**

- **Motion** by Director **John Varela** to accept the minutes.
  - **Second** by Director **Doug Sethness**.
  - **Vote:** Unanimous approval.
-

## **5. FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS & PROJECTS**

### **Mowing & Equipment**

- Approximately half the system has been mowed since April 27.
- Focus on bottom areas ahead of incoming rains.
- Crew completed **CPR and First Aid certification**.
- New mower would not start; transported to **Tractor Service in Yoakum** for evaluation.
- Other equipment remains operational.
- Vegetation growth heavy due to recent rains.

### **Shredder Request**

- Request made to **Commissioner Ryan Varela (Pct. 1)** to borrow a shredder due to mower issues.
- Commissioner Varela agreed; shredder to be delivered to the District yard.

### **Flood Monitoring System – Build & Deployment**

- Significant progress on assembly and field preparation.
- Solar panels installed (large panel for system power; small panel for camera).
- Camera rotates horizontally and vertically.
- Control box wiring underway; weatherproofing planned.
- Float switch demonstrated; activates warning lights at set water height.
- Submersion test planned in shop before field installation.
- Waiting on signage (Exhibit pending).
- Tube design includes staggered holes (largest to smallest) to prevent false activation.
- First installation site: **Broadway**, with an **8 ft activation height**.

---

## **6. GM REPORT — Meetings, Projects, Training, Grants, Other Topics**

### **Flood Monitoring System Work (May 5–22)**

- Multiple days spent on design, inventory, mounting configurations, and testing.
- Site visits with maintenance foreman to finalize deployment locations.
- “Call Before You Dig” completed for Broadway site.
- Weekly inspection schedule planned once deployed.

- Reviewed **2026 preliminary appraisal values.**

### **Texas Water Development Board Stream Gauge Grant**

- Preparing updates for **Caleb Rodriguez.**
- Grant timeline remains on track (deadline July 27).
- County may collaborate and share cost of 12 stream gauges.
- Possibility of splitting gauges between county and district.

### **AT&T Account Issue (May 14)**

- District phones were still under the Dewitt County account.
- New AT&T account created for the District to allow updates and replacements.

### **GLO Mitigation Grant**

- Monthly update meeting held May 20.
- Authorization to use grant funds received the morning of May 28.
- Next phase includes easements, acquisitions, and property owner meetings.
- Budget amendment request submitted to move **\$30,000** from construction to engineering.

### **Risk Management / Insurance**

- Texas Water Association **MVR checks** completed.

### **Flood Monitoring System Procurement**

- Reviewed inventory for second system; costs consistent with first build.

### **Potential Third Flood Monitoring Location**

- Concerns about vandalism at proposed site; alternate location may be selected.

### **Meetings with CivilCorp (May 26)**

- Teams meeting held with **Randy and Aaron Miller** regarding next steps following grant authorization.

---

## **7. ESTIMATE OF NET TAXABLE VALUE FOR 2026:**

Receive the preliminary value estimate of appraised taxable property from the Chief Appraiser pursuant to Texas Property Tax code Sec. 26.01 €: and take appropriate action.

### **2026 Estimated Net Taxable Value**

- Total market value: \$757,442,239
- Estimated net taxable value: \$557,531,139
- Final values expected July; certified values in August.
- Discussion on tax rate calculation (example: 10¢ per \$100 ≈ \$557,000 O&M revenue).

## **8. RESOLUTION NO 2026-02 (Adopt 2026 mitigation action plan)** Discuss and take appropriate action on agreements, contracts, and any other topic related to engineering.

### **Hazard Mitigation Resolution**

- Required for participation in countywide plan.
- Director **Doug Sethness** requested to read full document before adoption.
- **Decision:** Resolution **tabled** pending review.

## **9. ENGINEERING — Agreements, Contracts, Engineering Topics**

### **Engineering Firm Selection Discussion**

- Summary prepared for the Board.
- Discussion on pros/cons of large firms vs. local firm **Southwest Engineering**.
- Concerns regarding large firms:
  - o Deprioritize small projects.
  - o Travel time delays meetings.
  - o Poor responsiveness (e.g., GLO engineer not returning calls).
- Southwest Engineering praised for:
  - o Local presence.
  - o Quick response.
  - o Strong performance on current projects.
- Recommendation made to hire Southwest Engineering.
- Counterpoint: wait for **Director Larry Coppedge** before voting.
- **Decision:** Item **tabled** until the full board is present.

---

## **10. GLO GRANT UPDATES**

- Updates covered in GM Report.
  - Authorization to use grant funds received May 28.
  - Next steps: easements, acquisitions, property owner coordination.
  - Budget amendment request pending approval.
-

## **11. FINANCIAL MATTERS — Reimbursements, Disbursements, Reports**

### **Budget Chart Discussion**

- April expenses exceeded monthly allocation due to:
    - o Maintenance costs.
    - o Multiple delayed invoices from Mr. Burns.
  - Year-to-date: **48% of budget spent in 7 months** → District under budget.
  - Board requested return to previous cumulative graph format.
  - Discussion on whether the District is over-budgeting annually.
  - GM noted reductions already made in engineering/surveying allocations.
- 

## **12. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING(S)**

- Discussion on preferred meeting day.
  - Consensus to return to **Mondays**.
  - **Next Regular Meeting: Monday, June 22, 2026.**
- 

## **13. ADJOURN**

- Motion to adjourn made and seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting adjourned at **11:33 A.M.**
- Post-meeting informal conversation regarding branch pickup, city services, and appreciation for maintenance crew assistance.

## **SIGNATURES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID GUJARDO, GENERAL MANAGER

Date: \_\_\_\_\_