

GREEN DeWITT DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Doug Sethness, President
Larry Coppedge, Vice President
John Varela, Secretary
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Green DeWitt Drainage District met in **Regular** Session on the 23rd day of August 2023, at 11:00 A.M. in the Conference Room of the District's office at 107 N. Gonzales Street, in Cuero, Texas with the following members present:

Doug Sethness, Director
Larry Coppedge, Director
John Varela, Director

Staff: Jennifer Urban, General Manager
Pat Trevino, Office Manager
Ignacio Granado, Crew Foreman

ANNOUNCE QUORUM & CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Sethness called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE

MINUTES:

Board minutes from the following meetings: Regular meeting on July 17, Special meeting on July 25, and August 7, 2023, were approved.

Motion:

John Varela made a motion to approve the minutes and Larry Coppedge seconded the motion and the motion carried.

FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS & PROJECTS:

Foreman, Ignacio Granado, gave a field report stating that his last report was on July 17, 2023. He went on to provide an update on the daily operations of maintaining the channels. He added that the last temporary employee who was sent by the staffing agency did not work out. The employment agency sent someone new, Brayden Carter and he started working on August 3, 2023. Granado added that he has continued to work on cutting up tree limbs that block the channel, loading them, and hauling them off. He has focused on the fence lines along the channels making sure the area is maintained.

As for other maintenance, improvements, and projects, Mr. Granado reported that he has been training the new employee on how to do maintenance on various equipment. Granado also reported that he spoke with Curtis Afflerback, the County Commissioner for Precinct 1 to discuss the slopes on the Oil Mill channel and how they need maintenance.

The county commissioner offered to assist by providing the district with a dump truck to haul off some of the dirt and rock and suggested outsourcing the excavation work.

For future projects, Mr. Granado said that his plans were to clean up W. Lateral Spillway, and the city side of W. Lateral plus the rest of the Alonzo St. and channel along the fence.

Photos were shown to the board members of the progress being made as well as areas that require attention. Of particular concern were several tree branches that had been cut and illegally dumped near one of the channels. The source of illegal dumping is unknown.

An additional area of concern for illegal dumping is the channel near Ful -o-Pep where glass bottles have been picked up on multiple occasions.

GM REPORT:

The General Manager reported that the surveillance cameras by VCS Security of Victoria have been installed.

The district emails were updated to @greenddd.com, by tech services from Cuero Computer Center LLC. The new business cards that were just ordered will show the new email. Jennifer also reported that she attended a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting on July 24, 2023.

She went on to inform the board that the Worker's Compensation audit with Sedgwick, Wes Baker was complete, the tax rate notice was published in the Cuero Record, and that our health insurance renewal went into effect.

The General Manager informed the board that a motion was needed for the audit engagement letter from Roloff, Hnatek & Co found in today's board meeting packet.

Motion:

Larry Coppedge made a motion that we approve the audit engagement letter from Roloff, Hnatek & Co. John Varela seconded the motion and the motion carried.

ENGINEERING:

The General Manager read an email from Public Management to GLO which read that the engineering team is developing a proposal for a revised scope of work, and due to budgetary constraints, they may have to slightly alter the scope of work for this project while ensuring they are not changing the beneficiaries.

Jennifer reached out to Public Management to find out further details or what has changed but has not received any feedback to date.

2023 TAX RATE:

After review and discussion, the board adopted the tax rate increase. The General Manager informed the board that if the public were to petition, they have ninety days from today to petition the increase.

MOTION:

John Varela made a motion to approve the adoption of Order No 2023-08 new tax rate increase. Larry Coppedge seconded the motion and the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The board went into executive session under 551.074 Personnel at 11:37 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The board came out of executive session at 12:27 pm

FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Board members discussed the budget, but no action was taken.

GLO GRANT UPDATES:

The General Manager reported that the district has yet to receive the second disbursement of the GLO grant.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Doug Sethness asked when the district could expect to receive tax payments and the General Manager informed the board that most of the money the district receives is in October or September. There was further discussion of the financial reports, specifically the property assets owned by the district such as the maintenance yard. Jennifer said that she would find out with our auditor how this inventory is listed and report back to the board members.

MOTION:

John Varela made a motion to approve the financial reports. Larry Coppedge seconded the motion and the motion carried.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:

The district's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in the conference room of the district office at 107 N Gonzales, Cuero, Texas 77954.

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MOTION:

John Varela made a motion to adjourn. Larry Coppedge seconded the motion and the motion carried.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35.

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Director

Jennifer Urban, General Manager