

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 **26th** of **AUGUST 2024**, 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: David Guajardo, General Manager
Pat Trevino, Office Manager
Ignacio Granado, Foreman

1. ANNOUNCE QUORUM & CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE

3. MINUTES: Reviewed and discussed minutes from August 2, 2024, July 23, 2024, and July 29, 2024.

MOTION:

Director John Varela motioned to approve the minutes for August 2, 2024, July 23, 2024, and July 29, 2024. Director Larry Coppedge seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

4. FACILITIES-MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS & PROJECTS:

Forman, Ignacio Granado provided the following report:

Integration of New Part-Timer

- **Daniel Rodriguez**, our new part-timer, joined the team on July 24th, 2024. He has quickly adapted and is performing well.

Maintenance Efforts

- **Herbicide Application:** We applied herbicide to guardrails on Bridge and Douglas to control grass and weed growth.
- **Weather Challenges:** Rain showers occasionally slowed down our cutting and weed-eating tasks. The extreme heat also impacted productivity.
- **Bee Incident:** On August 5th, we were attacked by bees which resulted in 20 bee stings for me. Jesse received a couple of bee stings. I required medical attention and missed a workday but returned the following day.
- **Tire Disposal:** We responsibly disposed of 24 tires at the City Recycling Center during their free disposal period.
- **Staff Meeting:** On August 13th, we held a safety meeting.

Guardrail Repair

- **Alonzo Street Gohlke Creek Channel Washout:** A washout occurred, causing the guardrail wall to separate. We promptly repaired and refilled it with dirt.
- **Collaboration:** McMahan Steel assisted with welding, and the city crew pitched in to provide additional manpower.
- **Photos:** Visual documentation shows the initial separation and subsequent repairs.

5. GM Report: David Guajardo the District General Manager reported the following:

- **Mitigation Grant Amendments:** Inflation and cost of material impacted the initial project plans requiring modifications. An amendment adjusting the scope of work was necessary to effectively utilize the 1.5-million-dollar grant.
- A letter was sent to Ms. Lister with the General Land Office (GLO) explaining how the revised scope of work will still benefit the beneficiaries of Cuero.
- **Monthly Meetings and Grant Progress:** Meetings have been updated and are scheduled monthly to stay informed and maintain progress. Using a drone for assessment and planning is a great idea. It'll help identify where improvements are most needed.
- **Open Enrollment and Employee Coverage:** On August 1st I communicated with Eddie Carter during our BlueCross Blue Shield insurance representative informing him that during open enrollment there would be no changes.
- **TWCA Fall Conference in San Antonio:** I will be attending the Texas Water Conservation Association Conference. The conference is on Oct 23 through 25th
- **City Streets Waterline Damage:**
A section of the street crumbled close to the bridge barricade which caused subsequent damage to the waterline and steel wall that connects to the culvert. McMahan Steel welded and the city provided manpower.

- **Sedgwick Insurance Audit:** Pat (Office Manager) and I gathered and researched documents requested by their insurance audit.
- **IRS Notification and Data Breach:**
- IRS requesting more time to research our submitted 941 Report and supporting documentation showing proof of payment.
- An AT&T data letter stating there was a breach. The phone service we have with AT&T are cell phones and do not connect to financial records or sensitive information.

6. **BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** Tabled

7. **RESOLUTION ON DISTRICT STAFF SALARIES NO. 2024-01:** Tabled

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:26

Reconvened at 11:40

8. **BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025:**

- Discussed the proposed budget based on the correct tax roll and current rate. Funds to purchase a truck is being added to the budget.
- The proposed budget for 2025 was approved.

MOTION:

Director John Varela motioned to approve the Budget for FY 2024-2025. Director Larry Coppedge seconded, and the motion carried.

9. **ADOPTING TAX RATE FOR 2024:**

- The homestead taxable value increased from \$120,000 to \$143,000. Tax rates went down because property values increased and the maximum tax, we can get without an election is 8.751 percent.
- The proposed tax rate is 8.751 percent.

MOTION:

Director John Varela motioned to approve the 8.751 tax rate. Director Larry Coppedge seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

10. **ENGINEERING:**

First-class certified letters to proceed were sent to the City Manager Wayne Berger and Mayor Emil Garza.

11. **GLO GRANT UPDATES:**

Compliance information with the TIGR System

12. **FINANCIAL:**

All financial reports were reviewed and discussed. The financial snapshot shows that a significant portion of the budget has been spent but the overall budget shows that we are still under budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS CALLED: 11:50

RECONVENED: 12:08

MOTION:

Director John Varela motioned that we accept the Financial Reports. Director Larry Coppedge seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

13. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING(S)

The District's next meeting is scheduled for the 23rd of September 2024 at 11:00 A.M. in the Conference Room of the District's office at 107 N Gonzales Street, in Cuero, Texas 77954.

14. ADJOURN

Director John Varela made a motion to adjourn, Director Larry Coppedge seconded the motion. The Green Dewitt Drainage District adjourned at noon.

Director

David Guajardo, General Manager