

GREEN DeWITT DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Doug Sethness, President
Larry Coppedge, Vice President
John Varela, Secretary
E-mail: info@dcdd1.com



107 N. Gonzales Street
P.O. Box 542
Cuero, TX 77954
Phone: (361) 275-9995

Green DeWitt Drainage District met in **Regular** Session on the 17th day of July 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

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:

Pending minor changes, the Regular minutes from the June 19th, 2023, meeting were approved upon a motion by Doug Sethness. Larry Coppedge seconded the motion and the motion carried.

FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS & PROJECTS:

Ignacio Granado gave the field report and provided an update on the daily operations of maintaining the channels. He added that the last temporary employee did not work out a new temporary employee, Eli Gonzales has been showing up to work and is doing a good job.

Mr. Granado reported that as of July 19, 2023, they had completed another round through the system. He explained that some places are covered in overgrown vegetation, and in other areas, it is extremely dry. He anticipates that the severe heat we are experiencing will slow down the growth of grass in and around the channels.

Also, a complaint was turned in that while we were weed-eating a rock broke a window behind Main Street. The General Manager will look into it.

As for other maintenance, improvements, and projects, Mr. Granado reported that the pesticide sprayer was not functioning properly and needed some major maintenance repairs which Mr. Granado fixed on his own. It is now working and being utilized.

Furthermore, the approved 500-gallon fuel tank was installed at the district yard, and the tanks now have unleaded gas which can be used for the district truck and other district equipment. The surveillance cameras are to be installed in the yard sometime later in the week.

For future projects, Mr. Granado would like to finish clearing the West lateral channel spillway and clean up the city side of the West lateral channel.

Photos were shown to the board members of the progress being made.

GM REPORT:

General Manager invited Attorney Adam Uszynski of Victoria to attend our board meeting with the intent to hire his firm based on his experience in dealing with matters such as easements, water rights as well as other legal questions the district might have. Board members Doug Sethness and Larry Coppedge discussed the district's boundary issues and the need to determine where exactly those boundaries are in an effort to fully protect the community in the event of flooding. Mr. Uszynski assured the board that after listening to the district's concerns that he had no issues working with a political entity and that he had no conflict with TCEQ.

Doug Sethness suggested that we hire Attorney Adam Uszynski and that his experience in representing landowners and drafting easement agreements would benefit the district. Mr. Uszynski was asked by the board to provide a scope of his work for researching our legal boundaries and his billing cycle.

Also listed in the GM report was the receipt of its first GLO disbursement of \$52,035 which was used to pay invoices to CivilCorp and Public Management. A second invoice from CivilCorp and Public Management has been received and will get paid once GLO releases more funds.

Every four years a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the City of Cuero and Green Dewitt Drainage District sign off on this MOA which provides citizens with a mechanism to report illegal dumping that affects surface waters of Texas through the Don't Mess with Texas Water (DMWTW) program. The MOA was sent to Jennifer Zufelt with the city, and it was returned with the mayor's signature.

Unofficial health insurance renewal rates for 2023-2024 were discussed. Because the district has purchased health insurance through Carter Insurance for more than three years the General Manager in an effort to make certain that we were receiving competitive rates sought quotes from other agencies including Brian Gomez with State Farm and Keith Williams Insurance. Mr. Carter gave a presentation to the board, and it appears that Carter Insurance provides the best rates and service.

GM reported that a property damage claim form and W9 were sent to Union Pacific (Mary McClarnon) for reimbursement of railroad bridge damage repairs. They appear to be considering our request for reimbursement of \$6,259.48 which was paid out by the district for concrete work to repair missing and damaged sections of the channel wall where the railroad bridge was removed.

Other items on the monthly synopsis discussed were the following: TWDB Grant update sent to Cody Ransone, Annual Tax information submitted to TA/C, 941 Federal Quarterly Tax Return was submitted, Approval from the fire department to install a fuel tank at the district yard, and the fuel tank delivery to the district maintenance yard.

ENGINEERING:

None

2023-2024 HEALTH INSURANCE PRESENTATION:

August 1st, 2023 is our insurance renewal date and GM called several insurance providers for group health insurance quotes. State Farm Insurance could not quote Blue Cross and Blue Shield because they may not be working with Blue Cross and Blue Shield after November. Keith Williams provided a quote for BCBS suggesting we renew with our current provider.

Eddie Carter gave a presentation on BCBS and informed the district that they have over six different medical options to offer employees. The district has an allocated dollar amount per employee and if the employee selects a plan over that amount, then they only have to pay the difference. Blue Cross is the only carrier that offers an HMO product which is 40 percent less than a PPO because it is more restrictive. The dental coverage cost decreased slightly whereas the medical portion increased. Doug Sethness suggested that the GM have a discussion with employees regarding their preferred plan and then recommend to the board a budget plan.

2023 Q2 DIRECTOR ACTIVITY LOGS:

The director activity logs were discussed and approved.

MOTION

Larry Coppedge made a motion to approve and execute the director activity logs. Doug Sethness seconded the motion and the motion carried.

INFO TAX RATE CALCULATIONS

General Manager informed the board that the Green DeWitt Drainage District Tax rate request form was filled out and sent to the DeWitt County Tax Assessor. The water district that applies to us is the Developing Water District Water Code 49.23603. The debt rate is 0 percent, and the Contract rate is 0 percent.

GLO GRANT UPDATES:

A meeting was held between Doug Sethness, GM, Civil Corp, and landowner, Raymond Schulle to discuss engineering progress for GLO Grant.

The district received its 1st grant disbursement, and it paid two invoices. CivilCorp GLO CBDG Contract No.22-119-011-D506 was paid \$30,300, and Public Management GLO CDBG Mitigation grant Project Contract 22-119-011-D506 received \$21,735.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

None

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

After review and discussion of financial matters, it was approved by the board.

MOTION:

Doug Sethness made a motion to approve the financial report. Larry Coppedge seconded the motion and the motion carried.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:

A Special Meeting is scheduled for July 25th at 8:00 am.

ADJOURN:

Larry Coppedge made a motion to adjourn, and Doug seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:40.

Director

Jennifer Urban, General Manager