

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 20th day of March 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
John Varela, Director
Larry Coppedge, Director

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

CALL TO ORDER & ANNOUNCE QUORUM:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE

MINUTES:

A motion was made by John Varela to approve the minutes from February 14, 2023, and minutes from the Emergency meeting on February 28, 2023. Doug Sethness seconded the motion to approve the minutes for both meetings.

FACILITIES – MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS & PROJECTS:

The field report was made by Ignacio Granado providing an update on the daily operations of maintaining the channels. His last report was made on February 14, 2023. They started a new round through the system and were about fifty percent finished. On the West Lateral Channel that is on the city side, they pulled out bicycles, grocery carts, gas cans, and a lot more debris. It was hauled off and disposed of properly.

Additionally, Lopez tree service was hired to ground several tree stumps and they completed that job.

Ignacio Granado presented several bids that were turned in for the electrical project at the shop and restroom. The three bids turned in were from the following companies: Countryside Electric for \$5,900; Sutton Electric for \$3, 250; and R & R Electric for \$1,975.68.

Furthermore, for future projects, Ignacio Granado informed the board that the fence surrounding the yard is in need of repair and that he would be contacting fence companies and soliciting bids.

In conclusion, Mr. Granado renewed his pesticide applicator license which expired on February 28, 2023. He renewed it before the deadline and his new license is good through February 29, 2024.

General Manager presented photos and gave details of the progress being made to the district and informed the board of notices she had to deliver to some of the property owners who were not in compliance with the drainage district regulations. One property owner, in particular, appeared to be running their raw sewage into the street which would consequently then flow into our drainage system. Mr. Balli with the city was also informed of this situation.

MOTION:

John Varela made a motion to award the electrical bid to R & R Electric who was the lowest bidder in the amount of \$1,975.68. Doug Sethness seconded the motion and the district will contract with R&R electric services to do the work at the shop.

GM REPORT:

General Manager sent a request for reimbursement to Olin Dirks with Union Pacific for the repair work that was done on the railroad bridge which was approximately \$6,000. Also discussed was the meeting GM and Doug Sethness had with County Judge Fowler to discuss the district boundary expansion support and resolution needed from Commissioner's court which was requested by Senator Kolkhorst's office. A meeting with Commissioner's court was scheduled for March 27, 2023.

General Manager provided an update on the TFMA 2023 Annual Conference she attended in Houston. She informed the board of the various products and services out in the market. For example, erosion control with the hydro turf. She informed the board that it is essentially plastic grass that attaches to the concrete, and it has aesthetic qualities as well plus it is maintenance-free. General Manager added that although it is costly a product like this would work well on very steep channels.

Additionally, in an effort to provide the people in our community with a discount on flood insurance, the General Manager is looking into ways to qualify for the National flood insurance program (NFIP) community rating system. This would require coordinating with Rafael Balli with the City. He is our community FEMA floodplain administrator. The concept of this rating system is to heighten awareness of flooding in the district by participating in or holding various community outreach programs. There are a lot of communities in Texas that are already participating in this community rating system.

Also, Thomas Surveyors was hired to provide an approximate linear distance of various drainage channels (both NCWS channels and District channels). Thomas Surveyors was able to provide this information using Google Earth Pro as the sole basis of measurement approximations based on the drainage channel centerline locations, extents, and Zones. The information by Thomas Surveyors did not reflect any on-the-ground measurements.

In conclusion, the General Manager attended a FEMA Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium and received her certification of completion in Emergency Operations Plans for Rural Jurisdictions.

RESIGNATION OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR:

The district received a letter of resignation from board member Joseph Olive.

MOTION:

A motion was made by John Varela to accept the resignation of Joseph Olive. Doug Sethness seconded the motion.

ENGINEERING:

NONE

APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR 2023-2025 TERM:

A discussion was held to appoint Larry Coppedge as a board member for the district.

MOTION:

John Varela made a motion to appoint Larry Coppedge as a Board Member for the district 2023-2025 term. Doug Sethness seconded the motion.

TWCA 2023-2024:

The board discussed the need to send a quarterly report to the Texas Water Development Board for FIF Category 4 project covering the time period December 1st, 2022 – February 28th, 2023, as well as a letter requesting a one-year extension on the grant.

MOTION:

John Varela made a motion to approve the Texas Water Development Board quarterly report and a motion to request a one-year grant extension with the TWDB. Doug Sethness seconded the motion for the report and for the one-year grant extension.

GLO GRANT UPDATES:

Public Management submitted our GLO grant Q2 Section 3 report.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

The board went into Executive Session according to Texas Government Code 51-074 Personnel Matters. The time was 12:21 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board returned from Executive Session at 12:27 pm and there was no action taken.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The board members reviewed and discussed the district's financial reports.

MOTION:

John Varela made a motion to accept the financial reports. Doug Sethness seconded the motion.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:

The district's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023, at 11:00 pm in the conference room of the district's office at 107 N. Gonzales, Cuero, Texas 77954.

MOTION:

John Varela made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Doug Sethness seconded the motion.

ADJOURN:

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Sincerely,

Director

Jennifer Urban, General Manager