

Minutes of the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District Public Hearing on the Proposed HGCD Drought Contingency Plan – Revised July 10, 2024 – Immediately following the Rules Hearing at the Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center – Boardroom 125 Lehmann Dr., Kerrville, Texas.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call, Certification of Quorum in Compliance with Texas Open Meetings Law.**

Directors Present: Tom Jones – Precinct 1, President
Laurie Lowe – Precinct 4, Vice-President
John Elliott – At-Large, Secretary/Treasurer
Kenneth Wilke – Precinct 3

[RECORDS MGMT.](#)
[PERMANENT DOCUMENT](#)

Staff Present: Gene Williams, Monica Thibodeaux, Deneise Harris, Michael Mann

Directors Absent: Chris Childs – Precinct 2

Other: Richard Mosty, HGCD Attorney

2. **The Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors will receive public comments regarding the proposed changes to the HGCD District Rules titled “District Rules Revised July 10, 2024”. Comments may be submitted in writing until January 3rd, 2024, or orally at the hearing.**

No written comments submitted by the July 3rd, 2024 deadline.

Stuart Barron with the City of Kerrville – comments on Section 7 c. commenting that the language concerns the City regarding being on the same drought stage level as HGCD when the average level of the four Lower Trinity Index Wells is at or below 1330 feet. He presented a graph showing the City’s Index and asked the Board to use a Guidance Document provided by the City in determining the City of Kerrville’s Drought Stages.

Water Conservation Guidance proposed by City of Kerrville

Water Conservation Guidance Document			Safe Operating Capacity (SOC)					
			< 65%	65%-74%	75%-84%	85%-94%	95%-99%	100%
			Year Around	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Water sources	Moderate Drought	River flow >50 CFS and Groundwater above 1330' MSL	Year Around					
		River flow ~40 CFS and Groundwater above 1330' MSL	Stage 1					
		River flow < 20 CFS and Groundwater above 1330' MSL	Stage 2					
	Exceptional Drought	River not flowing over Dam (elevation 1620.0' MSL) and Groundwater approaching 1330' MSL	Stage 3					
		Lake level below 1616' MSL and Groundwater below 1330' MSL	Stage 4					
		Lake level: below 1612' MSL and Groundwater below 1330' MSL	Stage 5					

River flows volumes are intended to be for guidance and reference only. They are not intended to be trigger points.

For the purpose of this document: ASR and Groundwater are combined into a single source. Both types of water are stored in the aquifer and are available at the same rate of withdrawal.

Currently the South Texas Watermaster’s office uses the USGS gage at Comfort to assess curtailments. When the Comfort Gauge gets to 40 CFS they start curtailing. The City uses the USGS Center Point Guage. It is located just outside of the City limits, and is not impacted by all the farming between Kerrville and Comfort. The accuracy of this gauge is a lot better than Bear Creek Gauge and it accounts for the return from the City Water Reclamation Plant.

Gerry Wolf – Would like definitions of “Non-Essential Use” as mentioned in Section 6 c. and “Private/Public Water” as mentioned in Section 8; asked who the Drought Plan applies to, asked why the New Water Permit limitations were removed and he requested that the Growth of Kerr County be limited as stated on handout from 2008 prepared by William Feathergil Wilson.

HYDROGEOLOGY OF KERR COUNTY

A STUDY OF KERR COUNTY AQUIFERS

By

WILLIAM FEATHERGIL WILSON

DECEMBER, 2008

NOTES

P. 65

“ANY SOCIETY THAT CONTINUES TO USE CRITICAL RESOURCES, UNSUSTAINABLY, WILL COLLAPSE.”

THE FUTURE OF GROUNDWATER USAGE IN KERR COUNTY WILL NECESSITATE CONSERVATION MEASURES SUCH AS:

- RAINWATER HARVESTING - MANDATED WITH TAX INCENTIVES
- WATER AVAILABILITY STUDIES FOR EACH NEW PROPOSED SUBDIVISION
- MANAGED AVAILABLE GROUNDWATER PERMIT LIMITS (MAG'S)
- PIPELINES TO MOVE GROUNDWATER FROM THE NW PORTIONS OF THE COUNTY TO THE SE PORTION OF THE COUNTY
- CONJUNCTIVE USE OF SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER
- GROWTH LIMITS

3. Adjournment

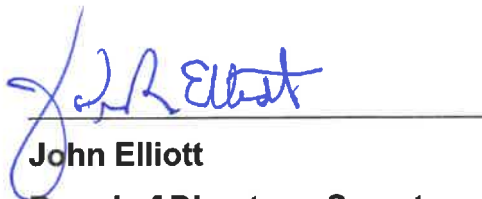
Director Jones asked for any additional comments or business. No Objections. Hearing Adjourned by Consensus.

APPROVED:



Tom Jones

Board of Directors, President



John Elliott

Board of Directors, Secretary