MINUTES
HARRIS-GALVESTON SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 8, 2020, 10:00 A.M.
Audio/Video Conference
Information can be found at:
Video recording of the Meeting may be found at:
https://youtu.be/m9nuDGwL7GQ


MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT: James Edwards, Joe Goins, Ken Keller, Jason Long, and Lindy Murff

PRESIDING: Alan Petrov, Chairman

Chairman Petrov called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. Due to restrictions of COVID-19, the meeting was held remotely via WebEx. The role was called and Chairman Petrov announced the presence of a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2020

2. Mr. Latimer moved that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2020, be approved; it was seconded by Ms. Baird. Chairman Petrov called for objections, and hearing none, Chairman Petrov announced the motion carried unanimously.

HEARING EXAMINERS REPORT


   3.1. Mr. Latimer moved to accept the Hearing Examiner’s recommendations; it was seconded by Ms. Rogers. Chairman Petrov called for abstentions. No abstentions. Chairman Petrov called for objections to the hearing examiners report, and hearing none, announced the motion carried unanimously.

EMERGENCY PERMITS

4. The Board considered the General Manager’s action in granting emergency permits to Esther Fajardo, Fernando Padron Matias and Hilda Sevilla.
5. Mr. Turco briefed the Board on the status of the Joint Regulatory Plan Review and announced that the Stakeholders meeting has been postponed until the end of May, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

RECOMMENDATION FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE INDEPENDENT ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

6. Daniel Newcomb, Director of Finance and Administrative Services, stated that the annual audit was performed by Mr. Patrick Simmons, Senior Manager, and Mr. Christopher Breaux, Audit Partner, of Whitley-Penn.

6.1. Mr. Simmons explained the audit process and the opinion of the auditors regarding the financial statements, as to whether or not they’re materially correct. He stated that the audit found no material corrections were needed to the financial statements.

6.2. Mr. Daniel Newcomb presented a summary of the financial statements for the year ending 2019.

6.3. Mr. Pete Côté, HGSD Finance Committee Chair, stated that the Finance Committee met with the auditors from Whitley-Penn, L.L.P., on March 31, 2020, to discuss the results of the annual audit, and after review, the committee voted unanimously to recommend approval to the full Board of Directors.

6.4. Mr. Côté moved to accept the annual audit; it was seconded by Mr. Latimer. Chairman Petrov called for objections, and hearing none, announced the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER THE EXECUTION OF WORK ORDER #3 OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NEW EDGE SERVICES, L.L.C., FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

7. Mr. Turco provided the status of the migration of the District’s Permit Tracking System to the City Works enterprise solution, which has been ongoing since 2018, with the contractor, New Edge Services, L.L.C. He stated that the migration has been much more complex than expected, and that due to what has been learned about the District’s internal operations and workflows, additional needs were identified for reporting, the development of a customized script for unique well permit ID numbers, and on-call support during testing of the system. The 2020 Budget provided for the additional work, so no amendment is needed to the District’s 2020 Budget.

7.1. Mr. Latimer moved to authorize the General Manager to execute work order #3 with New Edge Services, L.L.C. It was seconded by Ms. Rogers. Chairman Petrov called for objections, and hearing none, announced the motion carried unanimously.

(THIS RESOLUTION IS IN FULL IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE HARRIS-GALVESTON SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT BEING RESOLUTION NO. 2020-1054.)

RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2020-1052 CALLING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING TESTIMONY REGARDING THE DETERMINATION OF THE EFFECTS OF GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWAL ON LAND SUBSIDENCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019, CHANGING THE DATE OF HEARING TO MAY 28, 2020
8. Mr. Turco stated that due to delays in the receipt of annual pumpage reports, caused by the COVID-19 response and resulting quarantine, a delay will be required for holding the Annual Groundwater Hearing, from May 5, 2020 to May 28, 2020, at the same time of 10:00 a.m.

8.1. Ms. Baird moved to approve the amendment to Resolution 2020-1052, to change the date of the public hearing. It was seconded by Mr. Gonzalez. Chairman Petrov called for objections, and hearing none, announced the motion carried unanimously.

(This resolution is in full in the official records of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District being Resolution No. 2019-1052-Amended.)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A WATER CONSERVATION GRANT AGREEMENT WITH SELECTED APPLICANTS FROM THE 2019 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE WATER CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO AWARD FUNDING GRANTS

9. Mr. Turco stated that due to the COVID-19 response there is no action to be taken on this item today.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

10. Mr. Turco submitted the General Manager’s Report, including announcing the retirement of Mr. Kevin Ebrom, after more than thirty-seven years with the District, and recognizing the impact of his effective leadership, on the enforcement section of the Subsidence District.

(The General Manager’s Report is in full in the official records of the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District as part of the Board’s Agenda Packet for this meeting.)

11. Ms. Smyth is now present.

LEGAL MATTERS

12. Mr. Ellis updated the Board on recent legislation and litigation on groundwater issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

13. None necessary.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:09 A.M.

E-SIGNED by Alan Petrov on 2020-05-14 03:50:48 GMT
Chairman

E-SIGNED by Alberto (Al) Gonzalez
on 2020-05-13 19:26:21 GMT
Secretary

Approved May 13, 2020 Board Meeting