

---

**Refugio Groundwater Conservation District  
Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2025**

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
REFUGIO COUNTY

The Board of Directors of the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District convened a meeting at 309 Johnson Street, Woodsboro, Texas 78393 on March 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

**Item 1. Call the meeting to order and welcome guests.**

Item 1. Call the meeting to order and welcome guests.

Mr. Borden called the meeting to order and call the roll of representatives:

Precinct 1: Mr. John Snyder, Vice-President: Present.

Precinct 2: Mr. Carroll Borden, President: Present.

Precinct 3: Ms. Cynthia Rose, Treasurer: Present.

Precinct 4: Mr. Fredric Biery, Secretary: Present.

At Large: Vacant:

General Manager: Mr. Tim Andruss: Present.

General Counsel: Mr. James Allison: Absent.

**Item 2 - Receive Public Comment**

No public comments were offered at the meeting.

**Item 3 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater management including the efforts and activities of the District regarding permitting, complaints, investigations, violations, and enforcement cases associated with permitting.**

**Topic 3.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Well Registration Processing for FY2025.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had received 6 well registration applications (ARWs) since October 1, 2024.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had received 19 Notices of Intent to Drill a Well (NIDWs) since October 1, 2024.

Regarding Production Permit Renewal Processing for FY2025.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had received 0 production permit renewal requests (ARPs) since October 1, 2024.

Regarding Permit Processing for FY2025.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had initiated 2 permitting request case (PRCs) since October 1, 2024.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had 1 permitting request cases pending.

- i. PRC-20250103-01 - AAP-20250102-01 - Bad Bull 2023 LLC. - Pending/Protested

As of March 12, 2025, staff had 20 active or approved production permits recorded in the permitting database with a combined amount of authorized groundwater production per year of 1814.76 acre-feet.

Regarding Groundwater Production Report Processing for CY2024.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had processed 29 groundwater production reports for the preceding calendar year since October 1, 2024.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had recorded groundwater production reports for 29 water wells reporting 715.702 acre-feet of groundwater production during CY 2024. (TWDB estimated the volume of groundwater produced for rural domestic, livestock, mining, and rig supply exempt uses in Refugio County in Year 2020 was 580 acre-feet. See: TWDB - Projected Exempt Groundwater Use Estimates ).

Regarding Manage Investigations related to Permitting Violations for FY2025.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had initiated 1 investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2024.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had 2 active investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting):

1. INV- 20250122-01 - Potential Violation of Failure to Report Groundwater Production - Rice Irrigation - Active
2. INV- 20250305-01 - Unpermitted Non-Exempt - Active

Regarding Manage Enforcement Cases related to Permitting Violations for FY2025.

As of March 12, 2025, the Board had initiated 0 enforcement case violations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2024.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had 0 unresolved enforcement case violations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting):

**Item 4 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater protection including complaints, investigations, violations, and enforcement cases related to groundwater contamination and waste.**

**Topic 4.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Well Inspections for FY2025.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had recorded 2 well inspection forms (WIFs) since October 1, 2024.

Regarding Manage Investigations related to Groundwater Protection for FY2025.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had initiated 0 investigations related to Groundwater Protection since October 1, 2024.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had 1 active investigation related to Groundwater Protection:

- i. INV-20191202:1017 - Potential Contamination of Groundwater at Woodsboro Farmers Cooperative - Active

Regarding Manage Enforcement Cases related to Groundwater Protection for FY2025.

As of March 12, 2025, the Board had initiated 0 enforcement case violations related to Groundwater Protection since October 1, 2024.

As of March 12, 2025, staff had 0 unresolved enforcement case violations related to Groundwater Protection.

## **Item 5 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater monitoring.**

### **Topic 5.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Monitor Drought Conditions for FY2025.

As of March 20, 2025, the U.S. Drought Monitor (<https://www.drought.gov/states/texas/county/refugio>) indicates that 100% of Refugio County was experiencing abnormally dry or drought conditions.

As of March 20, 2025, drought condition information related to the district and the surrounding region of Texas collected from the Water Data for Texas website (<https://www.waterdatafortexas.org/drought/>) indicates that all portions of Refugio County are experiencing abnormally dry or drought conditions.

Regarding Synoptic Aquifer Monitoring for FY2025.

As of March 20, 2025, staff had collected 7 water level measurements since October 1, 2024.

Regarding Advanced Aquifer Monitoring for FY2025.

Regarding Baseline Water Quality Aquifer Monitoring for FY2025.

Regarding Ad-Hoc Baseline Water Quality Sampling for FY2025.

As of March 20, 2025, staff had collected 0 water quality field measurements since October 1, 2024.

As of March 20, 2025, staff had collected 1 water quality samples since October 1, 2024.

As of March 20, 2025, staff had received 1 water quality lab reports since October 1, 2024.

Regarding Annual Water Level Assessment for FY2025.

Regarding Annual Water Quality Assessment for FY2025.

Regarding Monitoring Network Assessment and Improvement Project for FY2025.

## **Item 6 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater conservation.**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Promote Conservation for FY2025.

On March 19, 2025, the Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District submitted an application to the Texas Water Development Board for the Fiscal Year 2025 Agriculture Water Conservation Grants Program on behalf of the Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District, the Calhoun County Groundwater Conservation District, the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District, and the Texana Groundwater Conservation District (Cooperating Districts).

The Cooperating Districts propose through the (4-year) project to expand their aquifer monitoring efforts to include a four-year program to evaluate the impact of access to aquifer condition information on agricultural groundwater production within Victoria, Calhoun, Refugio, and Jackson Counties. The staff of the VCGCD will 1) deploy telemetry-equipped monitoring probes at agricultural sites to support the publication of real-time aquifer monitoring data similar to the information posted at <https://www.vcgcd.org/real-time-aquifer-monitoring-charts>, 2) gather detailed information via surveys from participating well operators regarding groundwater production, utilization of real-time aquifer monitoring data of local aquifer conditions, and 3) evaluate the effects of real-time aquifer monitoring data, if any, on groundwater production by participating groundwater producers.

The Cooperating Districts aim, through the implementation of the project, to facilitate the use of aquifer monitoring data in the decision-making processes of water well operators that 1) better balances a) the impacts associated with consuming groundwater resources and b) preserving groundwater resource for the future and 2) results in a quantifiable reduction of groundwater production.

The estimated cost of the project is \$240,112. The VCGCD is seeking a grant of \$179,200 for groundwater conservation efforts in Jackson, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio Counties.

The cost to the Cooperating District to implement the project during the 4-year project is estimated to total \$60,912.

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Task 1  | \$3,316         |
| Labor to Develop Project Promotional Materials and Implementation Surveys | \$1,408         |
| Labor to Identify Candidate Water Wells                                   | \$1,408         |
| Print and Mail Promotional Materials to Candidate Well Owners             | \$500           |
| Task 2  | \$5,424         |
| Inspect Well Site and Assess Feasibility of Use as a Monitoring Site      | \$4,424         |
| Mileage to and from Monitoring Sites for Evaluation                       | \$1,000         |
| Task 4  | \$2,949         |
| Labor to Inventory and Install Monitoring Equipment                       | \$2,949         |
| Task 5  | \$42,573        |
| Labor to Process and Track Quarterly Well Access Fees                     | \$7,373         |
| Monitoring Access Fees  | \$28,800        |
| Quarterly Site Visits and Maintenance Work for 16 Sites for 4 Years       | \$6,400         |
| Task 6  | \$4,736         |
| Labor to Process Surveys, Production Reports, and Monitoring Data         | \$4,736         |
| Task 7  | \$1,914         |
| Labor to Develop and Publish Project Report                               | \$1,664         |
| Print and Mail Project Report   | \$250           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>\$60,912</b> |

The grant funding, if awarded, would reimburse the VCGCD for expenditures related to purchasing hardware, materials, and telemetry services fees.

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Task 3  | \$150,400        |
| Site Preparation Materials and Supplies for 16 Monitoring Sites                   | \$6,400          |
| Water Level and Conductivity Monitoring Station Components for 8 Monitoring Sites | \$96,000         |
| Water Level Only Monitoring Station Components for 8 Monitoring Sites             | \$48,000         |
| Task 5  | \$28,800         |
| Telemetry and Cloud Server Storage Fees for 16 Sites for 4 Years                  | \$28,800         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>\$179,200</b> |

**Item 7 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater resource planning including Groundwater Management Area 15 Joint Planning and regional water planning.**

**Topic 7.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Regional Water Planning Participation for FY2025.

The South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) met on February 20, 2025. The next meeting of the group is scheduled to meet on August 28, 2025. See: <https://www.regionltexas.org/>.

Regarding GMA 15 Joint Planning for 4th Planning Cycle in FY2025.

The representatives of Groundwater Management Area 15 met on January 9, 2025. The next meeting of the group is scheduled to meet on April 10, 2025 at the UHV Northwest Campus. See: <https://www.vcgcd.org/groundwater-management-area-15>.

**Item 8 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater policy including the management Plan of the District, the rules of the District.**

**Topic 8.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Management Plan Revisions for FY2025.

Regarding Rule Amendments for FY2025.

Regarding Legislative Support and Lobbying for FY2025.

On March 17, 2025, staff identified the following legislation that could, if passed without revision, have a negative impact on the ability of the District to effectively manage groundwater resources within the county.

- HB 4772 **Author:** Olcott **Caption:** Relating to exemptions from the requirement to obtain a permit from a groundwater conservation district for certain groundwater wells.
- HB 4772 would expand the permit exemption for wells used to solely to produce groundwater for domestic and livestock purposes under TWC 36.117 from 10 acres to 100 acres.
- HB 4472 would create a permit exemption for wells incapable of producing more than 10,000 GPD (11.2 AFY) on properties smaller than 100 acres.
- HB 4896 **Author:** Garcia, Josey **Caption:** Relating to rules and reports related to brackish groundwater production zones.
- HB 4896 would eliminate the wastewater injection criteria that limits the creation of Designated Brackish Groundwater Production Zones (DBGPZs) which will likely dramatically increase the number and distribution of the zones, including in areas within Jackson, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio Counties. The creation of DBGPZs within the Jackson, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio Counties would effectively transfer the regulatory authority over substantially amounts of groundwater resources within Jackson, Victoria, Calhoun, and Refugio Counties from locally-elected officials of the corresponding GCDs to governor-appointed officials at TWDB via the TWDB's a) technical review of DBGPZ applications, b) TWDB's recommendations regarding monitoring, and c) TWDB's evaluation of DBGPZ monitoring reports to determine if the brackish groundwater production will cause unacceptable impacts on groundwater resources.
- SB 2658 **Author:** Perry **Caption:** Relating to an exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit from a groundwater conservation district for certain brackish groundwater wells. HB 5188 **Author:** Lopez, Janie **Caption:** Relating to an exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit from a groundwater conservation district for certain brackish groundwater wells.

- SB 2658 / HB 5188 would exempt wells that produce water with TDS levels of 3,000 mg/L or higher from drilling or production permitting if the well is located in a designated brackish groundwater production zone (DBGPZ) as defined under TWC 36.1015 > > TWC 16.060 (which appear to afford TWDB significant latitude for defining DBGPZs).
- SB 2658 / HB 5188 would remove VCGCD's permitting authority related to "Moderately Saline Groundwater" as defined within the Rules of the District and the permitting framework VCGCD established for the Goliad, Lagarto, and Oakville Saline Groundwater Zone.

**Item 9 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to administration and management including the minutes of previous meetings, the annual budget of the district, bank accounts, investments, financial reports of the district, bills and invoices of the district, management goals and objectives of the district, administrative policies, staffing, consultant agreements, interlocal cooperation agreements, and support services provided to and from other groundwater conservation districts.**

**Topic 9.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Election Coordination for CY2025.

Regarding Financial Audit for FY2024.

On March 25, 2025, Mr. Cox of Goldman, Hunt, and Notz, LLP notified staff of his intent to present the financial audit for FY2024 on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Regarding Investment Management for FY2025.

Regarding Financial Record Processing and Reporting for FY2025.

Regarding Budget Development for FY2026.

Regarding Asset Tracking for FY2025.

Regarding Public Funds Training for FY2025.

Regarding Website Improvements for FY2025.

Regarding Public Notice and Meeting Coordination for FY2025.

The next meetings of the Board are scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2025, with each meeting to convene at 6:00 p.m. Regular meetings will be rescheduled as necessary and special meeting may be scheduled to address unforeseen issues.

Regarding Performance Audit for FY2024.

To coincide with the presentation of the financial audit for FY2024, staff will present the annual report for FY2024 on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Regarding Project Management for FY2025.

Regarding Administrative Policy Review for FY2025.

Regarding Transparency Reporting for FY2025.

Regarding Cybersecurity Training for FY2025.

Regarding Consultant Review for FY2025.

Regarding Open Government Training for FY2025.

Regarding District Liability Insurance Review and Renewal for FY2025.

Regarding Digital Record Archiving for FY2025.

Regarding Physical Record Archiving for FY2025.

### **Topic 9.2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

The minutes for the previous meeting were sent the board members prior to the meeting and informed the board members upon discussion.

**Board Action:** Mr. Borden moved to accept and approve the meeting minutes for February 18, 2025, as drafted. Mrs. Rose seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Topic 9.3 - Investments of the District**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

The investment report for January 2025 has been sent to the board prior to the meeting.

**Board Action:** Mr. Borden moved to accept the investment reports for January 2025. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The balance of all the funds of the district, as of January 31, 2025, is \$1,550,559.58.

### **Topic 9.4 - Financial Transaction Report**

Mr. Andruss provided a list of accounts payable records that were recorded since January 1, 2025 as of March 17, 2025 and a list of accounts receivable records that were recorded since January 1, 2025 as of March 17, 2025.

### **Topic 9.5 - Financial Reports of the District**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

The internal financial reports of the District for January 2025 have been compiled by the districts administrative coordinator, and sent to the directors prior to the meeting.

Mr. Biery moved to accept and approve the financial reports for January 2025. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Topic 9.6 - Unpaid Invoices and Bills**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

The District has outstanding accounts payable invoices that are not considered regular and routine for which the District has received the goods and services billed for under the invoices.

Mr. Biery moved to authorize the general manager to pay the following items. Mr. Borden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

1. ACCTP-20250324-04 - \$250.00 - Cynthia Rose - March Meeting
2. ACCTP-20250324-02 - \$250.00 - John Snyder - March Meeting
3. ACCTP-20250324-03 - \$250.00 - Fredric Biery - March Meeting

4. ACCTP-20250324-01 - \$250.00 - Carroll Borden - March Meeting

**Item 10 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to legal counsel report.**

The item was not discussed or acted upon during the meeting.

**Item 11.0 - Adjourn Meeting**

**Board Action:** Mr. Borden moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. after concluding all business of the District. Mr. Biery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 22 DAY OF

April A.D. 2025

Carroll E. Borden

Director of the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Director of the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District