
**Refugio Groundwater Conservation District
Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2025**

THE STATE OF TEXAS REFUGIO COUNTY

The Board of Directors of the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District convened a meeting at First Baptist Church of Woodsboro Fellowship Hall, 309 Johnson Street, Woodsboro, Texas 78393 on December 16, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

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

Mr. Borden called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and called the roll of representatives: Staff completed the necessary public notification requirements for the meeting.

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.

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.

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

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

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

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2026, in Victoria, Texas. See: <https://www.vcgcd.org/groundwater-management-area-15>. During the meeting, the representatives will consider proposing DFCs for 4th Joint Planning Cycle.

Topic 7.2 - TCEQ Docket No. 2025-1797-MIS; Petitions for Inquiry regarding Corpus Christi Aquifer Storage and Recovery Conservation District.

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) notified the district by letter of two petitions for inquiry submitted on November 20, 2025 requesting an review of the Corpus Christi Aquifer Storage and Recovery Conservation District (CCASRCD) submitted by filed by Kelly Lane Harlan, Scott Barraza, Westley Wright, and Tommie Sue Arnold. The letter, dated December 9, 2025, notifies the district of its opportunity to "file a response to the validity of the specific claims raised in the Petitions." Any response from an eligible district must be submitted by within 35 days, or December 25, 2025.

The petitioners claim that CCASRCD:

1. failed to adopt and implement adequate rules designed to protect groundwater quality, prevent waste, and achieve the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for the Gulf Coast Aquifer system, specifically the Evangeline Aquifer;
2. failed to to adopt and file a management plan as required by Texas Water Code § 36.1072 and 30TAC§ 356.5;
3. misapplied statutory authority and annexation beyond legislative purpose;
4. violated the independence required under Texas Constitution Art. XVI§ 59(b) and Texas Local Government Code§ 171.004;
5. arbitrarily expanded its map of district boundaries to annex non-contiguous City-owned tracts containing municipal wells;
6. failed to coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions and affected landowners regarding regional groundwater-management impacts; and
7. failed to provide public transparency as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act and Water Code§ 36.060.

The petitioners request that TCEQ:

1. accept the Petition for Inquiry under Texas Water Code§ 36.3011;
2. appoint a review panel to investigate the CCASRCD;
3. hold a public hearing in Nueces County;

4. require corrective actions to ensure lawful governance and groundwater protection consistent with Desired Future Conditions; and
5. investigate whether the CCASRCD's annexation of the Eastern and Western Well fields violates Tex. Spec. Dist Local Laws Code § 8811.002 and exceeds the statutory authority granted to the district.

While the alleged failings claimed by the petitioners may be of high public importance and have serious impacts on groundwater resources in areas without a groundwater conservation district (i.e., Nueces County) and nearby areas within the jurisdiction of groundwater conservation districts (e.g., San Patricio GCD), management has not identified any direct impact the alleged failings, if true, would have on the groundwater resources within Refugio County.

However, management is concerned that if the alleged failings are true and left uncorrected, a more general negative impact on groundwater conservation could develop and undermine the District's ability to protect the groundwater resources within Refugio County.

Board Action: Mr. Borden moved to instruct management and legal counsel to monitor the proceedings associated with the petitions and report to the Board as appropriate. Mr. Biery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 8 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater policy including the Management Plan of the District and the Rules of the District.

Item 9 - Consideration of and possible action on matters related to administration and management including the minutes of previous meetings, amendments to 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 explained for the past couple of weeks, staff have been addressing a significant issue regarding the records and work management system, Evernote Teams, used by RGCD and the other cooperating districts.

Evernote has changed its subscription offering which resulted in the Evernote Teams subscription for CCGCD to be discontinued. Evernote offered a new subscription option called Evernote Enterprise as an alternative at a substantial price increase from approximately \$200 per month to approximately \$1,000 per month. Management anticipates the subscription to Evernote Teams used by RGCD, TGCD, and VCGCD will be discontinued soon. Based on the pricing model of Evernote Enterprise, management

estimates the collective cost for the cooperating district will likely exceed \$50,000 annually if no action is taken.

In response, staff have undertaken a significant project to limit the exposure of the cooperating districts to the anticipated price increases that involves transitioning its retained records archives from Evernote Teams to Joplin Cloud and consolidating work management processes under a single account of Evernote Teams. Management anticipates a collective cost of approximately \$12,000 per year under the new system configuration.

As of December 15, 2025, the retained records archives of RGCD and CCGCD have been migrated to Joplin Cloud and the workflow processes of all the cooperating district have been consolidated under VCGCD's Evernote Teams account. Management anticipates the archives of VCGCD and TGCD will be fully migrated to Joplin Cloud by January 2026.

Regarding Public Notice and Meeting Coordination for FY2025.

The next meeting of the Board are scheduled for January 20, 2026, 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.

Topic 9.2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Andruss explained the minutes for the previous meeting were sent to the board members prior to the meeting.

Board Action: Mr. Borden moved to accept and approve the meeting minutes for Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 9.3 - Financial Transaction Report

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Since November 1, 2025, as of December 16, 2025, there have been 13 accounts payable transactions and 4 accounts receivable transactions recorded.

Topic 9.5 - 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.

Board Action: Mr. Borden moved to authorize the general manager to pay the following items:

1. ACCTP-20251216-01 - \$250.00 - C. Borden - Dec. Board Meeting
2. ACCTP-20251216-02 - \$250.00 - C. Rose - Dec. Board Meeting
3. ACCTP-20251216-03 - \$250.00 - F. Biery - Dec. Board Meeting
4. ACCTP-20251216-04 - \$250.00 - J. Snyder - Dec. Board Meeting
5. ACCTP-20251216-05 - \$250.00 - C. Borden - CoCC Evangeline Meeting - 20251124

Mrs. Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Item 11.0 - Adjourn

Board Action: Mr. Borden moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:51 p.m., after concluding all business of the District. Mrs. Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 20 DAY OF JANUARY A.D. 2026



Groundwater Conservation District

Director of the Refugio

ATTEST:



Groundwater Conservation District

Director of the Refugio