
**Refugio Groundwater Conservation District
Meeting Minutes for July 29, 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 July 29, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

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

Mr. Borden called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and called 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 Comments.

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 July 21, 2025, staff had received 9 well registration applications (ARWs) since October 1, 2024.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had received 43 Notices of Intent to Drill a Well (NIDWs) since October 1, 2024.

Regarding Production Permit Renewal Processing for FY2025.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had received 3 production permit renewal requests (ARPs) since October 1, 2024.

Regarding Permit Processing for FY2025.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had initiated 3 permitting request case (PRCs) since October 1, 2024.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had 0 permitting request cases pending.

As of July 21, 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 1,814.76 acre-feet.

Regarding Groundwater Production Report Processing for CY2024.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had processed 39 groundwater production reports for the preceding calendar year since October 1, 2024.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had recorded groundwater production reports for 39 water wells reporting 954.1 acre-feet of groundwater production during CY2024. (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 July 21, 2025, staff had initiated 3 investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2024.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had 3 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
3. INV- 20250403-01 - Failure to Submit Notices of Intent to the District - Active

Regarding Manage Enforcement Cases related to Permitting Violations for FY2025.

As of July 21, 2025, the Board had initiated 0 enforcement case violations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2024.

As of July 21, 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 July 21, 2025, staff had recorded 9 well inspection forms (WIFs) since October 1, 2024.

Regarding Manage Investigations related to Groundwater Protection for FY2025.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had initiated 0 investigations related to Groundwater Protection since October 1, 2024.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had 1 active investigation related to Groundwater Protection:

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

Regarding Manage Enforcement Cases related to Groundwater Protection for FY2025.

As of July 21, 2025, the Board had initiated 0 enforcement case violations related to Groundwater Protection since October 1, 2024.

As of July 21, 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 July 21, 2025, the U.S. Drought Monitor (<https://www.drought.gov/states/texas/county/refugio>) indicates that 0% of Refugio County was experiencing drought conditions.

As of July 21, 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 42.12% of Refugio County are experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Regarding Synoptic Aquifer Monitoring for FY2025.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had collected 6 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 July 21, 2025, staff had collected 0 water quality field measurements since October 1, 2024.

As of July 21, 2025, staff had collected 2 water quality samples since October 1, 2024.

As of July 21, 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.

Topic 6.1 - Report

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Promote Conservation for FY2025.

Regarding Conservation Education and Teacher Professional Development for FY2025.

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 and held public hearing on the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) during May 2025. During the meeting, the planning group continued its efforts to develop the 2026 regional water plan for the region. 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 July 10, 2025, at the consolidated offices of Victoria County, Calhoun County, Refugio, and Texana GCD in Victoria, Texas. Mr. Andruss attended the meeting to participate in 4th Cycle of the Joint Planning as required under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. The next meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2025, in Victoria, Texas. See: <https://www.vcgcd.org/groundwater-management-area-15>.

Topic 7.2 - Joint Planning and Desired Future Conditions

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

As reported to the Board at the May 9, 2025 meeting, the District submitted two preliminary DFC statements for evaluation by the technical consultant for GMA 15, Intera:

- Scenario 1 - Desired Future Condition for Victoria County expressed as a condition to not exceed an average drawdown of 5 feet in the Gulf Coast Aquifer, +/-3 feet, at the end of year 2080 with the previous pumping distribution used to develop the DFC for Refugio County.
- Scenario 2 - Desired Future Condition for Refugio County expressed as a condition to not exceed an average drawdown of 5 feet in the Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers, combined, +/- 3 feet, at the end of year 2080 with the previous pumping distribution used to develop the DFC for Refugio County unchanged and as a condition to not exceed an average drawdown of 20 feet in the Burkeville and Jasper Aquifers, combined at the end of year 2080 with the previous pumping distribution used to develop the DFC for Refugio County increased to 40,000 acre-feet per year in the southern portion of Refugio County.

During the GMA 15 meeting on July 10, 2025, Intera reported that Scenario 2 (intended to investigate the predicted impacts of significant development (40,000 acre-feet per year) of deep brackish groundwater within Refugio County. Steve Young of Intera informed the representatives, that the request to simulate significant production using the CGC-GAM was not advisable and would yield unrealistic predictions due the limited structure and spatial extent of the deep formations within the model. Intera was instructed to suspend all efforts to simulate deep brackish groundwater production.

A special meeting of GMA 15 has been posted for July 24, 2025. During the meeting, representatives will receive a report from Intera on their effort to assess the utility of the new groundwater availability model (GAM) for joint planning purposes and consider related action, if any, by the representatives including a request for TWDB to use the CGC-GAM for developing Modeled Available Groundwater (MAGs).

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.

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.

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.

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 meeting of the Board is scheduled for August 26, 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.

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 explained that the minutes from the previous meetings were sent to the board members prior to the meeting.

Board Action: Mr. Borden moved to accept and approve the meeting minutes for June 23, 2025, and July 8, 2025, as drafted. Mr. Biery seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 9.3 - Investments of the District

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

The investment reports for May 2025 (corrected) and June 2025 have been sent to the board prior to the meeting. The balance of all the funds of the district, as of June 30, 2025, is \$1,496,413.49

Board Action: Mr. Biery moved to accept the investment reports for May 2025 (corrected) and June 2025. Mrs. Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 9.4 - Financial Transaction Report

Mr. Andruss explained that since June 1, 2025, as of July 29, 2025, there have been 7 accounts payable transactions and 3 accounts receivable transactions recorded.

Topic 9.5 - Financial Reports of the District

Mr. Andruss explained provided the following information:

The internal financial reports of the District for May 2025 have been compiled by the District's administrative coordinator and sent to the directors prior to the meeting.

Board Action: Mr. Biery moved to accept and approve the financial reports for May 2025. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 9.6 - Unpaid Invoices and Bills

Mr. Andruss explained to the District the 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-20250626-01 - \$9,000.00-Invoice 54257 - Goldman, Hunt and Notz, LLP - 20240930 Audit
2. ACCTP-20250721-01 - \$250.00 - Carroll Borden - July 8 - Refugio County Commissioners' Court Meeting
3. ACCTP-20250721-02 - \$250.00 - Fredric Biery - July 8 - Refugio County Commissioners' Court Meeting
4. ACCTP-20250721-03 - \$250.00 - John Snyder - July 8 - Refugio County Commissioners' Court Meeting
5. ACCTP-20250729-01 - \$250.00 - Carroll Borden - July 2025 Meeting
6. ACCTP-20250729-02 - \$250.00 - Fredric Biery - July 2025 Meeting
7. ACCTP-20250729-03 - \$250.00 - Cynthia Rose - July 2025 Meeting
8. ACCTP-20250729-04 - \$250.00 - John Snyder - July 2025 Meeting
9. ACCTP-20250721-04 - \$522.54 - VCGCD - ILA-202507-02-R - Office Supplies and Mileage - April and May 2025

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

Topic 9.7 - Request for Qualifications for Auditing Services

Mr. Andruss explained provided the following information:

The District has obtained excellent financial auditing services from Donald Goldman of Goldman, Hunt, and Notz for over 10 years. Investigating all options for obtaining financial auditing services occasionally is considered appropriate to management. Staff have developed a Request For Qualifications for Auditing Services to solicit statements of accounting firms interested in providing auditing service to the District.

If approved by the board, respondents would be required to deliver statements responsive to staff no later than 4:00 p.m., September 1, 2025.

Board Action: Mr. Biery moved to authorize the General Manager to publish the RFQ for Auditing Services and a recommendation regarding qualified respondents to the Board of Directors at the regularly scheduled meeting for October 20, 2025. Mr. Borden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Topic 9.8 - Proposed Tax Rate for Public Notice Purposes Mr. Andruss explained provided the following information:

Previously, the Board instructed staff to develop the budget recommendation for FY2026 based on a tax rate equal to the Voter-Approval Tax Rate (VATR). The VATR generates approximately 3.5% additional tax revenue as compared to the previously adopted tax rate. Given the increasingly restrictive timeline and procedure for adopting a tax rate for the District, management encourages the Board to provided guidance regarding the proposed

tax rate to be published on the associated public notices for tax year 2025.

Board Action: Mr. Snyder moved to authorize the general manager to produce a notice for the proposed tax rate of 3.5% for the Voter-Approval Tax Rate (VATR) as calculated by the Tax Assessor-Collector for Tax Year 2025. Mr. Borden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 10.0 - 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 6:54 p.m. after concluding all business of the District. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 22nd DAY OF September A.D. 2025

Caneel E. Borden Director of the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District

ATTEST:

Frederic Bury Director of the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District