

Refugio Groundwater Conservation District Meeting Notice and Agenda

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code and Section 36.064 of the Texas Water Code that the Refugio Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors will hold a meeting on March 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM at First Baptist Church of Woodsboro Fellowship Hall, 309 Johnson Street, Woodsboro, Texas 78393.

AGENDA

1. Call the meeting to order and welcome guests.
2. Receive public comments.
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.
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.
5. Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater monitoring.
6. Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater conservation.
7. Consideration of and possible action on matters related to groundwater resource planning including Groundwater Management Area 15 Joint Planning and regional water planning.
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.
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.
10. Consideration of and possible action on matters related to legal counsel report.
11. Adjourn.

The Refugio Groundwater Conservation District may close the meeting, if necessary, to conduct private consultation with legal counsel regarding matters protected by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to Section 551.071 of the Government Code or to discuss matters regarding personnel pursuant to Section 551.074 of the Government Code. The Refugio Groundwater Conservation District will return to open meeting, if necessary, to take any action deemed necessary based on discussion in closed meeting pursuant to Section 551.102 of the Government Code.

In Accordance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we invite all attendees to advise us of any special accommodations due to disability. Please submit your request as far as possible in advance of event you wish to attend.

RGCD - Meeting Packet - 20250324

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Item 1 - Convene Meeting

Management Discussion:

Staff completed the necessary public notification requirements for the meeting.

See: [Public Notice 20250324 Board Meeting](#).

RGCD - Meeting Notice - 20250324 - Final.pdf

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Management Recommendation:

Call the meeting to order and call the roll of representatives:

Precinct 1: Mr. John Snyder, Treasurer: _____ .

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

Precinct 3: Ms. Cynthia Rose: _____ .

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

At Large: Vacant: _____ .

General Manager: Mr. Tim Andruss: _____ .

General Counsel: Mr. James Allison: _____ .

Item 2 - Receive Public Comment

Item 3 - Groundwater Management (Permitting)

Topic 3.1 - Report

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.

1. [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 - Groundwater Protection

Topic 4.1 - Report

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:

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 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 - Groundwater Monitoring

Topic 5.1 - Report

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 - Groundwater Conservation

Topic 6.1 - Report

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
Grand Total	\$60,912

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
Grand Total	\$179,200

VCGCD - FY2025 Agricultural Water Conservation Grants Application and Attachments.pdf

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Regarding Conservation Education and Teacher Professional Development for FY2025.

Item 7 - Groundwater Resource Planning

Topic 7.1 - Report

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 - Groundwater Policy

Topic 8.1 - Report

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 substantial 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 - Administration and Management

Topic 9.1 - Report

Regarding Election Coordination for CY2025.

Regarding Financial Audit for FY2024.

On March 18, 2025, Mr. Cox of Goldman, Hunt, and Notz, LLP notified staff of his intent to present the financial audit for FY2024 on April 17, 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 March 24, 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 April 17, 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](#).

[ACCTR 20250228 04 \\$1,749.95 TEXPOOL 499/799820001 Interest TR 20250228 04 C \\$1,749.95 TEXPOOL 499/79982001](#)

Topic 9.2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

Previous Consideration by the Board:[RGCD Adm MM Meeting Packet 20250218](#).

Management Discussion:

The minutes for the previous meeting were sent the board members prior to the meeting.

See: [RGCD Adm MM Meeting Minutes 20250218 Board of Directors](#)

[RGCD - Meeting Minutes for 20250218 - FINAL.pdf](#)

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Management Recommendation:

Move to accept and approve the meeting minutes for February 18, 2025, as drafted.

Topic 9.3 - Investments of the District

Previous Consideration by the Board:[RGCD Adm MM Meeting Packet 20250218](#).

Management Discussion:

The investment report for [January 2025](#) has been sent to the board prior to the meeting.

See: [RGCD Adm FM Investment Report IR 20250131 01 FY2025M04](#)

[RGCD - Investment Report - IR-20250131-01 - FY25M04 - January 2025.pdf](#)

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The balance of all the funds of the district, as of [January 31, 2025](#), is [\\$1,550,559.58](#).

Management Recommendation:

Move to accept the investment reports for [January 2025](#).

Topic 9.4 - Financial Transaction Report

Previous Consideration by the Board:[RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Packet - 20250218](#).

Management Discussion:

The list below identifies each accounts payable transaction that was recorded since [January 1, 2025](#), as of [March 17, 2025](#):

1. ACCTP 20250121 01 \$30,561.80 VCGCD Interlocal Agreement TR 20250121-01-D - \$30,561.80
2. ACCTP-20250121-02 - \$120.00 - USPS - Box Rental - TR-20250121-02-D - \$120.00
3. ACCTP 20250121 03 \$210.00 Allison, Bass & Magee TR 20250121 03 D \$210.00
4. ACCTP-20250121-04 - \$250.00 - Carroll Borden - January Meeting - TR-20250121 03 D \$250.00
5. ACCTP 20250121 05 \$250.00 John Snyder January Meeting TR 20250121-05-D - \$250.00
6. ACCTP-20250121-06 - \$250.00 - Fredric Biery - January Meeting - TR-20250121 06 D \$250.00
7. ACCTP 20250121 07 \$250.00 Cynthia Rose January Meeting TR 20250121-07-D - \$250.00
8. ACCTP-20250121-08 - \$515.32 - Card Service Center - TR-20250121-08-D - \$515.32
9. ACCTP 20250121 09 \$875.00 Higginbotham TR 20250121 09 D \$875.00
10. ACCTP-20250210-01 - \$15.30 - Vantage-11658 - Bank Analysis Fee - TR-20250228-01-D - \$15.30
11. ACCTP 20250213 01 \$4,500.00 ILA 20250129 02 R INTERA TR 20250213 01 D \$4,500.00
12. ACCTP-20250214-01 - \$336.69 - CARD SERVICES CENTER-0416 - TR-20250218-05-D - \$336.69
13. ACCTP 20250218 01 \$250.00 Carroll Borden February 2025 Meeting TR 20250218 01 D \$250.00
14. ACCTP-20250218-02 - \$250.00 - John Snyder - February 2025 Meeting - TR-20250218-02-D - \$250.00
15. ACCTP 20250218 03 \$250.00 Fredric Biery February 2025 Meeting TR 20250218 03 D \$250.00
16. ACCTP-20250218-04 - \$250.00 - Cynthia Rose - February 2025 Meeting - TR-20250218-04-D - \$250.00
17. ACCTP 20250219 01 \$248.65 Victoria Advocate Public Notice TR 20250218 05 D \$248.65
18. ACCTP-20250227-01 - \$996.71 - #2356/RCAD-2025 2ND QTR - TR-20250305-01-D - \$996.71
19. ACCTP 20250228 01 \$500,000.00 Fund Transfer TR 20250228 01 D \$500,000.00

20. ACCTP 20250306 01 \$15.52 January 2025 Analysis Charge TR 20250110 01-D - \$15.52
21. ACCTP-20250313-01 - \$782.25 - Card Service Center-0416-CC - TR-20250317-01 D \$782.25

The list below identifies each accounts receivable transaction that was recorded since January 1, 2025, as of March 17, 2025:

1. ACCTR 20250106 01 \$5,563.10 Tax Collections TR 20250106 01 C \$5,563.10 Vantage Bank 11658
2. ACCTR-20250120-01 - \$1,466.47 - CD65382 - TR-20250120-01-C - \$1,466.67 - Vantage Bank CD 65382
3. ACCTR 20250123 01 \$4,331.42 Tax Collections TR 20250123 01 C \$4,331.42 Vantage Bank 11658
4. ACCTR-20250131-01 - \$66.28 - January 2025 Interest - TR-20250131-01-C - \$66.28- Vantage Bank 11658
5. ACCTR 20250131 01 \$1,879.93 TexPool/499 7998200001 TR 20250131 02 C \$1,879.93 TexPool 499/7998200001
6. ACCTR-20250206-01 - \$24,332.40 - Tax Collections - TR-20250206-01-C - \$24,332.40 - Vantage Bank 11658
7. ACCTR 20250228 01 \$500,000.00 Fund Transfer TR 20250228 03 C \$500,000.00 TexPool 499 7998200001
8. ACCTR-20250228-02 - \$1,749.95 - TEXPOOL-499/799820001-Interest - TR-20250228-04-C - \$1,749.95 - TexPool 499/79982001
9. ACCTR 20250228 03 \$13,842.84 RCTA Tax Collection TR 20250228 01 C \$13,842.84 Vantage Bank 11658
10. ACCTR-20250228-04 - \$59.88 - Vantage Bank Feb. Interest - TR-20250228-02-C - \$59.88 - Vantage Bank 11658
11. ACCTR 20250307 01 \$1,795.01 RCTAC Tax Collection 3.7.2025 TR 20250307 01 C \$1,795.01 Vantage Bank 11658

Topic 9.5 - Financial Reports of the District

Previous Consideration by the Board: RGCD Adm MM Meeting Packet 20250218.

Management Discussion:

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.

See: IFR-20250131-01 - FY2025-M04 - January 2025

RGCD - Internal Financial Report - January 2025.pdf

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See: RGCD - Adm - FM - Internal Control Review Report - ICRR-20250131-01 - January 2025

RGCD Adm FM Internal Control Review Report ICRR 20250131 01 January 2025.pdf

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Management Recommendation:

Move to accept and approve the financial reports for January 2025.

Topic 9.6 - Unpaid Invoices and Bills

Previous Consideration by the Board:RGCD - Adm - MM - Meeting Packet - 20250218.

Management Discussion:

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.

Management Recommendation:

Move to authorize the general manager to pay the following items:

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 - Legal Counsel Report

Item 11.0 - Adjourn Meeting