

**Gastonia-Scurry Special Utility District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes of September 19, 2023**

**Board of Directors Present:** Rick Burginger, Ernest Martzen, Joe Hatcher, Dr. Lisa Jones, Drew Sloan, Jeremy Rhoades

**Board of Directors Absent:** Joshua Latham

**Employees Attending:** Daniel Camehl, Brittny Bradshaw, Ginny Rivers

**Attorney Present:** None

**Visitors:** None

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Richard Burginger
- 2) Open Discussion - None
- 3) Approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023, meeting.

~~Motion to accept September 19, 2023 minutes as written~~

**BY:** Ernie

**SECOND:** Joe

**VOTE:** Una

4) Reports

a) General Manager's Report

At the NTMWD partner meeting, plans for 2024 conservation measures were discussed. These plans involve mandatory lawn watering for two days a week from May 1 to October 31 and one day a week from November to April. The initiative is a collaboration between NTMWD, Dallas Water Utilities, Tarrant Regional Water District, and Upper Trinity Regional Water District to ensure consistent regional plans and messaging. The final plan is anticipated by February in preparation for the changes, and the Lavon reservoir is currently at 77% capacity.

In 2023, total water consumption reached 117.5 billion gallons, with some systems significantly surpassing their allocations, such as City of Princeton by 121%, Bear Creek by 123%, and Greater Texoma by 133%. To tackle this, new contracts are being designed with a "use it or lose it" approach to promote responsible water usage.

The 2023 water rate is now \$3.79 per 1,000 gallons, marking a 9% increase. Next month's agenda will address new customer rates. NT's CIP projects for 2023, totaling \$1.4 billion, have been postponed to 2024, leading to a delay in the South transmission project to 2025.

Rose Hills status is unchanged with delays in construction cost bids. The engineer is struggling to find subcontractors, and if challenges persist, referrals from developers will be explored.

The SETH program was presented and approved for implementation in Spring 2024 at the high school. This milestone establishes the utility as the first in East Texas to include the program in the local school curriculum.

At the TWRA meeting, several actions were taken. They scheduled a free energy-efficient and pump audit for all three sites in early October as part of their membership benefits. Additionally, they enrolled in an apprentice program to support employees in obtaining their C license in coordination with the SETH program. Currently, there are 3,576 connections, exceeding the allowable capacity by 109% based on the current TCEQ rate. They have initiated the ACR process with regional TCEQ assistance to prevent oversight.

The CIP is in progress, focusing on two projects: office and Highway 34 tower generator installations. Cost-effective solutions are in place to align with the budget, and both generators should be installed by October's end.

An ongoing collaboration with a new engineer for Smith Street project is in progress.

The CIP budget, initially set at \$200k since October, may require adjustment due to inflation.

Several team members, including Daniel, Ronnie, Mike, and Robert, recently marked work anniversaries. Moreover, I was requested as the speaker at NTWMD water symposium to address recruiting, company culture, and attracting the next generation of tradesmen.

**b) Field Report- Water loss Report for August 2023**

In August, water leaks were fewer, but September saw an increase in leaks, line locates, and new meter installations, averaging 5-6 meters monthly. A missing construction meter issue was resolved with a \$4,000 invoice, but meter readings decreased upon return. A construction contractor plans to install a gas line from Crandall to 175 for a new development. Water loss is low, and efforts are underway to improve it, although static data and meter readings alone haven't sufficed. Meter read variances decreased by eliminating two personnel, achieving 1-day readings.

Leaks: (1) 3/4<sup>th</sup> service leak - 14,400 water loss & (1) 8' main line leak - 28,800 water loss  
Flushing Auto Flushers- 198,000 Gallons / Deadends - 811,650 Gallons  
Water Quality- 175,000 Gallons / Trailer - 5,000 Gallons / Office Used 5,500 gallons  
Scurry FD 5,000 gallons / Crandall FD 5,000 gallons / Kaufman FD 5,000 gallons  
Total meter sets: 4 / Construction meters - 2, water used - (200)  
Total usage 32,255,000

**Total water loss Percentage .12%**

**c) Committee Report(s)**

**i) Election Committee Report:**

Rick to formally announce nobody ran against him, so he won. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, post certified & elected, sealed & signed in lobby and online.

ii) We have a 5-year plan with NTX and a 2-year plan with Rosehill for water, but we need a lot of water now. Ginny & Rick are going to Forney for possibilities.

**5) Unfinished Business**

a) The board formed a committee with volunteer members, Ernie and Joe, to create application questions and revise board member requirements. Bylaws will address conflicts of interest, require district residency, disqualify developers, and prevent recent losers from running. The committee will present its recommendations to the board next month.

b) Next month, the board will discuss the interview process for potential candidates.

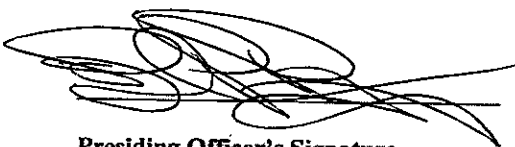
**Tabled for further discussion. No vote. No motion.**

**6) New Business**

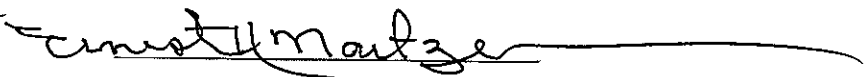
The board will post a GSSUD BOD application on the website and announce it publicly. Rick shared a sample application for the board to review. In January 2024, they will review applications and conduct interviews. The elected members should engage in the community and value clean water. Although diversity is encouraged, it cannot be enforced. Some board members had concerns about the application's technical question length, which led to the formation of a committee (section 5 under finished business).

**Tabled for further discussion. No vote. No motion.**

**7.) Meeting adjourned 6:45pm by Richard Burginger**



**Presiding Officer's Signature**



**Secretary/Treasurer Signature**