

Ash Creek Water Control District
Board of Directors
REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 7, 2024
7:00 A.M.

MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of minutes: February 1, 2024 – Regular Meeting
4. Audience Comments
5. Director Comments
6. Reports
 - A. Finance: Monthly Report
 - B. Phone
 - C. Nutria: Monthly Report
 - D. Engineer's Report
7. Unfinished Business
 - A. Discussion: Board Outreach, Continuance of Board
 - B.
8. New Business
 - A.
9. Miscellaneous Business/Information Items
 - A. Correspondence
 - B. Task Log
10. Adjourn

Notice of Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors of Ash Creek Water Control District will hold a Regular Meeting at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 7, 2024. The meeting will be conducted via video conference (see link below). To provide comments in advance, email the District Secretary at DistSec@ashcreekwcd.com, no later than 5:00 pm, March 6, 2024.

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82158510794?pwd=TVVFdmlCa1BUQVdWeUpmK01halErUT09>

**Ash Creek Water Control District
Board of Directors
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, February 1, 2024

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 am via Zoom by Mancil Russell.
2. Roll Call. Board Present: Mancil Russell, Madeline Hall, Tom Wilson, Andrea Melendy, Emmanuel Goicochea. Madeline had connectivity problems; she appeared via speakerphone.

Others Present: Karin Johnson, Clerk, Todd Whitaker, Engineer

3. Approval of minutes: January 4, 2024 – Regular Meeting. Tom moved to approve the minutes as submitted; Andrea seconded. Motion passed by all board members present.

4. Audience Comments. None.

5. Director Comments

- A. Andrea asked if all received Anne Scheck’s email from the website about the article in Trammart News regarding our nutria program.

- B. Mancil reported the buoy he found in the creek had a crab pot on the bottom of it.

- C. Tom reported he hasn’t heard back from LWC yet regarding the birdwalk. He was able to update the grant form for education grants; it was sent to the list of previous grantees. He has the interactive GIS map working on our website again.

- D. Madeline reported: January precipitation: 10.33”. 2021 – 9.42”; 2022-4.73”; 2023 5.25”
We had only one day without measurable precipitation. She also contacted Bryan Dutton; they didn’t get a grant, and are looking for other funding. She will keep in touch with him.

6. Reports

- A. Finance: Monthly Report. Andrea summarized the finance report (Att. #1):
Cash in Bank: LGIP: \$461,253.46; PTB: \$1,743.07. Tom is now registered in the portal, and transferred funds from LGIP to checking (\$5,000.00). We received bill today, from Ascension Accounting.

- Checks issued: #2298, \$75.66, OGEC; #2299, \$1,199.98, Tom Wilson (computers reimbursement); #2300, \$2,492.00, WHA (liability insurance).

- Andrea reported she will be gone in May, Tom will transition to the treasurer position. Need to seek out new board members, if they know of a person possibly interested.

- B. Phone. Tom - No messages.

- C. Nutria: Monthly Report. No report; Ed is out of town.

Madeline arr. via Zoom (7:26)

D. Engineer's Report. Todd reported:

The remodeling of the stream at 16th & Hoffman was summarized. Talked with Polk County planning; reinterpretation of existing law or new law, is that when flood plain changes/gets bigger, it constitutes taking of property, requiring compensation. Based on preliminary work, what exists is better than 95% accurate, and he doesn't see a value in moving forward. Dallas is substantially different than what is shown. Do we want to pursue modeling between 16th & Hoffman, not good value of district. Dallas is different substantially; behooves us to show where flood plain actually is. Discussion followed.

Madeline asked if 16th/Hoffman would have more development w/impervious surfaces. Todd – impervious surfaces are mitigated by city requirements. More concern is if it is in the flood plain, can be developed if not modeled correctly, then if houses get flooded...

Tom asked for explanation of taking of property with flood plain change, which Todd explained. Lost use, not taking by eminent domain. Further explained development in flood plain. Todd pulled up map to help illustrate. Tom suggested doing a model without the local sign off, so that we have the data. Discussion. Todd noted that federal rules requires that communities must adopt model rules. Ash Creek did a LOMR in 2011 or 2012 in the city of Independence; it is a time consuming process. Relatively easy in approval process; if we did it today, we would find it much more difficult.

(Todd excused at 7:45am)

(Madeline offline at 7:45 am)

7. Unfinished Business

A. District Laptop. Tom reported 2 laptops purchased. One came with MS Office package installed; the other didn't. It will be installed at a discounted rate (\$150.00). Have both loaded with information from Karin, and one will be as a backup). \$150.00 cost or \$80.00 subscription which would include regular updates.

1. Equipment Policy. No current policy; we only own 2 pieces of equipment – the phone and the laptop.

2. Inventory Sheet. Tom will track.

3. Cloud Backup. Cloud storage is available with emails. He has information on laptops backed up to cloud. Available for anyone to view; under 'admin' email. He looked through the planning documents, the 10-year plan will be up in 2026. He will send info/share links.

Regarding one time cost v. subscription, Karin recommends subscription – software would get regular updates.

Madeline reappeared via phone.

8. New Business

A. 2024-26 Budget. Karin reported a new budget for the 2024-26 budget year must be adopted. First steps are to appoint a budget officer and adopt a budget calendar.

1. Appoint budget officer. Tom moved/Andrea seconded to appoint Karin Johnson as the budget officer. Passed by all present.

2. Adopt budget calendar. Tom moved to adopt the budget calendar as submitted; Andrea seconded. Passed by all present.

Karin noted she would like to retire soon; the district will need to find a replacement. She will make sure the district gets through the budgeting process, if need be.

Mancil noted he and Andrea will serve the rest of their term, but will not run again. We need to get many new members, or reduce the number of the board. Or, has the board run its course – should we look at folding the doors? He would like the board to think about that, discuss at next meeting.

Madeline excused.

B. SDAO Board Practices Assessment. Tom – offered to come to speak to board. Help us increase membership or reduce # of board members. Discussion. No deliberation toward decision. Board was asked to think about choices and bring back to future meeting. Tom will contact SDAO to see if they can assist.

9. Miscellaneous Business/Information Items

A. Correspondence. No action required.

B. Task Log

10. Adjourn. Mancil declared the meeting adjourned at 8:06 am.