

**Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District  
Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2026**

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
VICTORIA COUNTY

**Item 1 - Convene Meeting**

Mr. Andruss explained that staff completed the necessary public notification requirements for the meeting.

**Board Action:** Mr. Meek called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM and call the roll of representatives:

Precinct 1: Mr. Jerry Hroch, Vice President: Present.

Precinct 2: Mr. Thurman Clements, Jr., Director: Present.

Precinct 3: Mrs. Barbara Dietzel, Secretary: Absent.

Precinct 4: Mr. Mark Meek, President: Present.

At Large: Mr. Kenneth Eller, Director: Present.

General Manager: Tim Andruss: Present.

General Counsel: Jim Allison: Present.

**Item 2 - Receive Public Comment**

No public comment was given at this time.

**Item 3 - Groundwater Management (Permitting)**

**Topic 3.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Well Registration Processing

As of January 12, 2026, staff had received 11 well registration applications (ARWs) since October 1, 2025.

As of January 12, 2026, staff had received 29 Notices of Intent to Drill a Well (NIDWs) since October 1, 2025.

Regarding Production Permit Renewal Processing

As of January 12, 2026, staff had received 0 production permit renewal requests (ARPs) since October 1, 2025.

Regarding Permit Processing

As of January 12, 2026, staff had initiated 4 permitting request case (PRCs) since October 1, 2025.

As of January 12, 2026, staff had 4 permitting request cases pending.

1. Permitting Request Case - PRC-20231003-02 - ANHUPPW-20230926-01 - Kevin Broll - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. Kevin Broll seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20231003-02, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for commercial uses at rates not to exceed 10 gallons per minute or 1.30 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 2.76-acre tract of land near the intersection of U.S. Hwy 87 and Villafranca Road in Victoria County, Texas.
2. Permitting Request Case - PRC-20251118-01 - ANHUPPW-20251118-01 - LTJ Investments LLC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. James Zafereo for LTJ Investments LLC seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20251118-01, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Poultry Farm and Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 25 gallons per minute or 5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 285.85-acre tract of land near the intersection of Levi Sloan Road and Dixie Lane in Victoria County, Texas.
3. Permitting Request Case - PRC-20251118-02 - ANHUPPW-20251118-02 - LTJ Investments LLC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. James Zafereo for LTJ Investments LLC seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20251118-02, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Poultry Farm and Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 25 gallons per minute or 5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 285.85-acre tract of land near the intersection of Levi Sloan Road and Dixie Lane in Victoria County, Texas.
4. Permitting Request Case - PRC-20251118-03 - ANHUPPW-20251118-03 - LTJ Investments LLC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. James Zafereo for LTJ Investments LLC seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20251118-03, a standard-capacity non-historic-use production permit authorizing the production of groundwater from a non-grandfathered well for Poultry Farm and Commercial uses at rates not to exceed 25 gallons per minute or 5 acre-feet per year. The subject well is located on a 285.85-acre tract of land near the intersection of Levi Sloan Road and Dixie Lane in Victoria County, Texas.

5. Permitting Request Case - PRC-20260113-02 - ADSPP-20251218-01 - VCPFC - Pending/Uncontested - Mr. Sean Stibich for Port of Victoria, Victoria County Port Facilities Corporation, and Victoria County Navigation District seeks, under permitting request case PRC-20260113-02, a permit authorizing the production of slightly saline groundwater for industrial uses at rates not to exceed 1,240 gallons per minute or 2,000 acre-feet per year from a deep saline well screened in the Goliad Saline Groundwater Zone at depths exceeding 1,300 feet below the surface. The proposed well will be located on a 2,723.06-acre tract of land near the intersection of State Highway 185 and McCoy Road in Victoria County, Texas.

As of January 12, 2026, staff had 248 active or approved production permits recorded in the permitting database with a combined amount of authorized groundwater production per year of 115,273 acre-feet.

Regarding Groundwater Production Report Processing

As of January 12, 2026, staff had processed 9 groundwater production reports for the preceding calendar year since October 1, 2025.

As of January 12, 2026, staff had recorded groundwater production reports for 9 water wells reporting 3,066 acre-feet of groundwater production during CY2025. (TWDB estimated the volume of groundwater produced for rural domestic, livestock, mining, and rig supply exempt uses in Victoria County in Year 2020 was 1,920 acre-feet. See: TWDB - Projected Exempt Groundwater Use Estimates ).

Regarding Manage Investigations related to Permitting Violations

As of January 12, 2026, staff had initiated 1 investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2025.

As of January 12, 2026, staff had 1 active investigations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting).

1. Investigation - INV- 20251006-01 - Unpermitted Non-Exempt-Use - Active

Regarding Manage Enforcement Cases related to Permitting Violations

As of January 12, 2026, the Board had initiated 0 enforcement case violations related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting) since October 1, 2025.

As of January 12, 2026, staff had 2 unresolved enforcement cases related to groundwater management (i.e., permitting).

1. Enforcement Case Violation - ECV-20250425-06 - KAM Enterprises LTD. - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2024 For Well(s) - Active
2. Enforcement Case Violation - ECV-20250425-10 - Blake Truax and Merri Truax - Failure to Report Groundwater Production CY2024 For Well(s) - Active

Regarding Permit Report Processing

As of January 14, 2026, staff had processed 0 permit reports to permittees since October 1, 2025.

As of January 13, 2026, staff had 0 permit report outstanding.

**Topic 3.2 - Failures to Report Groundwater Production for CY2024 - ECV-20250425-06 - KAM Enterprises LTD.**

Mr. Andruss explained on October 10, 2025, the Board of Directors took the following actions related to the violation. passed a motion to open and record the enforcement hearing; received testimony from Mr. Andruss regarding the alleged violation; passed a motion to cease the recording of the enforcement hearing after accepting public comments; and passed a motion to adopt Enforcement Order EO-20250425-06.

As of January 12, 2025, the district has not received a response regarding Enforcement Order EO-20250425-06 from KAM Enterprises LTD.

**Board Action:** Mr. Clements moved to instruct and authorize legal counsel to file a civil suit in connection with Enforcement Order EO-20250425-06. Mr. Hroch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic 3.3 - Failures to Report Groundwater Production for CY2024 - ECV-20250425-10 - Blake Truax and Merri Truax**

Mr. Andruss explained on October 10, 2025, the Board of Directors took the following actions related to the violation. passed a motion to open and record the enforcement hearing; received testimony from Mr. Andruss regarding the alleged violation; passed a motion to cease the recording of the enforcement hearing after accepting public comments; and passed a motion to adopt Enforcement Order EO-20250425-10.

As of January 12, 2025, the district has not received a response regarding Enforcement Order EO-20250425-10 from Blake Truax and Merri Truax.

**Board Action:** Mr. Clements moved to instruct and authorize legal counsel to file a civil suit in connection with Enforcement Order EO-20250425-10. Mr. Hroch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic 3.4 - Investigation INV-20251006-01 re Unpermitted Non-Exempt-Use**

Mr. Andruss explained on October 31, 2025, that staff identified 33 locations within Victoria County without any previously issued production permits that may rely on groundwater production to support non-residential or non-agricultural activities at the site. A courtesy notice will be developed and sent to each property owner as recorded in the Victoria Central Appraisal District online records by April 1, 2026.

On January 14, 2026, management identified 65 locations within Victoria County associated with expired production permits for existing water wells and no overlapping active production permit to support the notification of landowner of the potential violation of the Rules of the District if groundwater production for non-exempt-use

purposes. A courtesy notice will be developed and sent to each property owner as recorded in the Victoria Central Appraisal District online records by April 1, 2026.

**Board Action:** None.

#### **Item 4 - Groundwater Protection**

##### **Topic 4.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Well Inspections

As of January 12, 2026, staff had recorded 0 well inspection forms (WIFs) since October 1, 2025.

Regarding Manage Investigations related to Groundwater Protection

As of January 12, 2026, staff had initiated 0 investigations related to Groundwater Protection since October 1, 2025.

As of January 12, 2026, staff had 1 active investigations related to Groundwater Protection.

1. Investigation - INV-20250507.1331 - Potential Contamination of Groundwater Near Serene Drive - Active

Regarding Manage Enforcement Cases related to Groundwater Protection

As of January 12, 2026, the Board had initiated 0 enforcement case violations related to Groundwater Protection since October 1, 2025.

As of January 12, 2026, staff had 0 unresolved enforcement case violations related to Groundwater Protection.

Regarding Well Plugging Sponsorship

As of January 14, 2026, staff had not received any requests for assistance with well plugging since October 1, 2025.

Regarding Serene Drive Water Quality Investigation

As of January 14, 2026, staff has provided all relevant information possessed by the District to WSP for review and processing.

#### **Item 5 - Groundwater Monitoring**

##### **Topic 5.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Drought Condition Monitoring

As of January 14, 2026, the U.S. Drought Monitor (<https://www.drought.gov/states/texas/county/victoria>) indicates that 100% of Victoria County was experiencing drought conditions.

As of January 14, 2026, 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 0.55% of Victoria County

was experiencing moderate drought conditions and 58.55% of Victoria County are experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Regarding Water Level Monitoring

As of January 14, 2026, staff had collected 3 water level measurements since October 1, 2025.

Regarding Water Quality Aquifer Monitoring

On December 6, 2025, Neil Blandford of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates (DBSA) submitted a draft report regarding the general groundwater quality within Victoria, Jackson, Calhoun, and Refugio Counties. Suggested revisions and requests were submitted to DBSA.

Regarding Advanced Aquifer Monitoring

Regarding Water Level Assessment

On January 13, 2026, Dr. Young of Intera submitted a proposal the TGCD, VCGCD, CCGCD, and RGCD for the assessment of calendar year 2024 water levels using geostatistical techniques with a fixed cost of \$19,000, or \$4,750 per district.

On January 14, 2026, Dr. Young of Intera submitted, at managements request, proposal the TGCD, VCGCD, CCGCD, and RGCD for the assessment of calendar years 2024 and 2025 water levels using geostatistical techniques with a fixed cost of \$24,000, or \$6,000 per district.

Regarding Subsidence Assessment

Regarding Monitoring Effort Assessment and Improvement

**Topic 5.2 - Monitoring Instruments**

Mr. Andruss explained that the District had previously deployed continuous aquifer monitoring instruments as three site within Victoria County. Of those sites, two are participating in the WellIntel Pilot Project and have WellIntel continuous aquifer monitoring and telemetry units installed. The remaining site located in southern Victoria County is no longer monitored to the failure of the monitoring instruments. Each continuous aquifer monitoring site requires the deployment of a barometric pressure logger and a water level and conductivity logger. Staff estimates that each barometric pressure logger replaced will cost \$400.00, and each water level and conductivity logger will cost \$2,000.00.

Staff rely use a field data collection instrument, commonly referred to as the multimeter, to measure water quality conditions a well sites. The current multimeter was purchased in 2016 at a cost of \$6,410.00 and is no longer in warranty. The replacement unit will cost \$10,700.00.

**Board Action:** Mr. Clements moved to 1) authorize the General Manager to purchase 2 barometric pressure loggers and 2 water level and conductivity loggers at a cost not to exceed \$4,500.00, and 2) authorize the General Manager to purchase a replacement

multimeter at a cost not to exceed \$10,700.00. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Topic 5.3 - Water Level Assessment**

Mr. Andruss explained on January 14, 2026, Dr. Young of Intera submitted, at managements request, proposal the TGCD, VCGCD, CCGCD, and RGCD for the assessment of calendar years 2024 and 2025 water levels using geostatistical techniques with a fixed cost of \$24,000, or \$6,000 per district.

**Board Action:** Mr. Clements moved to approve the proposal and share the cost of the project with TGCD, CCGCD, and RGCD in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.00. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 6 - Groundwater Conservation**

#### **Topic 6.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Promote Conservation

### **Item 7 - Groundwater Resource Planning**

#### **Topic 7.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Regional Water Planning Participation

The South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region L) will meet on February 5, 2026 at 9:30 AM. See: <https://www.regionltexas.org/>.

Regarding GMA 15 Joint Planning for 4th Planning Cycle

The representatives of Groundwater Management Area 15 met on January 8, 2026, 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. See: <https://www.vcgcd.org/groundwater-management-area-15>.

The representatives have completed most of the tasks and activities to complete the process of proposing a desired future condition for Groundwater Management Area 15. The representatives approved numerous proposals to amend the adopted desired future condition for Groundwater Management Area 15. Those proposals included eliminating the GMA-Wide DFC and changes to the County-Specific DFCs for Goliad and Matagorda Counties.

The next meeting of GMA 15 is scheduled for April 9, 2026. A special meeting is anticipated for March 12, 2026.

On December 9, 2025, the District was notified of petitions of inquiry filed with TCEQ seeking an a review of the activities of Corpus Christi Aquifer Storage and Recovery Conservation District (CCASRCD). CCASRCD is a member district of Groundwater

Management Area 15. Staff and legal counsel are monitoring the developments in the case.

## **Item 8 - Groundwater Policy**

### **Topic 8.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding Management Plan Revisions

Regarding Rule Amendments

Regarding Legislative Support and Lobbying

### **Topic 8.2 - Management Recommended Rule Revisions**

Mr. Andruss explained that previously, the Board authorized the drafting of proposed rule changes and publication of rulemaking notices for this meeting. Management had anticipated the completion of the brackish groundwater characterization project to support the proposal of designated deep saline production zones for the cooperating districts. The project is not complete which has contributed to the postponement of drafting proposed rule revisions. Staff anticipates the completion of the project in February 2026.

**Board Action:** Mr. Clements moved to authorize the general manager and legal counsel to a draft set of proposed rules as well as publish and post all required notices to conduct a rulemaking hearing during the meeting scheduled on April 10, 2026. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Item 9 - Administration and Management**

### **Topic 9.1 - Report**

Mr. Andruss provided the following information:

Regarding General Administration

For the past couple of weeks, staff have been addressing a significant issue regarding the records and work management system, Evernote Teams, used by VCGCD and the other cooperating districts. Evernote provided CCGCD one billing cycle to either convert its Evernote Teams account to a new software tier referred to Evernote Enterprise or discontinue its use of the system. The price structure of Evernote Enterprise is not based on the number users as is Evernote Teams. Rather, Evernote Enterprise pricing is based on usage. Given CCGCD's long and extensive use of Evernote to manage workflows and the resulting records of the district, the annualized costs for CCGCD's subscription to Evernote would have jumped from \$2,500 to \$9,600.

Presently, the District pays a \$2,400 annual fee for its Evernote Teams (Evernote Advanced) subscription from January 2026 to January 2027. Evernote has not scheduled the District's Evernote subscription for conversion to Evernote Enterprise. Therefore, a precise cost associated with the future conversion is unknown.

Based on CCGCD's Evernote usage as compared to the Evernote usage of VGCD, RGCD, and TGCD, management anticipated the combined cost of multiple subscriptions would approach \$48,000 for CY2026. In response to the deadline to take action regarding CCGCD's Evernote subscription and the substantial cost increases anticipated for the other cooperating district, management immediately investigated alternatives.

Only two viable options were identified: 1) consolidation of all archive and work management content of the cooperating district into a single Evernote Enterprise subscription or 2) migration of archive content to the Joplin and Joplin Cloud system and the consolidation of all work management content within a single Evernote Enterprise solution.

Based on the outcomes of staff's efforts evaluate and implement the options, the only feasible option was to migration of archive content to the Joplin and Joplin Cloud system at €6.69/user/month (with 3 users, the cost currently converts to \$240.40 per year per district) and the consolidation of all work management content within a single Evernote Teams subscription.

Staff have completed the consolidation of work management tasks under VCGCD's Evernote Teams (Evernote Advanced) subscription and anticipate completing the archive migration process in January 2026.

Management anticipates the technology costs associated with work management and records management will be less than the costs anticipated prior to the change in Evernote's subscription costs.

#### Regarding Director Compensation Processing

As of January 13, 2026, staff have process 2 fees of office payments during FY2026:

1. ACCTP-20251010-15 - \$250.00 - Kenneth Eller - Director Fee
2. ACCTP-20251010-16 - \$250.00 - Jerry Hroch - Director Fee

#### Regarding Financial Audit

Staffs efforts to address the Evernote System issues delayed the authorization for Goldman, Hunt, and Notz (GHN) to initiate the audit for FYE20250930. On January 12, 2026, management authorized GHN to proceed with the audit of the District.

#### Regarding Technology

In the near future, the District will be required to ensure all content on the website of the District is ADA-compliant. Given the number of records published to the website of the District and the effort and cost required to make and maintain ADA-compliant files on the website, staff will immediately undertake a project unpublish and remove all records from the website whose publication is not required. Presently, the District has 383 files that are considered "Not Accessible" as an ADA-compliant record on the website of the district.

In November 2025, management received an special discount offer from Justin Erickson, Special District Manager for Streamline (website hosting service for the District), offering a subscription service to automate the process of providing ADA-compliant records to users of the websites of the District, VCGCD, CCGCD, and RGCD at a monthly cost of \$200 per district. Costs associated with a one-time revision of files is offered as a per page services estimated at a cost of \$7 per page.

Regarding Public Notice and Meeting Coordination

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for April 10, 2026 to convene at 9:00 AM. Special meeting may be scheduled to address unforeseen issues.

**Board Action:** Mr. Clements moved to authorize the General Manager to take the necessary actions to ensure the website of the District is ADA compliant, including subscribing to a cost-effective service address compliance of online content. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**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. Clements moved to accept and approve the meeting minutes for October 10, 2025. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic 9.3 - Investments of the District**

Mr. Andruss explained as of November 30, 2025, the combined balance of all funds, on a cash-basis, totaled \$5,370,636.66.

**Board Action:** Mr. Clements moved to accept the investment reports for September, October and November 2025, Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic 9.4 - Financial Transaction Review**

Mr. Andruss explained as of January 14, 2026, since October 1, 2025, there have been 74 accounts payable transactions and 36 accounts receivable transactions recorded.

**Topic 9.5 - Financial Reports of the District**

Mr. Andruss explained that staff have revised the structure of the internal financial transaction tracking database to support the use of project and encumbrances for tracking transactions and budget performances.

The internal control review and internal financial reports for August, September, October and November 2025, have been compiled by Caitlynn Davenport, Administrative Coordinator, and forwarded to the directors prior to the meeting.

**Board Action:** Mr. Clements moved to accept and approve the internal control review reports and the Internal financial reports for August, September, October and November 2025. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Topic 9.6 - Unpaid Invoices and Bills**

Mr. Andruss explained 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. Clements moved to authorize the general manager to pay the following items:

1. ACCTP-20260116-01 - \$1,200.00 - WellIntel - Annual Service Fee
2. ACCTP-20260116-02 - \$250.00 - Kenneth Eller - January 2026 Meeting
3. ACCTP-20260116-03 - \$250.00 - Jerry Hroch - January 2026 Meeting
4. ACCTP-20260116-04 - \$11,303.90 - Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP
5. ACCTP-20260116-05 - \$90.00 - Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP
6. ACCTP-20260116-06 - \$5,272.92 - Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP
7. ACCTP-20260116-07 - \$5,585.50 - Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP

Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Topic 9.7 - Technical Consulting Service**

Mr. Andruss explained the District has received an unsolicited statement of interest and qualifications from Collier Consulting for consulting services to the District. Collier has provided groundwater modelling, DFC evaluations, brackish aquifer mapping, aquifer testing, and groundwater availability studies for an array of clients including water providers, petroleum companies, state agencies, and groundwater conservation districts. Collier's experience and offered services align with the sort of support the GCDs may require in the future in light of the increased interest in developing large-scale groundwater projects within the Gulf Coast Aquifer. Retaining several qualified hydrogeologic firms to assist the District and cooperating districts will improve the ability of the District to address groundwater development projects in the future.

**Board Action:** Mr. Clements moved to 1) authorize the general manager and legal counsel to negotiate a consulting agreement with Collier Consulting and 2) authorize the Board President to approve and execute a consulting services agreement with Collier Consulting. Mr. Eller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Topic 9.8 - TWDB Funding Opportunities**

Mr. Andruss explained on December 17, 2025, the District received notice of the following:

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is now accepting applications for Fiscal Year 2026 Agricultural Water Conservation Grants. Applications are due to the TWDB by Wednesday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m. CST.

Up to \$1,500,000 in grant funding is available to eligible political subdivisions and state agencies for agricultural water conservation projects that improve irrigation efficiency, enhance resilience to weather extremes and climate variability, and promote innovation in agriculture. Selected projects will further

water conservation in the state and serve the public interest by supporting the implementation of water conservation strategies identified in the state and regional water plans.

For more information, please view the full request for applications and application instructions on the TWDB's website.

The TWDB will host webinars on January 8, January 22, and February 4 that will provide additional information about the program and the application process. Please register in advance.

On January 8, 2026, Jean Perez of TWDB, notified the representatives of GMA 15 that the TWDB. Natalie Ballew of TWDB, notified groundwater conservation districts provided more information:

The TWDB plans to open the application period for Groundwater Science, Research, and Data Collection Grants next week. **The application period will be open Friday, January 16, 2026 through Friday, March 13, 2026, 2pm.**

Staff will develop one or more applications for funding related to 1) improving aquifer monitoring, or 2) improving modeling impacts of groundwater development projects in the central portions of the Gulf Coast Aquifer.


**Item 10 - Legal Counsel Report**

Mr. Allison was present and gave his report.

**Item 11.0 - Adjourn Meeting**

Mr. Eller moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:19 AM. Mr. Hroch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING MINUTES WERE READ AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 10  
DAY OF April A.D. 2026

 Director of the Victoria County  
Groundwater Conservation District

ATTEST:  Director of the Victoria  
Groundwater Conservation District