

Culberson County Groundwater Conservation District  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026- 2:00 PM CST  
1300 W. Broadway, Van Horn, Texas 79855

**HEARING ON PROPOSED RULE CHANGE**

1. District Presentation – called to start at 4:00 pm

The meeting began with the Board convening a public hearing on proposed rule amendments. The purpose of the hearing was to provide background on the proposed rule changes and allow the public an opportunity to comment. The District announced that notice of the hearing had been posted and copies of the proposed rules were made available to the public. Written comments on the proposed amendments were accepted through April 17, 2026, and no written comments were received.

- Steve Finch, Hydrogeologist for the District, made a presentation. Finch described proposed changes to the groundwater management area boundaries within the District. The changes would establish three management areas—Wild Horse Flat, Lobo Flat, and Michigan Flat—rather than the existing two areas. The proposed revisions are intended to better reflect the geological structure of the aquifers and allow the District to manage each basin more effectively. Finch presented maps illustrating the current boundaries and the proposed revisions, noting that the changes align the management areas with the natural groundwater basins.
- Deborah Trejo, Legal Counsel, made a presentation. Trejo reviewed the proposed rule amendments. She explained that the changes primarily:
  - Incorporate the Michigan Flat Aquifer as a separate management area within the rules.
  - Update rule language to maintain consistency and clarity across the District’s regulations.
  - Reflect recent legislative updates requiring the District to consider potential impacts on registered exempt wells when evaluating groundwater permit applications.
  - Clarify that historic use production permits are issued with a perpetual term.
  - Update tables in the rules to reflect three management areas while maintaining the same modeled available groundwater totals.She also noted a proposed administrative amendment to ensure that existing permits referencing previous management areas would automatically correspond to the updated management area designations.  
(Both presentations will be attached with the minutes.)

2. Public Comment - None

**REGULAR MEETING**

1. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 4:16 pm by Chairman Lane Brewster. This meeting was held in person and was also available through Zoom.

2. Determination of a Quorum – Members present were Chairman Lane Brewster, Vice Chairman George Strickhausen, Director Lacey Koehn, and Director Samantha Davis. Also, present General Manager Haley Davis. A quorum was determined. Members of the public and interested parties present are listed on the sign-in sheet attached.

3. Proof of Notice of Meeting – Proof of notice of the meeting was posted appropriately and timely.

4. Public Comment-

- **Yolanda Alvarado**, a rancher from Hudspeth and Presidio Counties, spoke regarding Item 9 and potential water use related to border wall construction. She expressed concern about the lack of a clear construction plan, the potential for large volumes of groundwater use based on prior border wall projects, and the possible establishment of a large temporary workforce camp in the area. She urged the Board to exercise caution and conduct due diligence before making rule changes that could facilitate such activities.
- **Pepe Guevara**, owner of Pecan Grove Farms, thanked the Board for its service and emphasized the importance of long-term groundwater conservation. He stated that agricultural producers depend on the aquifer for their livelihoods and indicated that the proposed water system associated with temporary housing for the project was intended to minimize long-term impacts to the aquifer.
- **Jennifer Simon**, expressed concern about potential environmental and regional impacts related to border wall construction and groundwater use, noting that decisions made locally could affect neighboring communities and referencing ongoing advocacy and legal efforts related to the project.
- **Jennifer Foreman**, a resident of Lobo, expressed concern regarding a proposed workforce camp that could house approximately 500 people near the community. He cited declining groundwater levels in the Lobo Flats aquifer and questioned whether additional water demand could place further strain on local resources and infrastructure.
- **Lynne Richardson**, a resident of Lobo, discussed potential environmental impacts, including wildlife migration concerns, as well as quality-of-life issues such as dust, noise, and increased truck traffic associated with large construction projects.
- **Micah Voiers**, commented on groundwater resource protection and encouraged careful consideration of water availability and long-term sustainability in the region.
- **Shawn McGuire**, addressed the Board regarding community concerns related to the project and encouraged transparency and careful review of any proposed groundwater use associated with the development.
- **Jocelyn V.**, expressed concern regarding potential regional and cumulative impacts associated with the project and the possible effects on local communities and water resources.
- **AnnaClaire Besley**, spoke regarding community concerns related to groundwater availability and environmental impacts associated with the proposed activities.
- **Becky Brewster**, a member of the regional water planning group, noted that additional groundwater demand associated with the project had not been considered in the regional water planning process. She stated that agricultural users already face reduced allocations during drought conditions and suggested regional water resources should prioritize existing local needs. She also shared that she had received a call from an individual identifying himself as an engineer working on plans for a workforce camp south of Willow and was told water could potentially be supplied from existing wells, which raised concerns regarding groundwater use.
- **Gilda Morales**, addressed the Board regarding community impacts and encouraged consideration of the long-term implications of groundwater use associated with the project.
- **Lynne Richardson**, provided additional comments reiterating concerns regarding groundwater sustainability and environmental impacts.

5. Discuss/Act On: Proposed Updated Rule Changes on Wild Horse, Lobo and Michigan Flat Aquifer – Director Koehn made a motion to approve the rule changes presented; with a second made by Director Strickhausen. All members were in favor and the motion passed.

6. Discuss/Act On: Approval of Minutes

- a. March 18, 2026, Regular Meeting – Director Davis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; with a second made by Director Koehn. All members were in favor and the motion passed.
7. Executive Session – Vice President Strickhausen called to enter executive session at 4:46 pm to speak with legal counsel.
8. Reconvene in Open Session – Vice President Strickhausen called to reconvene into Open Session at 5:38 pm, and announced no action was taken during Executive Session.
  - District Attorney Trejo provided a summary of the legal matters discussed. She explained that Pecan Grove Farms holds an existing Historical Use Production Permit that is currently underutilized. The permit holder has been approached with a request to provide a limited amount of groundwater, up to 28 acre-feet per year, which is equivalent to the amount allowed for domestic and livestock exempt wells under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. Trejo clarified that the permit holder has not requested an exempt well designation, as the proposed use would not qualify as exempt well under District rules. She also noted that a federal executive order related to border wall construction purports to waive certain federal, state, and local environmental laws, which has created additional legal considerations. She stated that while there are broader political and policy concerns regarding the border wall project, the District's authority is limited to regulating groundwater production within its jurisdiction. Given the complexity of the issue, the limited nature of the request under an existing permit, and the concerns raised by the public, Trejo stated that the District may need additional time to carefully evaluate the matter and determine the best path forward while managing the District's limited resources.
9. Discuss/Act On: Request for Waiver and Settlement related to Construction of the Border Wall and PGF #3 – Ropp, LLC's HUPP 31A, Well S2 – Director Koehn made a motion to table the action item; with a second made by Director Davis. With Director Brewster abstaining from the vote, all members were in favor and the motion was tabled.
10. Discuss/Act On: General Manager's Report
  - a. Field Tech Report – Chanley let GM know any issues with meters and GM has been in contact with the landowners to resolve any issues.
  - b. Information/Meetings – GMA4 meeting will be held on April 30, 2026 at 10:00 am at the CCGCD office.
  - c. Wildhorse, Lobo, and Michigan Flat water levels – presented to the board and public.
11. Discuss/Act On: Payment of Bills, and Bank Reconciliation – Director Koehn made a motion to pay all payment of bills as presented and accept bank reconciliations as presented; with a second made by Director Davis. All members were in favor and the motion passed.
12. Discuss/Act On: Next Meeting Agenda Items, Budget Workshop, and set April Meeting date – Next Regular meeting will be held May 13, 2026, at 2:00 pm, all other reoccurring items.
13. Discuss/Act On: Lobo Aquifer –
  - Discussion with Steve Finch on any updates – None.
14. Public Comment –
  - **Jennifer Simon**, noted that other communities facing similar issues related to the project have also chosen to table decisions in order to gather more information from the companies involved. She encouraged the District to communicate with other communities, water districts, and county officials that may be addressing similar situations in order to better understand potential impacts and legal options. She also mentioned that some communities have adopted local resolutions while evaluating these issues.
15. Adjournment- Chairman Brewster called for a motion to adjourn at 5:49 pm. Director Koehn made a motion to adjourn; with a second made by Director Davis. All members were in favor and the motion passed.

*Lane Brewster*

Chairman, Lane Brewster

*Lacey Koehn*

Member, Lacey Koehn

*Samantha Davis*

Member, Samantha Davis

*George Strickhausen*

Vice Chairman, George Strickhausen

Member, Cruz Prada