

# South Toledo Bend Water District



3260 Little Flock Road • Many, LA. 71449



Malcolm Franks, President • Michael Pitt, Vice President  
Michael Walker, Secretary/Treasurer  
Commissioners: Tim Collins •

## Minutes of South Toledo Bend Water Board June 9, 2022

Board Members Present: Malcolm Franks, Mike Walker, Tim Collins, Mike Pitt  
Others Present: Rick Leonard, superintendent

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Malcolm Franks. A prayer was said, the roll was called and there was a quorum to conduct business.

A motion to amend the agenda to add item #2a, was made by Mike Pitt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Collins, motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adopt the amended agenda was made by Mike Pitt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Walker, motion passed unanimously.

No public was present.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. The minutes of the May 12th meeting were brought to the floor for approval. A motion to accept the May minutes was made by Mike Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Collins, motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's report: a) A motion to remove Anna Ferguson from all online and banking privileges and give Mike Walker online and direct access to the bank accounts was made by Mike Pitt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Collins, motion passed. Mike Walker presented the treasurer's report. He is working on getting the bills paid. The board members commended him on taking over this task. A motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented was made by Tim Collins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Pitt, motion passed.
3. A motion to pay the bills as presented was made by Tim Collins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Pitt, motion passed unanimously.
4. Grant funds update: Malcolm spoke with Mark McCarty last Tuesday. The question we were wanting answered was "Of the \$720,000, are we still in the game for that?" The legislative committee will meet and decide on this. They have now had that meeting, but we don't know what they have decided. As far as the funds for the \$3.8 million, that is progressing. What we are being told is there is a lot of paperwork to process. We asked when we would possibly be able to start getting bids and were told possibly October. This is for well #2.
5. Well project 2<sup>nd</sup> phase: We can't drill until we advertise for bids. They came and did a test. The results of that test are back, and they are working against that to figure out ways to treat our water. So, they've come back and said they are going to do one last test, but the people who are going to do that are going to bring a generator to be able to fire up the pump and do the test. We are not going to be scrambling to get them some power for this. That is basically where we are on this.
6. Esto well project/rebuild update: Malcolm asked Rick if he was ready to sign off on this, and Rick said we haven't moved at all. Malcolm asked if we were able to use the tank. Rick said we are still bypassing. Dennis still has to finish up the electrical work. Rather than having things installed and then having to turn around and take it back out, especially with the addition of having to change out that tank. Some of that is in limbo for the well project. Malcolm asked Rick if he was okay to continue bypassing and he said it was the better option. Tim asked if everyone was getting water and was told yes. Malcolm said we do plan to change that tank.
7. Truck & Excavator: Malcolm said that he is in the midst of putting the truck in the budget about mid-term. This way, if an emergency comes up and it would encroach on those funds, we may have to make the decision to hold off on the truck purchase for the year. On the excavator, we moved it up on the priority list as it became a safety issue. Mike and

Rick were going to look around and see what was available. Mike said he did some checking, and it looks like it would be about 6-months to get one, if it was ordered today. Malcolm asked if they would entertain giving us a bid and Mike said they may, but it may only be good for a month. Malcolm said we have to get at least 2 bids, 3 would be better. We will have to put it in the paper and advertise for bids. Malcolm asked Rick get a list of the specs and asked Mike Pitt if he would help. We really need to have that list of specs for the next month's meeting, so we have time to advertise it. Instead of putting it in next year's budget, if we could try and get it this year, it may work out better for us. Mike said it may be better to look at the excavator first as prices for trucks are starting to come down due to the high cost of fuel. Tim asked Rick if there were any small project items that were needed right now, and Rick told him not at the moment.

8. 2023 Budget review: Malcolm said he would be presenting to Stephen some of the things for the budget. He didn't want to get into all of that now, as this would be discussed more in depth at the next meeting. One thing he did want to touch on was the employee raises. Tim asked if we would be able to give the employees a one-time bonus. Malcolm said that it wasn't allowed as we are a government entity. Mike Pitt asked how many cost of living increases could you give a year and was told only one as this is already set in the budget. He said that everybody knows that the 5% was done with 2-3 months ago. Malcolm said that right now it's hovering around 8%. He's looking at about a 7.5% but they can go up from that if that's what they feel they need to do. Mike asked if this was for next year and Malcolm told him they usually decide it about December so that the increase takes effect in the January wages. Also, as we're a government entity, it can't be retroactive. If we don't get it done before the January meeting, they miss out on some of the increase. It's an annual COLA raise. Malcolm said the budget has to be approved by August so it can be advertised and made available to the public for review. There are other aspects that are being looked at and we will discuss this more next month. Malcolm asked if all members were on board for the 7.5-8% increase and all agreed. Mike Pitt asked if there are any other benefits that they can offer the employees and the members said they would continue to look.
9. Rick Leonard presented the Superintendent's report for May 2022 to the Board:
  - All monthly State reports and samples sent to LADHH.
  - For the month of May, the plant processed 9,247,000 gals of water @ an average of 301,516 gals. per day and shipped out 9,162,917 gals. of water @ an averaging of 295,577 gals. per day. Used 184,083 gallons for backwashing.
  - Plant usage for production (chlorine, caustic, & polymer carrier waters) estimated @ 50,000 gallons.
  - GMC 3500: truck back in shop with a rear wheel leak
  - Roto Rooter
  - Chlorinator: Rick said he spoke with Mark McCarty about the chlorinator at Esto that's going to have to be rebuilt. It could cost much more than the \$13,490 estimate that was presented last month. It's in such bad shape that the State is probably going to say it needs to be updated. You are going to have to bring it all up to current codes. Malcolm said that this has been moved into the project.

A motion to accept the superintendent's monthly report was made by Mike Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Collins, motion passed.

10. Announcements/Comments: cookout for employees Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

11. There was no other business and a motion to adjourn was made by Mike Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Pitt, motion passed.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: Thursday, July 14, 2022, AT 5:30 PM**

South Toledo Bend Water Plant – 3260 Little Flock Road, Many, LA 71449

Prepared by: Betty Maupin – Administrative Assistant

Published Sabine Index – July 20, 2022

**“South Toledo Bend is an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer”**



In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint deadlines vary by program or incident.

Telephone: 318-586-9836

Email: [stbwd09@hughes.net](mailto:stbwd09@hughes.net)

FAX: 318-586-3119