

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER  
COMMISSIONERS HELD ON JUNE 14, 2018, AT 8:30 A.M., IN THE MEETING  
ROOM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 101 N. HALAGUENO STREET,  
CARLSBAD, NM**

<b>VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Craig Stephens Russell Hardy Fred Beard Gary Perkowski Larry Henderson</b>	<b>Chairman Member Member Member Member</b>
--------------------------------	---	---

**VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:**

<b>EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>Michael A. Hernandez</b>	<b>Ex-Officio/City Administrator/ Secretary (left at 8:51)</b>
------------------------------------	-----------------------------	--

<b>EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	<b>Mayor Dale Janway</b>	<b>Ex-Officio/Member</b>
-----------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	<b>John Lowe Wendy Hammett Eileen Riordan Wes Nichols Joe Harvey Richard Aguilar Olga Ramirez Dave Romero Jon Tully Jason Burns Steve McCutcheon</b>	<b>Deputy City Administrator Finance Director/City Treasurer City Attorney Utilities Deputy Director WW Superintendent Environmental Superintendent Assistant to City Administrator Balleau Groundwater, Inc Citizen Citizen Citizen</b>
------------------------	--	--

**1. Call to Order**

Craig Stephens called the meeting to order.

**2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Craig Stephens called roll and it was determined that there was a quorum of voting members.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

The motion was made by Gary Perkowski and seconded by Larry Henderson to Approve the Agenda. The vote was as follows, Yes: Craig Stephens, Russell Hardy, Fred Beard, Gary Perkowski, Larry Henderson No: None Absent: None. The Motion Passed

**4. Discussion on Tatum Water Wells by Dave Romero**

Dave Romero from Balleau Groundwater, Inc, was here to give the board a presentation on the resources in Lea County and the Ogallala Aquifer. He said they have been working with the city since the late 1990's. The principal source of water is the Capitan Aquifer. He stated the High Plains Aquifer (Ogallala) is separate from the Capitan Aquifer.

The City has permits for about 30 wells; out of the 30, three of them were drilled in 2012. They are known as Tatum #1, Tatum #2 and Tatum #3. The High Plains Aquifer is quite extensive, it goes into Texas and up into the Dakota's. It's the Aquifer that is the Heartland of America.

They are trying to estimate Water Production of the Wells that have been drilled and those that have not. In the spring of 2013 these 3 wells were tested and observed to yield over 250 gallons per minute. Combined it's about 860 gallons a minute, Russell Hardy asked if they still produce at that rate since it's been five years they were tested. Dave responded it's possible; the wells have been idle since so they may need to rehabilitate the wells from degradation that usually occurs from non-use.

In 2005 they did a study to evaluate the saturated thickness of the aquifer, and estimate how much water could be produced. The City's Tatum permits are located in some of the thickest portions of the aquifer. That is a very good planning.

Russell Hardy asked if he had the level of recharge. Dave stated the average recharge is about a quarter inch per year. Dave said about 90% of the water comes from about 27 of the permitted sites about 10% comes from the three drilled wells. Larry Henderson asked how many permits are on Tatum Water. Dave said the State Engineering office has organized their permits and found there are more water rights in the area than they thought. Larry Henderson asked if there was a system to control the number of permits. Dave stated yes there is. They do have a permitted limit of what they can drill.

Steve McCutcheon asked about the activity near the State line and the effect it has on the Tatum Wells. Dave said in West Texas there is a lot of irrigation pumping, what happens is it makes a cone which goes into half of New Mexico and half Texas, the drawdown effect comes into New Mexico about 5 to 6 miles. The same for when New Mexico pumps, it goes into Texas about 5 to 6 miles. Russell said when they irrigate some of that returns to the Aquifer? Dave said that is correct.

Dave told the board that Tatum #1, #2 and #3 yield about 10% of the water use. Some recommendations is if the city starts using those wells, Balleau Groundwater could monitor how much the water levels change and provide insight to long term production.

Larry Henderson stated the recharge is coming from the surface. Dave said of course with less perception means less recharge, there is water that is stored in the Aquifer. Craig Stephens stated all the recharge we get is from perception; we don't get anything from Kansas, Texas or the surrounding areas.

Craig Stephens asked how far the Ogallala extends into Texas. Dave said to about central Texas. Russell Hardy told the board the Tatum Wells are about 30 miles from the State line.

Steve McCutcheon asked about the Lea County Applications which affect the Tatum Wells and Double Eagle. Dave said they are using a model to analyze those and it's a case not transferring the water rights from one place to another and seeking a new groundwater appropriation.


Jon Tully said the Lea Basin closed in 2009; the original application was in 1999. In 2010 they came back and amended the application. He asked if Balleau Groundwater did a restudy on the amendments. Dave said yes, when Lea County came back with the amendments it was for different

locations and different quantities so they did an updated study that looked at those new locations and new quantities.

Steve McCutcheon said there is also a legal issue with the Applications. They were Lea County Water users when they filed and now they are Lea County.

**5. Adjourn**

The motion was made by Larry Henderson and seconded by Fred Beard to Adjourn. The vote was as follows, Yes: Craig Stephens, Russell Hardy, Fred Beard, Gary Perkowski, Larry Henderson No: None, Absent: None. The Motion passed.



---

Chairman