

MEETING MINUTES
COMAL COUNTY WATER ORIENTED RECREATION DISTRICT

A Regular meeting of the **COMAL COUNTY WATER ORIENTED RECREATION DISTRICT** was held on the 16th day of August 2017, at **5:30 PM** at the **WORD office**, 1928 Farm to Market Road 2673, Sattler, Comal County, Texas. In attendance were Board members Doug Carver, Shane Wolf, Jennifer Bretzke, Lynn Lindsay, and Allen Bartram. Staff in attendance were Mike Dussere, Susan Sullivan, and Holly Gilman, WORD attorney. Absent were Board members Jennifer Robinson and Jim Green.

5:30 PM CALL TO ORDER

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. **Led by Lynn Lindsay.**

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

1. Receive presentation from Shane Rapp, Comal County Constable Precinct 4, on law enforcement activities.
2. Receive Manager's report on the following subjects: **(See attached)**
 - River & Lake Conditions
 - Summer activity
 - Permit holders
 - Social media training
 - 2nd Quarter taxes
 - Meetings
 - Safety issues

ACTION AGENDA:

The following subjects will be discussed, considered, passed or adopted, to wit:

3. Public Comments.
4. Discussion and action on Grant requests. **NO ACTION.**
5. Consider request for waiver of late fees from VVV Rental in the amount of \$25.00. **Motion to deny by Jennifer, second by Shane, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
6. Read, correct, and/or modify and approve the July 2017 financial reports. **Motion to approve by Jennifer, second by Allen, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
7. Read, correct, and/or modify and approve the minutes of the Board meeting of July 19th, 2017. **Motion to approve by Shane, second by Jennifer, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**
8. Solicit agenda and workshop items for the September Board meeting from the public and Board. **NO ACTION.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION, as authorized by Texas Local Government Code section 551.074 to discuss personnel matters. **EXECUTIVE SESSION entered at 6:47 PM. Back in Regular Session 7:12 PM.**

9. Take action as needed on items discussed in Executive Session.

Motion by Doug for Manager to draft a response to Texas Workforce Commission and provide all necessary information for any potential hearing, second by Lynn, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

10. Adjourn. **Meeting adjourned 7:14 PM.**

I, Mike Dussere, Manager of the Water Oriented Recreation District of Comal County, do hereby certify that the above MEETING MINUTES of the Comal County Water Oriented Recreation District is a true and correct account of the proceedings of said meeting.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2017

Attested: _____
Mike Dussere, Manager, W.O.R.D.

Receive Manager's report on the following subjects:

- **River & Lake Conditions** – We saw decent rainfall amounts averaging close to 2 inches throughout the County and the upper river basin last week. As a result, flows spiked in Spring Branch at 700 cfs and are currently running 264 cfs. The outflow remains at approximately 110 cfs. Canyon Lake sits at 907.19 feet msl.

The primary impact of these rains is, for our purposes, that the Canyon Lake drought requirements have been pushed back somewhat. Remember that the inflow needs to be below 90 cfs on average over a 45 day consecutive span. We were getting close to that average, and the elevated inflows will push that date back. Rough calculations put the 45 day average at approximately 96 cfs, and the longer the inflow sustains above 90 cfs, the longer that will keep us above the average threshold.

- **Summer activity** – The entire month of July was very busy. We started to see a minor dropoff in river activity last weekend. Based on history, we should see business steady for the next two weeks and then start to fall off sharply as families prepare for and start back to school. Boat ramps have remained steady but spread out.

An opportunity came up to take aerial video of the entire lower river on Saturday, 7/29, at a reduced price, and we took advantage of it. I will show portions of that video at the meeting.

- **Permit holders** – The number of permit holding businesses has remained steady, with some new ones coming in, and some cancelling their permits. For the most part, these are lodging changes, although we had a lake equipment company close their permit and a campground come in.

We have received three additional FOIA requests from a business and will fulfill them as soon as time allows.

- **Social media training** – The training is August 22. We currently have 13 people signed up so there are still a few open

slots.

- **2nd Quarter taxes -**

We have 9 permit holders that have not yet reported, with a revocation date of August 20. 2nd Quarter revenues are currently at \$451,000 with an estimated \$2k - \$3k still to come in. This puts us well over last year's totals of \$351,000 and is by far the highest 2nd quarter on record.

For the past two years, the month of June has had significant flooding issues that have impacted revenues, and we are seeing the results of a full summer with decent lake levels and floatable river flows. Couple that with increased pricing for some businesses and general growth and we see these record revenues.



As expected, the primary driver of this increase is river equipment (Up over \$50,000 from last year, and more than \$70,000 compared to 2015 2nd quarter), followed by camping and lodging to lesser degrees.

- **Meetings** – I will be meeting this weekend with a representative from the US Forest Service. They are seeing increased tubing activity on the Salt river in Arizona and are flying in for the weekend to view our activity levels and discuss management strategies with WORD and with the City of New Braunfels.

TxDOT has requested a meeting to discuss their project to revamp the US 281 bridge. They are seeking WORD's input because all activity in the river and on land directly beneath the bridge is required to stop while construction is ongoing. I will report on this at the Board meeting.

I will be rolling out a schedule for all WORD committee meetings this fall, beginning in September, in order to prepare all the recommendations for the budget process.

- **Safety issues** – A few weeks ago, a young girl had her leg sucked in to a hole at the base of the Dam next to the Chute between 2nd and 3rd crossing. She was pulled out by three adults but was underwater for a time. Last report we received is that she did survive. Fire/EMS went out to the Dam the following day and conducted tests where they placed a throw bag into the water, watched it get sucked through, and tried to retrieve it with a rope. They were not able to pull it back through the hole. There are three holes approx. 12" in diameter, presumably designed to allow for water to pass through the Dam during low flow periods.

The next day, I went down and waded the full side of the Dam. Someone had placed makeshift plugs (rocks, logs, etc.) over the holes. I consulted with TPWD and GBRA and will be going back out later this month with a GBRA hydrologic engineer to assess the holes again and determine if grates can be bolted to the dam to allow water to pass through but eliminate the danger of people being sucked in and stuck. There may be alternate methods that are possible as determined by this site assessment.