Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

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MINUTES
Of the September 14, 2026, 9:30 A.M., Public Hearing Concerning the District's Proposed 2026 Tax Rate

Directors Present:	Leo Wick, Sr., Cynthia Rodibaugh, Harvey Hayek, Alan Brothers
Directors Absent:	Mark Heinrich
Others Present:	Wendi Labus, Assistant General Manager; Monique Norman, Legal Counsel; Paul Kirby, Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Brad Christian, resident; Joe Jameson, resident

The public hearing was called to order by President Brothers at 9:31 a.m. on September 14, 2026. A quorum to conduct business was declared to be present.

Mr. Brothers led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

President Brothers asked for any public comment regarding the proposed tax rate.
Mr. Joe Jameson asked, why is the tax rate going up? Mr. Van Dresar explained line item increases in the budget including; staff salary raises of 3%, insurance increases, and a new mapping system for shallow aquifer structures. Mr. Van Dresar discussed the need for those increases.
Mr. Brad Christian asked, are we going to have a water crisis in 20 years? Mr. Van Dresar stated, no, and explained the district's aquifer systems, management, and the district's rules.
Mr. Christian asked if the district had authority to manage production. Mrs. Norman stated, yes, in our enabling legislation and in statute.
There were no other public comments.

Mrs. Labus presented two versions of the proposed tax rates. Mrs. Labus stated that minor changes to the proposed budget including: removal of the election costs for this year and potential lowered insurance rates; lowered the projected budget slightly. The difference between the two versions is $0.001, being: $0.0086/$100 valuation and $0.0085/$100 valuation. A question was asked on how certain we were regarding the insurance rate. Mrs. Labus stated that staff was still working with our insurance broker at this time.

Mrs. Rodibaugh asked about the funding for maintaining the static monitoring stations. Mrs. Labus stated that it was in the maintenance line item of the budget.

Mr. Hayek stated that, in looking at other districts, FCGCD is very low, much lower than surrounding districts. Staff agreed stating that looking at the TAGD financial matrix of member districts, FCGCD was much lower in most categories than other districts.

There being no further discussion, Mrs. Rodibaugh made the motion to read the $0.0086/$100 valuation tax rate into the record. Mr. Hayek seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Mrs. Labus read the tax rate resolution into the record. The proposed tax rate of $0.0086 per $100 valuation was presented. This tax rate is higher the 2025 adopted tax rate for the District. The proposed tax rate would increase the total taxes in the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District by 7.5% based on an increased appraisal roll.

Mrs. Rodibaugh made the motion to set the tax rate for fiscal year 2026 at $0.0086 per $100 valuation. Mr. Hayek seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, President Brothers asked for a vote on the proposed tax rate. Mrs. Labus conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved with Mr. Brothers, Mrs. Rodibaugh, Mr. Hayek, and Mr. Wick voting aye. Mr. Heinrich was absent and no director voted nay.

There being no further items on the agenda, Mrs. Rodibaugh made the motion to close the hearing. Mr. Hayek seconded the motion. President Brothers adjourned the public hearing on the District's Proposed 2026 Tax Rate at 10:03 a.m.

Alan Brothers, President

Cynthia Rodibaugh, Secretary/Treasurer