

3.0 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TRWD shall be governed by a board of five elected directors.

3.1 Board Authority. The Board shall be responsible for the management of all the affairs of TRWD.

The Board may only officially act or transact any business of TRWD by majority vote of the Directors present at a properly-noticed meeting that complies with the Texas Open Meetings Act, at which a quorum of the Board is present and voting.

3.2 No Individual Director Authority. Individual Directors shall not exercise authority over TRWD, its property, or its employees. Unless expressly authorized by the Board, individual Directors may not act on behalf of the Board, may not speak on behalf of the Board, and may not commit the Board on an issue.

No individual Director may waive or disclose any privilege, confidential information, or right available to the Board, including any privileges or confidentiality which may apply to litigation, to real property matters, to matters concerning the awarding of contracts, or purchasing of equipment or materials.

3.3 Board Duties and Responsibilities. The Board will select and employ a person to serve as the General Manager for TRWD. The Board makes all decisions regarding the General Manager's compensation and has the authority to remove the General Manager in the best interests of TRWD. The General Manager will report directly to the Board.

The Board, in consultation with and with recommendations developed by the General Manager and executive team, will adopt the overall strategic plan and objectives of TRWD and review them on a regular basis. The Board shall also adopt policies it determines are in the best interest of TRWD for the operation of the District.

Each year, the Board shall adopt an annual budget.

The Board shall faithfully discharge its duties by conducting its affairs and management of TRWD in a highly ethical manner to serve the public trust and based on sound business judgment. Directors shall not discharge their duties or direct actions of TRWD for any purpose of private gain or to seek personal advantage.

3.4 Delegation to the General Manager. The Board delegates to the General Manager the full authority to manage and operate TRWD's affairs subject only to the orders or directives of the Board. This delegation of authority to the General Manager includes all general powers and duties in the Enabling Act, other applicable law, and Board policies necessary to accomplish TRWD's mission, plans, and strategic objectives

as approved by the Board, except for the powers and duties specifically reserved for the Board by the Enabling Act, state law, or other Board policies.

The Board's delegation of authority to the General Manager includes the authority to employ all persons necessary to properly conduct TRWD's business and operations. The general powers, duties, and responsibilities of the General Manager are set forth in Section 4.0 of these Board Governance Policies.

The strategic objectives TRWD identifies to guide its works shall be set forth in a Strategic Plan prepared by the General Manager and adopted by the Board that is updated and presented regularly to TRWD's Board, and no less than once every five (5) years, to ensure TRWD is furthering its mission for the North Texas community.

3.5 Elections. The election of Directors for TRWD's Board is governed by Texas Water Code Chapter 49, subchapter D and the Texas Election Code. Elections will be held in May of each odd-numbered year to elect the appropriate number of Directors. Generally, members of the Board shall serve staggered four-year terms until their successors have been qualified.

The Board shall convene at a regularly-scheduled, special, or called Board meeting no later than the eleventh day after the election day and not earlier than the time prescribed by the Election Code to conduct the local canvas. After the local canvas is conducted at the Board meeting, and before further Board action is taken, the elected candidates shall be administered the oath of office.

Within thirty (30) days after qualification of Directors following an election, each elected Director shall certify in writing that he or she has read these Board Governance Policies and agrees to follow them in the discharge of his or her duties as a Director of TRWD's Board.

3.6 Election of Officers. At the first Board meeting after qualification of Directors following an election, the Board shall elect from its membership a President, Vice President, and Secretary and such other officers or assistant officers the Board deems necessary. In addition, the Board may call an election of officers as it deems necessary and appropriate based on a majority vote of the Board at a properly-noticed meeting at which a quorum of the Board is present and voting.

The Vice President or Secretary shall serve as chairperson and shall preside over the Board meeting during the election of officers until such time as the President is elected.

Nominations for officers may be taken from the floor at the Board meeting prior to the vote. After nominations have been closed, Board members shall cast their vote. When there is only one nominee for an office, the chair can declare that the nominee is elected, effecting the election by unanimous consent or acclamation. An election to an office shall become final immediately.

Individual officer vacancies in the midst of a term may be filled by vote of the Board at the next regularly-scheduled Board meeting or at a special or called Board meeting.

3.7 Duties of the President. The Board President is the chief executive officer of the District and shall execute all documents on behalf of TRWD unless the Board authorizes another Director, the General Manager, or other TRWD staff member to execute a document or documents on behalf of TRWD. The President shall generally be authorized to represent the District at official functions unless the Board authorizes another Director to serve as the District's representative at a particular function.

The President shall preside as the chairperson at all Board meetings. In the absence or unavailability of the President, the Vice President or Secretary shall preside. As chairperson, the President shall:

1. Call to order any Board meeting;
2. Preserve order and decorum in all Board meetings;
3. Confine the Directors' debate at Board meetings to the issue under discussion;
4. Decide all questions of order with guidance from *Robert's Rules of Order*, subject to a Director's appeal and request for a vote on the question of order;
5. Have the right to declare a recess for a short intermission or break; and
6. State all questions submitted for a voice vote or roll call vote, upon the request of any Director.

The President shall generally be authorized to recommend the creation of Board committees to the Board and appoint Directors to serve on Board committees. The President shall call special meetings of the Board and review the agendas for Board meetings.

The President shall inform the Board of all correspondence to TRWD that directly concerns the Board and deliver the advice of attorneys and auditors to Directors.

The President, in consultation and cooperation with the General Manager and executive team or leadership team, shall respond to Director requests for reports, Director requests for information, requests for special meetings, and placement of matters on the agenda for Board meetings. The President may request that the General Manager or appropriate executive or leadership team member respond to Director requests.

3.8 Duties of the Vice President. The Vice President shall act as the Board President in case of absence or unavailability of the President. The Vice President shall serve as

the chairperson at any Board meeting if the President is absent. The Vice President shall also have authority to execute contracts and documents on behalf of TRWD in the absence or unavailability of the President. The Vice President shall also have the authority to attest to the President's signature on all contracts and legal documents if the Secretary is absent or unavailable.

3.9 Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that all records and books of TRWD are properly kept and may attest to the President's signature on all contracts and legal documents. TRWD's Records Management Officer assists the Secretary in the discharge of this responsibility to ensure proper management and retention of records and books. The General Manager may select one or more staff members to assist the Secretary and Records Management Officer ensure proper management and retention of records and books.

3.10 Access to Information. An individual Director, acting in his or her official capacity, shall have the right to request and obtain information regarding TRWD's administration or operations, including fiscal management, contracting and purchasing, personnel matters, and existing reports or internal correspondence regarding TRWD's affairs. If a Director is not acting in his or her official capacity, the Director has no greater right to TRWD records than a member of the public.

If information is requested and provided to an individual Director that is confidential or privileged, the General Manager or his designee shall advise the Director of the responsibility to comply with all confidentiality and privilege requirements.

Individual Directors shall not direct or require TRWD staff to prepare reports derived from an analysis of information in existing District records or to create a new record compiled from information in existing District records. Directives to TRWD staff regarding the preparation of reports shall be made by the Board as a whole.

3.11 Communication with or regarding TRWD Staff. Directors should direct all requests for information from or meetings with TRWD staff to the General Manager or his or her designee. The General Manager, or his or her designee, may make the decision whether to attend the meeting between a Director and TRWD staff.

A Director may not exert pressure of any kind on the General Manager or staff members to hire, promote, change the compensation or benefits of, or dismiss any employee of the District. The authority to hire, promote, dismiss, or change the compensation or benefits of any TRWD staff ultimately rests with the General Manager. If a Director does attempt to exert such pressure, the General Manager is instructed and obligated to bring the matter to the attention of the Board.

3.12 Training. The Board shall receive annual training and/or legal updates regarding open governance, particularly the Texas Open Meetings Act and Texas Public Information Act, and ethics.

3.13 Board Compensation. A Director is entitled to receive fees of office for each day the Director actually spends performing the duties of a Director. For this policy, “performing the duties of a Director” means substantive performance of the management or business of the District, including participation in Board and committee meetings and other activities involving the substantive deliberation of District business and in pertinent educational programs. The phrase does not include routine or ministerial activities such as the execution of documents, self-preparation for meetings, or other activities requiring a minimal amount of time.

The Board by resolution shall set the fees of office, as well as a limit on the fees of office that a Director may receive in a year. The Board may not set the fees of office at an amount greater than the amount of the per diem set by the Texas Ethics Commission for members of the legislature under section 24a, Article III, Texas Constitution. The Board may not set the annual limit at an amount greater than \$7,200.

3.14 Expense Reimbursement. Directors may submit and receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred by an individual Director for his or her reasonable travel, lodging, or meals required when attending to the business of the District.

3.15 Education and Training Expenses. Because a well-educated and knowledgeable Board of Directors is important to TRWD’s mission and objectives, TRWD may authorize and reimburse Directors’ reasonable expenses for attending educational, training, and developmental opportunities related to issues facing water districts.

3.16 Board Vacancies. A mid-term vacancy on the Board shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by appointment of the Board no later than sixty (60) days after the date the vacancy occurs. The appointment shall be made by majority vote of the Board at a regular or special meeting. Eligible candidates for appointment shall be compiled through any process the Board in its discretion determines to be fair, appropriate, and in the best interests of the public. Factors to consider in making the appointment may include the amount of time before the next regular Board election, the results of the most recent past election, public input, and any other factors the Board considers to be in the public’s interest.

AUTHORITY

Tex. Elec. Code § 67.003(b)
Tex. Gov’t Code §§ 551.001, et seq.

Tex. Water Code § 49.053
Tex. Water Code § 49.054
Tex. Water Code § 49.056
Tex. Water Code § 49.057
Tex. Water Code § 49.060
Tex. Water Code § 49.105
Tex. Water Code, Chapter 49, subchapter D