

**Minutes**  
**Administrative Committee Meeting**  
**Capital Area Groundwater**  
**Conservation District**

*June 16, 2022*

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**I. Call to Order**

The Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District's Administrative Committee meeting was called to order by Matt Reonas, acting Chairman for Karen Gautreaux.

**II. Roll Call**

The following members were present: Jonathan Leo, Angela Machen, Ken Dawson, Matt Reonas and Karen Gautreaux (arrived late due to weather) William Daniel was linked by zoom conference.

**III. Establishment of a Quorum**

Acting Chairman Matt Reonas declared the presence of a quorum with 5 members present.

**IV. Invocation**

Gary Beard, Executive Director

**V. Pledge of Allegiance**

Gary Beard, Executive Director

**VI. Recognition of Guests**

Guests present – Robert Berg, Brett Furr, Murphy Foster, Roy Waguespack, Scott Bergeron. Board members other than Administrative Committee that were present – Cyril Vetter and Patrick Engemann.

**VII. Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2021**

Jonathan Leo informed the Committee there was a typo on the minutes. Joey Normand's last name was misspelled. Motion by Ken Dawson and second by Jonathan Leo to approve the minutes with the correction noted. Motion passed.

Mr. Vetter requested he be put back on the Administrative Committee as he used to be. He said he felt he could better serve on this committee. Mr. Reonas asked Mr. Daniel to weigh in on this matter. Mr. Daniel said he had no problem putting Mr. Vetter back on the Admin. Committee.

**VIII. Executive Director's Report - Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director**

a. Update on Litigation – Executive Session. Mr. Beard informed the Board that it was necessary to go into Executive Session as noted on the agenda to discuss and update the Committee on the litigation of the Lawsuit with Baton Rouge Water Company.

Mr. Reonas asked for a motion to go into Executive Session. Motion by Ken Dawson and second by Jonathan Leo to go into Executive Session. Motion passed.

Mr. Beard asked the guests to please exit the meeting room for Executive Session and told them they could return when the Session ended. It was decided Board members present – Mr. Vetter and Mr. Engemann, could remain in Executive Session.

At the end of the discussion, the committee voted unanimously to end the Executive Session.

b. Office space – Mr. Beard asked Kellie McNamara, Deputy Director, to inform the Committee of the Lease option vs the purchase of the office space. Ms. McNamara stated the lease option is for approximately \$20.00 per square foot. The lease at the current office space is good through December at \$18.00 per square foot. Mr. Beard said he would prefer to own the building. Option B – Ms. McNamara said \$24.00 a square foot for the purchase for 20 years and the District would ultimately own the building. Mr. Beard said he would sell the property in back of the building and do upgrades with this money. After a discussion and debate, Motion by Mr. Reonas and second by Mr. Dawson to continue to look for lease space and report back. Motion passed.

c. Budget – Mr. Beard explained the budget report for FY 22-23 with the categories and how much is allocated for each. Mr. Beard explained the income projections and that the expenses included new personnel, current part-time employees, office rental space, grant match funds, new contracts for attorneys and legal fees, CPRA payments, outside consultants and new IT services.

Mr. Daniel asked how much is in reserve. Mr. Beard replied 150,000 – 200,000.

Mr. Daniel asked how much do we need in reserve and to handle emergency. Mr. Beard will look into this and report back to the Committee. Mr. Daniel asked should we have 12 months of money in reserve. He said plan for a disaster and make sure the reserves are there. Motion by Matt Reonas and second by Jonathan Leo to approve the budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

## **IX. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Gautreaux had nothing to report.

## **VIII. MEMBER AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Gautreaux asked if anyone wanted to speak. Mr. Daniel said he wants to reach out to Barry Huggins and tell him he will be censored. He said he is stunned at his betrayal. All members were in agreement. Mr. Daniel asked is this legal? Mr. Reonas suggested passing a resolution to have the Governor replace him. Mr. Daniel said he does not see this happening. Mr. Leo suggested we need to investigate and impose consequences. Mr. Vetter asked what is Mr. Huggins issue. He suggested to reach out to him first.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

## **X. New Business**

No new business.

## **XI. Announcements**

No announcements.

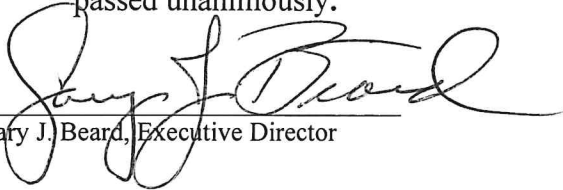
**XII. Public Comment (non-agenda items)**

Scott Bergeron said the legal fees for the lawsuit are outrageous.

Mr. Vetter asked him if had any suggestions how to avoid the legal fees. Mr. Bergeron said \$500,000 for legal fees is shocking. Murphy Foster, attorney with Breazeale, Sachse and Wilson, informed the committee that he would be happy to submit a budget for their review. Mr. Beard said he will report to the Board with the numbers.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Motion by Jonathan Leo and second by Matt Reonas to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.



Gary J. Beard, Executive Director