

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District
3535 Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 137
March 8, 2023

I. Call to Order

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
Chair Gautreaux called the meeting to order at noon.

II. Roll Call

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
Mr. Beard called the roll.
In attendance: Ms. Gautreaux; Mr. Seagraves; Mr. Reonas; Mr. Hobbins; and Mr. Dawson

III. Establishment of a Quorum

Gary Beard – CAGCD – Executive Director
Quorum present with five members.

IV. Invocation

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
Mr. Beard gave the invocation.

V. Pledge of Allegiance

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
Mr. Beard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VI. Recognition of Guests

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
Murphy Foster and Catherine Crawford, attorneys for the Commission, were present at the meeting.

VII. Amendments to the Agenda

Karen Gautreaux– CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Mr. Dawson to amend the agenda to add consideration of the Louisiana legislative auditor compliance questionnaire, a non-agenda item. No objection. Motion passed.

VIII. Approval of Minutes – December 14, 2022 – (action required)

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
Motion by Matt Reonas and second by Tom Seagraves to approve the December 14, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion passed.

IX. Executive Director’s Report

Gary Beard - CAGCD Executive Director
a. Litigation Update (Executive Session)

*Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District
March 8, 2023*

Motion by Mr. Dawson and second by Mr. Seagraves to enter Executive Session.
Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Mr. Dawson to exit Executive Session.
Motion passed.

The status of the on-going lawsuit was provided by Mr. Murphy Foster and Ms. Catherine Crawford.

b. Rules

1. Propose modification of the permitting process to a two-step process. First step is review of permit application to grant approval to construct the well. The second step includes inspection of the well, installation of metering device and review of all necessary documents then approval for operations.
2. Propose editing the text to keep the existing provision for measuring well yield only until the district has installed the metering system. Also, clarify the district will install a metering system on wells in the district.

c. Well Permits

Well Permit rules are currently being modified. The stipulation is unless a user allows installation of the meters, the district will not approve the new permits. Mr. Beard said he is issuing a letter and waiting to see what response is received. Chair Gautreaux asked isn't there a moratorium on wells. Mr. Seagraves said there is no more grandfathering after a certain point.

d. Fines

The Attorney General's office is gathering data to prepare for a public hearing regarding Baton Rouge Water Company and West Baton Rouge Parish's falsification of reporting and denial of access to property. Chair Gautreaux commented she would like to have an executive committee meeting before the hearing to go over the plan of action.

e. Legislation Session – HSR1

The legislation to be edited is based on the HSR1 study recommendations. If we do not think geologically and just geographically, we seem a little short sighted.

Chair Gautreaux said she doesn't think we have time to do the groundwork before session. She suggested we think about a holistic bill for next session.

Mr. Reonas said if we expand the board to include these other parishes we are going to lose what the district has started and that is to deal with the issue in East Baton Rouge Parish. He also said if anything, we should consider shrinking the number of parishes. It is all connected with the aquifer but there is real opposition in the Conservation Commission regarding this matter.

Chair Gautreaux said with everything going on this session it seems like these things should be left until next year.

Mr. Reonas said the technical corrections are easy to carry.

Mr. Beard said a report from the companies and legislation was provided to the Governor's office upon request. We are waiting to hear from the Governor's

*Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District
March 8, 2023*

office if they want to proceed and to what degree. Whatever the Governor's office decides is what will be requested of the Legislature.

f. **Public Relations**

Mr. Beard said he is setting up a meeting with a public relations firm to discuss a plan to be more transparent and establish the educational component. He will update the Board when the details are established. The public relations will include mailers, TV, radio and video.

g. **Office Lease**

Mr. Beard said he has found a place that is initially less dollars per square foot and under budget. He added this new office space would include a conference room for Board meetings.

Mr. Reonas reminded Mr. Beard that the Board had previously approved a new lease for office space and he has the authority to execute a new lease agreement. Mr. Beard acknowledged that he has the authority to enter into a long-term lease and it would be under the amount of the approved budget.

h. **Louisiana compliance questionnaire**

Mr. Beard explained to the Committee that the District's accountant, John Roberts, received a request from the legislative auditor to have the questionnaire completed by Mr. Beard and signed by the Secretary/Treasurer and Chair of the Board.

The compliance questionnaire was approved unanimously after the Committee's review.

X. Chairman's Report

Karen Gautreaux - CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
There was nothing to report.

XI. Member Agenda Items

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
There were no agenda items.

XII. Old Business

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
There was no old business.

XIII. New Business

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
There was no new business.

XIV. Commissioner Comments

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
There were no comments.

XV. Announcements

*Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District
March 8, 2023*


Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
There were no announcements.

XVI. Public Comment (Non-agenda items only)

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
There were no public comments.

XVII. Adjournment

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Executive Committee Chair
Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Mr. Reonas to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.



Gary J. Beard, Executive Director