

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District
April 20, 2023, 2:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Karen Gautreaux – Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District (CAGCD) Chair

II. Roll Call

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

Members present: Nolan Brown, Ken Dawson, Patrick Engemann, Lane Ewing, Karen Gautreaux, Rachael Lambert, Jonathan Leo, Eric Lewis, Angela Machen, Camille Manning-Broome, Jesse Means, Matt Reonas, Ron Savoy, Tom Seagraves, and Cyril Vetter.

Members absent: Patrick Hobbins, Lauren Fields, and Greg Phares.

III. Establishment of a Quorum

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

Chair Gautreaux declared a quorum with 15 members present.

IV. Invocation

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

Mr. Beard asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of a former Executive Director, Don Dial.

V. Pledge of Allegiance

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

Mr. Beard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VI. Recognition of Guests

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

Roy Waguespack – interested party; Catherine Crawford – Boles Law Firm; Andy Brown – Louisiana Farm Bureau; Robert Berg – LAMOGA; Scott Bergeron – interested party; Kristyn Couvillion – Taylor Porter; David Mitchell – The Advocate; Tiffani Dorsa – Postlethwaite & Netterville (P&N); Max Lindaman – USGS; Alyssa Dausman – The Water Institute of the Gulf (TWIG); Tara Wicker – W Consulting Group, Anthony Simon – Secure Water Management; and Ryan Clark – Halff & Associates.

VII. Amendments to the Agenda

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

There were no amendments.

VIII. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 12-14-22 (action required)

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

Motion by Mr. Means and second by Mr. Dawson to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022, meeting as presented. No objections. Motion passed.

IX. Executive Director’s Report

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

a. P&N Presentation – Tiffani Dorsa – FYE 2022 Audit

Ms. Dorsa introduced herself to the Board and presented the FYE 2022 audit for the Board to discuss and review. This included required communications, independent auditors report, report under government auditing standards, findings reported, statewide AUP exceptions, management letter comments, and summary of financial information.

Mr. Dawson asked how this has affected the 2019 legislative auditors report and if they would be apprised. Mr. Beard responded affirmatively, stating that the District is in communication with the Legislative Auditors office and updates them regularly.

Mr. Seagraves asked if the Board would take action to clear up the findings. Mr. Beard said the District’s responses addressing the findings are included in the audit report.

b. Compliance Questionnaire – Tiffani Dorsa - **action required.**

Ms. Dorsa asked the Board to approve and authorize Mr. Reonas, who serves as the Commission’s Secretary/Treasurer, to sign and submit the compliance questionnaire.

Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Mr. Dawson to approve and authorize Mr. Reonas to sign and submit the questionnaire. No objection. Motion passed.

c. TWIG Presentation on Alternative Strategies – Alyssa Dausman

Ms. Dausman presented the alternative strategies and said modeling of the alternatives needs to begin or the schedule will be delayed. She also said moving forward does not preclude additional analysis or other alternatives.

Mr. Leo asked to what extent would TWIG or Dr. Tsai’s work be impacted by the metering data. Ms. Dausman said with the current timeline the data will not be incorporated in the TWIG analyses; however, Dr. Tsai’s model will be updated with additional data and additional analysis can be performed.

Mr. Dawson said his conversation with industry partners advised moving off the aquifer or reducing use. Ms. Dausman said what is being looked at is the idea of public-private partnership, and the commission has bonding authority to help people via partnerships move to surface water. The industrial surveys asked many of these questions- some have a long-term plan but will not share the information. Mr. Dawson said to get a good plan we need to have input from all industrial users. Mr. Seagraves said in the industrial sector it is difficult to predict five years out and everything happening around the world is impacting the ability to make those long-term models.

Ms. Manning-Broome said it would be worth it to know how they are managing and moving off the deep-water wells regardless of waiting on the data from the modeling. She inquired as to if they shared any input-on capital improvement plans. Ms. Dausman said no, they had not.

Ms. Manning-Broome wanted to confirm that 200 of the wells out of 320 will be installed with the metering system and that the remaining are owned by Baton Rouge Water Company. She asked if incorporating the metered volume data into the model would have to wait for the installations to be completed. Mr. Seagraves said the model should be able to move forward.

Ms. Dausman asked the Commission not to walk away with thinking decisions could not be made for another five years because certain data is not available. She encouraged the Commission to move forward with decisions using the information on-hand. Modifications are made over time based on additional information.

Ms. Manning-Broome commended the staff for the data being provided transparently on the websites.

Mr. Beard said each individual well owner will be able to access the granular data for their wells and the volume data will continue to be available to the public.

d. U.S.G.S. Contract – Max Lindaman – **action required.**

Mr. Lindaman presented a data driven presentation on a study of groundwater chloride concentrations showing how and where conditions are changing. The data showed continued migration of saltwater plumes into the aquifer.

Mr. Dawson will chair the meeting moving forward; Chair Gautreaux had to leave.

Motion by Ms. Lambert and second by Ms. Manning-Broome to approve the USGS contract for continued testing of the salts. No objections. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Legislative Session

Mr. Beard informed the Commission that the funding for the monitoring wells is in HB. One-million dollars in Priority One, which is a cash allocation, and 1.8-million in Priority Five, which is a bond sale in the next fiscal year. All the money is for the monitoring wells as recommended by Dr. Tsai.

Mr. Vetter asked about the match and how it works. Mr. Beard explained the process in which the District will contribute 25% of the total eligible costs of the approved project.

f. Lease Space

Mr. Beard said the office is moving to another location as planned and approved.

Mr. Vetter asked if we inquired about lease space with the Water Campus. Mr. Beard said yes, we did, and it was outside of our budget range.

g. **Public Relations**

Mr. Beard said we are working on community outreach and education to let the people know what our mission is.

X. Chairman's Report

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

There is nothing to report.

XI. Administrative Committee Report

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Patrick Hobbins – CAGCD Administrative Committee Chairman

a. **LAC Title 56 Revisions – action required.**

The Administrative Committee discussed the revisions to ensure accurate wording. The Administrative Committee approved the changes and asked for Board approval of a resolution drafted by the attorneys so that the District can move forward with rule changes.

Motion by Ms. Manning-Broome and second by Ms. Lambert to approve the Title 56 revisions as presented. Roll Call vote: Mr. Brown-Y, Mr. Dawson-Y, Mr. Engemann-Y, Mr. Ewing-Y, Ms. Gautreaux-no longer present, Ms. Lambert-Y, Mr. Leo-Y, Mr. Lewis-Y, Ms. Machen-Y, Ms. Manning-Broome-Y, Mr. Means-Y, Mr. Reonas-Y, Mr. Savoy-Y, Mr. Seagraves-Y, Mr. Vetter-Y. Motion passed. Unanimous vote.

b. ***Bylaws and Rules of Order* – action required.**

Motion by Mr. Leo and second by Mr. Means to adopt the *Bylaws and Rules of Order*.

Roll call vote: Brown-Y, Dawson-Y, Engemann-Y, Ewing-not present, Gautreaux-no longer present, Lambert-Y, Leo-Y, Lewis-Y, Machen-not present, Manning-Broome-Y, Means-Y, Reonas-Y, Savoy-Y, Seagraves-Y, Vetter-Y. Motion passed. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Reonas asked Mr. Beard to send out the document to all Commissioners when completed and revised.

XII. Technical Committee Report

Tom Seagraves – CAGCD Technical Committee Chairman

No report.

XIII. Executive Committee Report

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

No report.

XIV. Member Agenda Items

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

No agenda items.

XV. Old Business

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

a. *Policies and Procedures* – **action required.**

Motion by Ms. Manning-Broome and second by Mr. Leo to approve the amendment to *Policies and Procedures*.

Motion passed. Unanimously approved.

b. Resolution – Breazeale, Sachse and Wilson – for approval by Attorney General’s office – **action required.**

Motion by Mr. Leo and second by Mr. Seagraves to approve the resolution for the fee structure for Breazeale, Sachse and Wilson. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Leo noted that the resolution has an end date of July 2023. He asked will there be a new resolution in July. Mr. Beard said yes, another resolution will be drafted as we approach July.

c. Executive Director’s contract – **action required.**

Motion by Ms. Manning-Broome and second by Mr. Brown to approve the addendum to the Executive Director’s contract. Motion approved. Unanimous vote.

XVI. New Business

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

No new business.

XVII. Commissioner Comments

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

Mr. Vetter asked for an update of the new permit application with Baton Rouge Water Company. Mr. Beard discussed the letters exchanged between the District and Baton Rouge Water Company regarding a new permit.

XVIII. Announcements

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

Mr. Dawson said it was a record meeting today.

Mr. Reonas remembered Director Dial saying he was a former USGS Scientist and made numerous contributions to Groundwater. He also informed the Board of Commissioner of Conservation, Richard Ieyoub's, passing a few days before the meeting. He said Commissioner Ieyoub was a great man, a great leader, and an advocate for Groundwater. Mr. Reonas continued by stating that the late Commissioner did all he could behind the scenes to make this Commission what it is. He commented that Mr. Ieyoub was an excellent leader as both the Louisiana Attorney General and the Commissioner of Conservation. Mr. Reonas added that Ms. Monique Edwards is now serving as Commissioner of Conservation and, as former Asst. Secretary of the Office of Mineral Resources and former general counsel for the Secretary of DNR, she brings much experience to the position. He said he feels it is important for the Commission to continue to have a good working relationship with the Commissioner of Conservation. He offered to make introductions for anyone who would like to meet with her and said that he will bring her up to speed on the Commission.

XIX. Public Comment (Non-action items only)

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

No public comments

XX. Adjournment – (action required)

Ken Dawson, CAGCD Vice Chairman, on behalf of Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Chair

Motion by Ms. Manning-Broome and second by Mr. Leo to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.



Gary J. Beard, Executive Director