

MINUTES

CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 18, 2019

I. Call to Order

The Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission met for a regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. on June 18, 2019 in the U.S. Geological Survey's auditorium at 3535 South Sherwood Forest, Suite 120, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Nelson Morvant.

II. Roll Call

The following members were present: Ronnie Albritton, William Daniel, Mark Frey, Barry Huggins, John Jennings, Dennis McGehee, Nelson Morvant, Joey Normand, Matthew Reonas, "J.A." Rummeler, Ryan Scardina, Tom Stephens, Todd Talbot, Hays Town and Mark Walton. The following members were absent: Kenneth Dawson & Julius Metz.

Others attending the meeting were: Anthony Duplechin and Shawn Scallan, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District; Harry Vorhoff, Louisiana Attorney General's Office; Tokesha Wright, Louisiana Chemical Association; Tyler McCloud, Louisiana House of Natural Resources Committee; John Lovelace, U.S. Geological Survey; Danny Lee, Exxon Mobil; Johan Forsman, Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals; Michael Layne & Trey Savoie, Baton Rouge Water Company; Frank Tsai, Louisiana State University; Roy Waggenspack, Owen & White; Stuart Lambert & Bruce Duhe, Layne; Alyssa Dausman & Ryan Clark, The Water Institute of the Gulf; Guillermo Iturralde & Ha Louis, Department of Natural Resources.

III. Amend Agenda

There were none.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Huggins made a motion that the minutes of the March 19, 2019 be approved. Mr. Daniel seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Report from the Administrative Committee

At the request of the Chairman, Nelson Morvant, Mr. Jennings reported on the meeting that was held June 13, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Following is a summary of items discussed at the meeting and further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting on June 18, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

- The financial conditions as of April 30, 2019 were reviewed.
- Mr. Huggins made a motion to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the financial audit for fiscal year 2018-2019. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. Huggins made a motion to amend the budget for fiscal year 2018-2019. Following are the amendments: CPA - \$6,600; Legal Notices - \$4,000; USGS Subsidence Wells - \$9,500; USGS Data Collection - \$9,000; LSU Modeling Study #2 - \$40,000; and On-Line Bill Payment System - \$9,000. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. Daniel made a motion to approve the budget for fiscal year 2019-2020. Mr. Huggins seconded the motion. Mr. Reonas then made a motion to amend the budget to appropriate the \$8,000 currently budgeted for travel expenses towards the use of a hiring committee to search for a full-time director. Mr. Normand seconded the motion. When asked if he had worked up a budget, Mr. Reonas said it would probably take more like \$20,000. He offered no details, but did offer to send over research. Commissioner Walton asked when did the Commission decide to hire a full-time Executive Director, Mr. Reonas admitted that the Commission hadn't, but he thought it should, whereupon Mr. Normand withdrew his second. The motion failed. The Commission then voted on the original motion to approve the budget. The vote was yes -14; no - 1. The motion passed.
- Mr. Jennings made a motion to give authority to the Administrative Committee to hire a consultant to develop rules and regulations for field and administrative operations for the

Commission without coming back for full approval from the board. Mr. Huggins seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Report from the Technical Committee

The report of the Technical Committee was made by Barry Huggins. Following is a summary of topics discussed at the meeting on June 13, 2019 and further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting on June 18, 2019.

- Alyssa Dausman of The Water Institute of the Gulf gave an update on their project.
- Nelson Morvant gave a report on the Planning & Specifications Subcommittee. He stated that bids were reviewed and the subcommittee voted to accept the base bid from Griner Drilling.
- Commissioner Walton presented an overview of the most recent pumping rates from the "1,500-foot" and "2,000-foot" sands to monitor compliance with agreed on reductions and/or commitments.
- John Lovelace of the USGS gave a progress report on the Baton Rouge model. Still waiting on publication of the report.
- Dr. Tsai gave a report on the Board of Regents ITRS Projects. Dr. Tsai presented a proposal to the Committee for support. The proposal will be considered by the Planning & Specifications Subcommittee to bring back to the next technical committee meeting.
- Mr. Huggins reported that the performance auditors did not like that the Commission's resolution stating: "requesting that industry reserve the "1,000-, 1,500-, and 1,700-foot" sands for public-supply wells and calling attention to the fact that the "1,500-foot" sand south of the Baton Rouge fault in West Baton Rouge Parish is included". Mr. Huggins stated that the performance auditors indicated that the resolution was not published as a rule therefore lacking enforceability. After discussion, Mr. Daniel made a motion to readopt the resolution that all new water production in the "1,000-foot", "1,500-foot" and "1,700-foot" sands of the Baton Rouge (area) shall be limited to public supply, with the limitations applying to all new wells in the District. Mr. Jennings seconded this motion. Mr. Normand amended the motion to state to initiate with the rule making process that all new water production in the "1,000-foot", "1,500-foot" and "1,700-foot" sands of the Baton Rouge (area) shall be limited to public supply, with the limitations applying to all new wells in the District. Mr. Huggins seconded this motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Huggins requested that Mr. Vorhoff provide a timeline for this process.

VII. Director's Report

Director Duplechin reported that he attended the Ground Water Management District Association's meeting. Mr. Duplechin made a presentation to Major Thibaut, Pointe Coupee Parish President, on the work of the Commission. The Director represented the Commission at a conference for U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Development Water Synergy Project at DEQ. The Director met several times with The Water Institute of the Gulf. Mr. Duplechin along with Roy Waggenpack reviewed the third round of contracts for the test hole. He noted that Griner Drilling was awarded the contract. The Director met with Roy Waggenpack at the site of the test hole on June 14th. Mr. Duplechin attended the Sparta Commission meeting. The Director is currently working with the Legislative Fiscal Office to get approval to move ahead with promulgation of the fee increase. Books titled "Groundwater and Wells" were donated by an anonymous donor to be given to certain board members. Finally, Mr. Duplechin acquiesced the need for the Commission to hire a full-time Executive Director. He stated that he would be willing to continue as an advisor to the Executive Director.

VIII. Chairman's Report

Chairman Morvant stated that The Water Institute of the Gulf is currently in phase 1 for the long-term strategic planning for the Commission. Three workshops are scheduled along with a meeting on July 24th. The report is expected in December or January.

IX. Commission Member Comments

Mr. Normand commended Executive Director Duplechin on his work for the Commission. He stated that a full time Director and additional staff are needed. Mr. Normand feels that in the future

the Commission may need to meet more than quarterly. Mr. Normand also commented that the notion that the board has done anything unethical is not correct. He stated that it's individuals that can be held accountable for anything unethical.

Mr. Huggins stated that the reason the Commission has been able to get as much work done as they have been was due to Mr. Duplechin working many hours for without compensation.

Mr. Reonas read a letter from the Louisiana Interchurch Conference.

X. Public Comment

There were none.

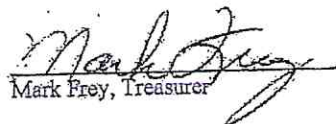
XI. Executive Session

Mr. Huggins made a motion that the meeting go into Executive Session. Mr. Walton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Huggins made a motion that the meeting continue out of Executive Session. Mr. Jennings seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, Mr. Huggins made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Jennings seconded this motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.


Nelson Morvant, Chairman


Mark Frey, Treasurer

The Rev. Dr. R. Timothy Jones, Sr.
Baptist Missionary & Educational Convention of LA
President

The Most Rev. J. Douglas Deshotel
Roman Catholic Diocese of Lafayette
President-Elect

The Rev. Cynthia Fierró Harvey
United Methodist Church-LA Annual Conference
Immediate Past President

The Rev. Dr. Wayne Carter
The Rev. Supt. Woodrow Davis
The Rev. S. Scott Chemino
Mrs. Catherine Townsend
The Rev. Annie Etheredge
The Rev. Michael Moroney
The Rev. Michael Otkins
Mr. Robert Gorman
The Rev. Emile "Buddy" Noel
Regional Coordinators

Mrs. Catherine Townsend
Secretary

The Rev. Dr. Van Stinson
Mrs. Sandra G. O'Brien
Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

Member Churches

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Eighth Episcopal District

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Southwestern Delta Episcopal District

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Great River Region

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
Fourth Episcopal District

Church of God in Christ
First Jurisdiction of Louisiana

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Louisiana

Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Trinity Presbytery

Episcopal Church
Diocese of Louisiana
Diocese of Western Louisiana

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod
Texas - Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

National Baptist Convention of America
Baptist Missionary & Educational Convention
of Louisiana, Inc.
Louisiana Home and Foreign Mission Baptist
State Convention, Inc.

National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.
Louisiana Baptist State Convention

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
The Presbytery of the Pines
The Presbytery of South Louisiana

Religious Society of Friends

Roman Catholic Church
Archdiocese of New Orleans
Diocese of Alexandria
Diocese of Baton Rouge
Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux
Diocese of Lafayette
Diocese of Lake Charles
Diocese of Shreveport

United Church of Christ
South Central Conference

United Methodist Church
Louisiana Annual Conference

Church Women United in Louisiana

The Military and Hospitaller Order of
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The Rev. C. Dana Krutz
Executive Director

Samuel Rottman
Bread or Stones Coordinator

Dr. Stephanie Gaskill
Researcher

Lorraine Grout
Administrative Assistant

June 10, 2019

Mr. Richard P. Ieyoub
Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Office of Conservation
P.O. Box 94275 - Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-2975

Office of Conservation

JUN 12 2019

Environmental Division

Dear Commissioner Ieyoub,

The recent release of the Legislative Auditor's report dealing with the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission and their need for greater regulation of water usage from the Southern Hills Aquifer is of concern. The audit makes the following statement:

While the Commission has taken some actions to regulate water usage from the Southern Hills Aquifer (aquifer), the Commission does not effectively regulate water withdrawals from the aquifer to reduce and manage saltwater encroachment and ensure the sustainability of fresh groundwater for the future.
- CAGWCC Legislative Auditor Report Summary

The Louisiana Interchurch Conference has a Commission on Stewardship of the Environment because care for God's creation is a mandate that we take seriously. Over the years we have launched the Ezekiel 34 Initiative for stewardship of Louisiana's natural resources (*Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you muddy the rest with your feet? Ezekiel 34:18*) and our first series of workshops across the state dealt with the protection of our water resources. Stewardship of our clean water is a moral responsibility.

The audit was conducted because, "according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), groundwater withdrawals from the aquifer have resulted in saltwater intrusion. Without effective regulation, saltwater intrusion threatens the long-term sustainability of the aquifer and groundwater resources."

We urge you to respond to the auditor's findings and to implement those actions to be taken in order to protect the Southern Hills Aquifer and all ground and surface waters.

Sincerely,

Rob Gorman

Rob Gorman
Commission Chair,
LIC Public Policy Task Force