

MINUTES

*CAPITAL AREA GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

October 19, 2020

I. Call to Order

The Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission met for a regular meeting at 10:30 a.m. on October 19, 2020 in the Baton Rouge Marriott Ballroom, 5500 Hilton Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Nelson Morvant.

II. Roll Call

The following members were present: William Daniel, Kenneth Dawson, Mark Frey, John Hashagen, Patrick Hobbins, Dennis McGehee, Jesse Means, Nelson Morvant, Joey Normand, Thomas Perkins, Matthew Reonas, "J.A." Rummler, Ryan Scardina, Tom Stephens, Hays Town and Mark Walton. The following members were absent: Ronnie Albritton and Todd Talbot.

Others attending the meeting were: Gary Beard & Shawn Scallan, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District; David Mitchell, The Advocate; J.R. Rigby & Jeannie Barlow, U.S. Geological Survey; Alyssa Dausman, Ryan Clark and Beaux Jones, The Water Institute; Johan Forsman, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals; Hunter Odom & Kyle Marionneaux; Marionneaux Kantrow, LLC; Megan Terrell, Plausche; and Carr; Tyler McCloud & Su King, Louisiana House of Representatives; Andy Brown, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Dr. George Losonsky, Losonsky & Associates, Inc.; Dr. Frank Tsai, Louisiana State University; Doug Carlson, Louisiana Geological Survey; Scott Bergeron; Anthony Duplechin, former CAGWCC Executive Director; Don Lierman, Ethos Energy and John McKowen, CPA.

III. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

There was no public comment. Mr. Normand made a motion to amend the agenda to add commissioner comments as item IX. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Normand made a motion that the minutes of the June 18, 2020, August 12, 2020 and September 2, 2020 be approved. Mr. Walton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Executive Director's Report

At the request of Chairman Morvant, Mr. Gary Beard gave a report on the items below. Following is a summary of items discussed at the meeting.

- Mr. Beard presented the By-Laws and Rules of Order to the Commission for approval. Mr. Town made a motion to amend the By-Laws to meet every other month. Mr. Normand seconded the motion. It failed due to the lack of a vote by the board. Mr. Normand made a motion to approve the By-Laws and Rules of Order and task the Executive Director to form a work group to review them and have a recommendation for amendments at the next meeting. There was no second. Mr. Town made a motion to not adopt the By-Laws and Rules of Order and bring the amended documents to the next board meeting for approval. Mr. Walton seconded the motion. Mr. Normand objected to the motion. Mr. Town made a substitute motion to schedule a working meeting with Commissioners to redline the documents and present the documents at the December meeting for approval. Mr. Hashagen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. John McKowen, CPA, presented the financial audit for fiscal year 2019-2020. Mr. Normand made motion to accept the audit. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. Morvant presented the financial conditions as of September 30, 2020.

- Mr. Normand made the following motion: In accordance with La. R.S. 38:3076(A)(14), any income derived by this Commission from the increase in the pumpage fee charges imposed on groundwater users, including but not limited to the increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per million gallons of water pumped, may be used for general operating costs and expenses, to defray the costs and expenses associated with the preliminary engineering and strategic plan for groundwater sustainability, to cover the costs and expenses for the exploratory wells, saltwater scavenger wells, differential pressure systems, professional services, construction costs, or any systems or projects identified in the preliminary engineering and strategic plan. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. Town made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to approve amendment #2 with Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority for 1,951,890 through fiscal year 2023-2024. Mr. Stephens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. Hashagen made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to approve an extension of the current U.S. Geological Survey agreement for an additional \$318,500 through fiscal year 2023-2024. Mr. Walton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. Normand made a motion to pay Emergent Method an additional \$3,000. Mr. Daniel seconded the motion and it passed.
- Mr. Normand made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute a cooperative endeavor agreement with Mr. Timothy McKey for the Commission's property located at Lot 25, Sq. 8, Capital Heights Subdivision. Mr. Frey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. Walton reviewed the most recent pumping rated from the 1,500-foot/2,000-foot sands to monitor compliance with agreed on reductions.
- Mr. Beard reported that the Legislative Auditor's office granted the Commission an extension on his report to address their findings in the performance audit.
- Mr. Beard reported that he met with Commissioner Richard Ieyoub and has drafted a preliminary response for Act 425.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business.

VII. New Business

- Mr. Morvant opened up the floor for nominations for the Commission's board nominee. Mr. Daniel made a motion to nominate Kodi Guillory. Mr. Town seconded the motion. Mr. Frey made a motion to nominate Doug Carlson. Mr. Hashagen seconded the motion. Mr. Reonas made a motion to nominate Karen Gautreaux. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion. Mr. Hashagen made a motion to nominate Mr. George Lozonsky. Mr. Normand seconded the motion. Mr. Normand made a motion to nominate Charles Demas. Mr. Reonas seconded the motion. Mr. Daniel made a motion to send all nominees to the Governor's office for consideration of board nominee. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. Morvant opened the floor for nominations for officers for Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission for 2021. Mr. Normand made the motion to nominate Mr. William Daniel for Chairman. Mr. Frey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Hashagen made the motion to nominate Mr. Ken Dawson for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Reonas seconded the motion. Mr. Daniel made the motion to nominate Mr. Joey Normand for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Town seconded the motion. Mr. Normand withdrew his name. Mr. Morvant called for a vote for Mr. Dawson for Vice-Chairman. The motion passed

unanimously. Mr. Daniel nominated Mr. Frey for Treasurer. Mr. Normand seconded and it passed unanimously.

VIII. Announcements

Mr. Morvant reminded the board members to complete their ethics and sexual harassment training by December 31, 2020.

IX. Commission Member Comments

Mr. Normand commented that he would like the Executive Director to interview attorneys and make a recommendation to the board. Mr. Daniel stated that an RFQ has been drafted for the hiring of an attorney. He recommended that the board use an RFQ for transparency. Mr. Beard stated that he will issue the RFQ and report back to the board. Mr. Normand asked if the Executive Director was going to hire an additional staff member. Mr. Beard stated yes mainly for verification of meters.

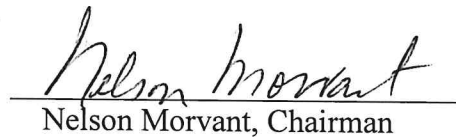
X. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items Only)

There was no public comment.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Frey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Reonas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.


Mark Frey, Treasurer


Nelson Morvant, Chairman