

## *MINUTES*

### *CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

*March 18, 2014*

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The Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission met at 9:30 a.m. on March 18, 2014 in the U.S. Geological Survey conference room at 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Dennis McGehee.

The following members were present: Ronnie Albritton, Trey Argrave, Dale Aucoin, Brian Chustz, Johan Forsman, Barry Huggins, John Jennings, Amelia Kent, Dennis McGehee, Julius Metz, Matthew Reonas, Rosemary Rummler, Dan Tomaszewski and John Westra.

Others attending the meeting were: Shawn Scallan, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District; John Lovelace and Jason Griffith, U.S. Geological Survey; Ryan Simpson, Baton Rouge Area Chamber; Sayi Malineni, Environmental & Energy Professional; Roy Waggenpack, Owen & White; William Fontenot, Sierra Club; Joey Hebert, Georgia-Pacific; Mark Walton, former Commissioner; Don Dial, former Director, and Ron Crum, URS Corporation.

Mr. Aucoin made a motion that the minutes of the December 10, 2013 meeting be approved. Ms. Kent seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **I. Report from the Administrative Committee**

At the request of the Chairman, Dennis McGehee, Ms. Amelia Kent reported on the meeting that was held March 18, 2014 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 at 9:30 a.m.

1. Copies of the Financial Conditions as of February 28, 2014 were distributed for review and comment. Ms. Kent noted that the Commission has a certificate of deposit that will mature on, May 12, 2014 in the amount of \$42,502. Ms. Kent stated that the District staff has authorization to renew cds up to 3 years.

2. Copies of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 were distributed for review. The budget will be approved at the June 2014 meeting.

3. Ms. Kent reported that the District staff along with Chairman Dennis McGehee met with Clay Fourrier with Dovetail Studio to discuss the Commission's website. It was recommended that the Commission's logo be revised along with updating and expanding the website. The board will have an opportunity to review the website before it is available to the public. Mr. Forsman asked who determines the website content. Ms. Kent stated that the process started with the staff and the Chairman. Mr. McGehee added that during the meeting with Mr. Fourrier websites that the Commission liked were shown to him along with formatting styles. Some ideas that were discussed for the website were adding pictures for each parish on the home page, being more detailed on the permitting of wells, bios, pictures and contact information for the Board members, and pumpage data. Mr. McGehee stated that the members will have the opportunity to give feedback on the new website. He reported that Dovetail Studio currently does the ongoing management of the site and that Mr. Fourrier indicated that the changes would be approximately \$500 to \$1,000. Mr. Forsman stated that he is interested in

seeing historical data, visual displays of data, maps and pumpage reports on the site. He recommended that the website show the Commission's five parish water well pumping locations with historical data. Mr. Tomaszewski stated that he wasn't sure that some of the well locations and data could be published on the site. Mr. McGehee stated that some of this well information was taken off of particular websites due to Homeland Security issues. It was suggested by Mr. Aucoin that the locations shown be more generalized. Mr. Forsman added that the site needs to show the reductions in pumping to high light the positive actions that the Commission is taking to reduce saltwater encroachment. Mr. Hebert stated that the website should include the Commission's history over their decades of existence and steps they have taken with groundwater such as arresting water level drawdowns and currently their new pumping guidelines with saltwater issues.

Mr. William Fontenot asked if there was any information available concerning water transported out of the five parish area. Mr. Lovelace stated that the U.S. Geological Survey does look at this information for their water use report and the information is available to the public. He reported that there is ground water being transported from East Baton Rouge Parish to Ascension Parish.

4. Ms. Kent reported that the Administrative Committee discussed the quorum for meetings. She stated that in 1982 a resolution was passed to change the quorum to five Board members. Mr. Jennings made a motion that the Board set a quorum of half plus one for Board meetings. Mr. Aucoin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Ms. Kent reported that Director Anthony Duplechin was unable to attend the meeting because he had to go to the State Capitol to testify on HB 793 which changes the membership of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission and cleans up some language in the Commission's Enabling Act.

6. Ms. Kent reported that the paperwork needed for the postemployment trust fund has been approved by the Attorney General's office. The paperwork was sent to Mr. Robert Schmidt, Adams & Reese, in December 2013. The staff is presently waiting on feedback from Mr. Schmidt.

7. Ms. Kent reminded the Board members that form 417 for the Louisiana Ethics Board needs to be completed by May 15, 2014.

### **III. Report from the Technical Committee**

At the request of Mr. McGehee, the report of the Technical Committee was made by Committee Chairman, John Jennings, and minutes of the meetings were distributed (attached). Following is a summary of topics discussed at meetings on March 11, 2014 further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting on March 18, 2014.

1. Jason Griffith gave a brief update on the Baton Rouge models, stating that final approval has been received to publish the scientific investigation report for the “2,000-foot sand” solute and groundwater flow and “1,500-foot sand” flow model. They have completed compiling the archive, which contains everything needed for anyone to run the model. Recent work is focused on development of the “1,200-foot” model, the model framework has been completed, and historic water level data has been updated, as well as withdrawal data through 2012. Calibration of the MODFLOW model has begun. Preliminary work on the solute transport model for the “1,200-foot” sand has begun as well.

Mr. Griffith reported that work on the “1,200-foot” sand should be completed by September. He also reported that work has been done to model some real world proposed wells south of the I-10/110 split.

2. Mr. Jennings recognized the work that outgoing Commissioners Mark Walton and Joey Hebert have done as members of the Ad-Hoc Group. Mr. Walton gave report on the work that the group has been doing, stating that the group has been looking for a location for a potential observation well in the “2,000-foot sand”. A cost estimate from Layne for the well has been received - \$150 – \$250 thousand, depending on the ultimate completion of the well. The group is also looking at the possibility of installing a scavenger well in the “2,000-foot sand.”

Mr. Reonas asked if it would be possible that a written progress report be prepared prior to the technical meeting, making a motion that such a report showing progress towards completion and a deadline for a final report. It was agreed that the ad-hoc group would prepare a progress report to be presented at future technical committee meetings.

Mr. Hebert explained how the ad-hoc group was organized, explaining that they were waiting to see results from Baton Rouge Water Company’s scavenger well in the “1,500-foot” sand. He also stated that the ad-hoc group is reviewing several options for addressing remediation of saltwater encroachment in the “2,000-foot” sand. The group hopes to have something in place by 2017. Mr. Walton added that the group is preparing a management plan, but is not ready to release it.

3. Mr. Walton presented a recap of pumping rates from the “2,000-foot” and “1,500-foot” sands to monitor compliance with agreed on reductions. He reported that pumpage was within limits.

4. General Honoré expressed his views and concerns on the future of water. He became interested in water following the Bayou Corne incident. He feels that Louisiana needs to look at the laws concerning water, and that the regulation of water that is in DNR currently needs to be moved into a separate agency answering directly to the Governor. He has approached

Legislators about introducing legislation calling for limits on industry's use of (ground) water and move to the river. He wants industry to work with the Green Army.

5. Mr. Duplechin updated the Committee on HB 793, which would replace one representative of public supply with a representation from EBR Department of Public Works. He stated that he and Chairman McGehee would meet with EBR DPW on March 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the bill.

### **III. Director's Report**

In Mr. Duplechin's absence, Dennis McGehee reported for the Director. Mr. Duplechin coordinated the GMDA conference that was held in Biloxi in January 2014. Mr. Duplechin thanked Roy Waggenspack and Randy Hollis, Owen & White; Matt Reonas, Terry Tharp & Patrick Courreges, LA DNR; and LA DEQ for giving presentations at the conference.

Mr. Duplechin along with Dan Tomaszewski met with DNR to further discuss saltwater encroachment in Baton Rouge. The Director also has coordinated meetings for the ad-hoc group along with site visits to possible well locations for a scavenger well.

Recently, Mr. Duplechin recorded a radio show for LBI on Talk 107.3. The segment aired on March 8, 2014. A link to the podcast will be added to the website when it becomes available.

### **IV. Chairman's Report**

Mr. McGehee reported that he along with the Director met with William Daniel, East Baton Rouge, Department of Public Works, to discuss HB 793. Mr. Daniel stated that it was not his office's intent to remove a public supply member to the board. East Baton Rouge wanted to add a representative to the Commission from East Baton Rouge, Department of Public Works. The bill had already been submitted; therefore, it was agreed that an amendment will have to be made to the bill by the author, Representative Karen St. Germain. (Mr. Matt Reonas reported that he just received notification that HB 793 had been worked out to keep the public supply representative and add a representative from East Baton Rouge, Department of Public Works to the Commission.)

Mr. McGehee reported that the U.S. Geological Survey has announced the publication of its completed report on the 1500- and 2000-foot aquifer models in the Baton Rouge area. This report supersedes USGS Open-File Report 2013-1153. Mr. McGehee thanked John Lovelace, Chuck Heywood and Jason Griffith for all the hard work with the report.

Mr. McGehee thanked all of the Commissioners for serving the District. He stated that there is more activity within the District and realizes that Board members are spending more of their personal time than ever before. The Chairman stated that the Commission's task is to use the technical tools available to determine the real risks to ground water in the five-parish area. Then the Commission would need to develop the most practical solutions and follow through with step by step actions for remediation.

Mr. Aucoin asked once the ad-hoc group is near completion of the management plan for the Baton Rouge aquifers will the group send a draft to all Commissioners or hold a special meeting for review purposes. Mr. Matt Reonas suggested that the draft of the plan be sent out for review and then call a special technical committee meeting prior to the next June technical meeting. Mr. Walton stated that the draft of the management plan is close to being completed. There are just a few technical details that need to be ironed out between the Commission and the USGS.

Mr. Hebert summarized the plan for the Board. He stated that it is a description of how the Commission goes about investigating and then determining what is the best remedial option for the various sands. The plan lays out a timeline similar to U.S. Geological Survey's original proposal for the modeling of the ten different sands. It informs the public how the Commission is attacking the problem in the long term. The plan intends to be flexible. If needed in the future, the plan can be modified.

Mr. McGehee decided that there will be a special technical committee meeting to discuss the plan in approximately a month. A draft of the document will be emailed prior to the meeting in pdf format to the Board members.

#### **V. Other Business**

Don Dial asked if Baton Rouge Water Company's scavenger well is currently in operation. Mr. McGehee stated that the well is in operation but only in a testing phase. He reported that the well is being pumping into waste until they receive approval from LA DHH to pump the production well to the distribution system. He stated that the next step is to increase the scavenger well production. Mr. Chustz asked what the chloride levels have been in the scavenger well. Mr. McGehee stated in the range of 1,050 to 1,150. He stated that the levels were lower than expected. He also reported that the water company did see a decrease in the chlorides at Progress Park. Mr. McGehee reported that they speculate the chlorides are lower because the water company had decreased pumpage at Lula Street about two and half years ago.

Mr. Tomaszewski stated that the Commission is going to rely somewhat on the data from the scavenger well in the "1,500-foot" sand in future designs. Mr. Tomaszewski asked if the Commission has made any plans with attaining this information from Baton Rouge Water

Company. Mr. McGehee stated that there is no formal plan, but the water company is currently sharing data with the Commission and the USGS.

Mr. Jason Griffith, USGS, stated that the report, "*Simulation of Groundwater Flow in the "1,500-Foot" Sand and "2,000-Foot" Sand, with Scenarios to Mitigate Saltwater Migration in the "2,000-Foot" Sand of the Baton Rouge Area, Louisiana*", had been published. Mr. Griffith thanked the cooperative agencies, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and East Baton Rouge City-Parish. Mr. Griffith personally thanked the following people: Don Dial, Anthony Duplechin, Shawn Scallan, Mark Walton, Joey Hebert, Dale Aucoin, Dan Tomaszewski, Frank Tsai, and Dennis McGehee. Mr. Griffith also thanked the Louisiana Department of Conservation and Owen & White. Mr. Griffith urged the Board members to download the report and forward any questions or comments to the USGS. Hard copies will be available soon.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

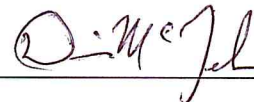
There was no public comment.

#### **VII. Next Meeting**

The Chairman reported that the next regular Commission meeting of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission will be scheduled on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the U.S. Geological Survey conference room. The next Technical Committee meeting will be Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the U.S. Geological Survey conference room.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Commission, Ms. Kent made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Jennings seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.



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Dennis McGehee, Chairman



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Amelia Kent, Treasurer