

*MINUTES*

***CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION***

*September 17, 2013*

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The Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission met at 9:30 a.m. on September 17, 2013 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. Joey Hebert.

The following members were present: John Adams, Trey Argrave, Dale Aucoin, John Cadenhead, Brian Chustz, Johan Forsman, Joey Hebert, Barry Huggins, Amelia Kent, Dennis McGehee, Julius Metz, Rosemary Rummler, Mark Walton and Dr. John Westra.

Others attending the meeting were: Tony Duplechin and Shawn Scallan, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District; John Lovelace, Jason Griffith and Dennis Demcheck, U.S. Geological Survey; Henry Graham, Louisiana Chemical Association; Matthew Reonas, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; Ryan Simpson, Baton Rouge Area Chamber; Sayi Malineni, Environmental & Energy Professional; Don Dial, former Director; Randy Hollis, Owen & White; and Dan Tomaszewski, retired USGS.

Ms. Kent made a motion that the minutes of the June 18, 2013 meeting be approved. Mr. Walton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**I. Establishment of Time Limit for Public Input**

Mr. Walton stated that the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission needs to establish a time limit for public input prior to the vote on an agenda item at their meetings. Mr. Walton made the following motion: When the chair opens the meeting to allow public comment specific to an agenda item, each member of the public that makes comment on the agenda item may speak for three minutes. If, at the end of three minutes, the speaker has not concluded, the speaker may request additional time from the chair, and the chair, at its discretion, may deny or grant a period of time not to exceed an additional three minutes. Mr. Huggins seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

**II. Report from the Administrative Committee**

At the request of the Chairman, Joey Hebert, Mr. Dennis McGehee reported on the meeting that was held September 17, 2013 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 August 31, 2013 were distributed for review and comment. Mr. McGehee noted that the Commission has a certificate of deposit that matured on November 10, 2013 in the amount of \$48,166.

2. Mr. McGehee reported that Joey Hebert presented a proposal from DNR to the Administrative Committee. This proposal would assist the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission with their communications strategy. It would evaluate current and past communications, public relations and/or outreach efforts of the Commission. DNR would charge a fee of \$4,400 for this service. Mr. McGehee tabled this proposal for further review

stating that the fee would need to be evaluated along with whether or not this service is needed by the Commission.

3. Mr. McGehee stated that Mr. Mark Walton's term as board nominee for the Commission will expire on December 1, 2013. The Administrative Committee recommended Mr. Dan Tomaszewski as the board nominee. Mr. Tomaszewski is retired from the U.S. Geological Survey. There being no further nominations from the board, Mr. Tomaszewski was accepted unanimously as board nominee.

4. Mr. McGehee reported that all necessary steps for the pumpage fee increase have been completed. The increase went into effect April 1, 2013. The new rate is \$5.00 per million gallons. All users have complied.

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

At the request of Mr. Hebert, the report of the Technical Committee was made by Director, Anthony Duplechin, and minutes of the meetings were distributed (attached). Following is a summary of topics discussed at meetings on August 6, 2013 and September 10, 2013 and further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting on September 17, 2013.

#### **A. Technical Committee Meeting – August 6, 2013**

1. Jason Griffith, USGS, gave a report on the open-file report released on the Baton Rouge model, "Simulation of Ground-Water Flow in the "1,500-foot" and "2,000-foot" Sands and Movement of Saltwater in the "2,000-foot" Sand of the Baton Rouge Area".

2. Mark Walton presented pumping rates from the "1,500-foot" and "2,000-foot" aquifers to monitor compliance with agreed on reductions and/or commitments. Mr. Walton then discussed needed revisions of pumping limits on the "2,000-foot" sand. Mr. Walton made a motion to revise the "Summary Plan for the Management of Salt Water Migration in the "1,500-Foot" and "2,000-Foot" Sands of the Baton Rouge Aquifer System" from 15.50 mgd to 15.25 mgd in the industrial zone. Mr. Huggins seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Mr. Hebert addressed the development of a remedial plan for the "2,000-foot" sand. He recommended that an ad-hoc group be formed to investigate the development of a plan and report back to the Technical Committee. The following members were assigned to the group: Joey Hebert, Mark Walton, Dennis McGehee, Dale Aucoin and Anthony Duplechin.

4. Director Duplechin discussed the need to establish a standard practice for aquifer management by the District. Commissioners Joey Hebert and Mark Walton will assist in this endeavor.

#### **B. Technical Committee Meeting – September 10, 2013**



1. John Lovelace gave an update on the Baton Rouge model report, explaining how the model was developed, the scenarios presented in the report and some of the findings in the report. Jason Griffith, USGS, presented a progress report on the model, "Simulation of Ground-Water Flow of Saltwater in the Baton Rouge Area (Current phase: "1,200-foot" sand). Mr. Griffith reported the following: formulated additional hypothetical scenario that simulates a combination of a scavenger well field at the location simulated in scenario 3b with reductions in withdrawals at the industrial district; updated historic, observed water-level data set to include measurements through calendar year 2011; more accurately simulated water levels within the "2,400-foot" sand; recalibrated ground water flow model; recalibrated the solute transport model; simulated all six hypothetical scenarios using the revised model configuration; revised and updated OFR report with results of new model calibration and hypothetical scenarios; constructed new model grid for the forthcoming simulation of the "1,200-foot" sand; and continued work to split the "1,000-foot" sand and "1,200-foot sand framework layer in order to simulate groundwater condition in the "1,200-foot" sand. Mr. Griffith reported that the plans for next quarter include completing the work to split the "1,000-foot" and "1,200-foot" sand layer; completing colleague, groundwater specialist and approving official reviews for the Scientific Investigation Report (SIR); publishing SIR; compiling and adding recent model input data; and beginning calibration of the "1,200-foot" sand model. Commissioner Dale Aucoin questioned Mr. Griffith as to when the "1,200-foot" sand model will be completed. Mr. Griffith stated that they are still a few months away from completion. Mr. Lovelace stated that the model of the "1,200-foot" sand will probably be available in early 2014. Mr. Hebert stated that the Commission moved the modeling of the "1,200-foot" sand to next and then the modeling of the "2,800-foot" sand to follow. Mr. Aucoin stated that the reason for this is that some industries are considering pumping from the "1,200-foot" sand rather than the "2,000-foot" sand. Mr. Aucoin stated that some industries are waiting on the information from the "1,200-foot" sand model in order to make a decision on which action to take. Mr. Walton added that there is a concern about availability from the "1,200-foot" sand. Mr. Aucoin questioned the Commission to the date of possible further reductions in pumpage for the "2,000-foot" sand if the model shows that it is required. Mr. Walton stated that the time limit is early 2015. Mr. Aucoin stated that if this reduction is required that the industrial plants in the area would like to have the "1,200-foot" model completed by 2014 so that they can plan accordingly. Mr. Walton stated that he is hoping that another reduction will not be needed. This decision will be made later as more information becomes available. Mr. Forsman questioned Mr. Griffith about whether or not this model could be used by an interested party to run their own scenarios. Mr. Griffith stated yes but those parties would have to be well educated in how to run a model and that it would be very time consuming.

2. Mark Walton gave a report on the work that the ad-hoc group had been doing since the August 6<sup>th</sup> technical meeting. He asked Dr. Frank Tsai of LSU to present some of the

saltwater movement simulations that he did in his model. The salt-water plume in Dr. Tsai's work was located a little further to the west of the plume in the USGS work. He also discussed the need for more monitor wells in the area.

Mr. Walton reported that scenario 3b in the USGS model report reduces the footprint of the saltwater plume and would be viable for the long term. Scenario 3b would install a scavenger well north of LSU and west of I-10 producing 2 mgd. It would reduce the salt in the "2,000-foot" sand and allow the beneficial use of the resource. Mr. Aucoin added that there are no monitoring wells in this area to help determine the progress of the proposed scavenger well. Mr. Aucoin stated that there are some discrepancies between the two models, Dr. Frank Tsai and the USGS, concerning the path of the plume in the "2,000-foot" sand. He stated that some thought will need to be given as to whether or not monitoring wells need to be installed in the area. Mr. Hebert stated that the ad-hoc group has reached out to different entities for input in planning for the "2,000-foot" sand. Mr. Aucoin reported that there will be another industrial user meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> to gather their input for planning purposes.

3. Mark Walton presented pumping rates from the "1,500-foot" and "2,000-foot" aquifers to monitor compliance. A spreadsheet was handed out showing water well pumpage for the "1,500-foot" and "2,000-foot" sands through the second quarter, 2013. The pumpage totals for both sands are running below the allowed limit. Dr. Westra asked what is the pumping limit for East Baton Rouge parish for the "2,000-foot" sand. Mr. Walton stated that the pumping limit for East Baton Rouge Parish will be 23.5 MGD for the end of 2014. He reported that the reason for this limit is for the availability of a possible scavenger well.

4. Mr. McGehee gave an update on the status of Baton Rouge Water Company's scavenger well. He reported that the scavenger well has been completed. The well will be test pumped for the next few weeks. The rig will be removed soon, and the site will be turned over to the water company. He stated that the upper well will pump into the water company's distribution system and the lower well will pump into the Mississippi River. A transmission line is being completed for the distribution of the saltwater. Once the well comes online, Mr. McGehee stated that they will be paying close attention to water and chloride levels at the Progress Park observation well. This well is located between the scavenger well site and the Lula pumping station. Mr. McGehee stated that they hope to eventually see a decrease in chloride levels in the Progress Park well. Mr. McGehee stated that he hopes that the chloride concentrations will range from 1000 to 2000 which will indicate that the well is functioning properly. Mr. Hebert complimented the water company on their work.

#### **IV. Director's Report**



The Director reported that the Commission received a signed copy from East Baton Rouge Parish of the cooperative contract for the USGS project, "Development & Maintenance of a Computer Model to Simulate Groundwater Flow and Saltwater Encroachment in the Baton Rouge Sands, Louisiana". EBR share of the total funding for this project is \$310,500. East Baton Rouge also paid their share of the funding for the time period, October 2012 through September 2013.

Mr. Duplechin was asked to write an article for the Louisiana Civil Engineer journal. The article was titled, "Taking a Logical Approach to Addressing Saltwater Intrusion in Baton Rouge". The Director was also asked to write an article for The Louisiana Ground Water Association.

Mr. Duplechin reported that he will be participating in the Lincoln, Union and Bienville Parish Water Fests in the first two weeks of October. It focuses on educating fifth graders in the parish on ground water issues.

Mr. Hebert asked on an update for the Commission's Enabling Act. Mr. Duplechin stated that he along with Megan Terrell intend to have the Enabling Act cleaned up during the 2014 legislative session.

Mr. Hebert commended Mr. Duplechin on his participation with the Ground Water Management District's Association (GMDA). Mr. Duplechin reported that as Vice President of the GMDA, one of his duties is to put together the GMDA conference which will be held in Biloxi in January 2014. Mr. Duplechin has contacted some speakers to give presentations at the conference. Some of those being Matt Reonas & Terry Thorpe, LA DNR, and Randy Hollis, Owen & White.

#### **V. Chairman's Report**

Mr. Hebert called upon Mark Walton to report on the Nominating Committee for 2014 officers. The Committee recommended Mr. Dennis McGehee for the office of Chairman; Mr. Dale Aucoin for the office of Vice-Chairman; and Ms. Amelia Kent for the office of Treasurer. There being no further nominees from the floor, Mr. Hebert made a motion to accept the nominees. Mr. Walton seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Hebert stated that the staff will be sending out nomination letters for all Board members that terms expire December 1, 2013.

#### **VI. Other Business**

Mr. Duplechin reported that Dr. Frank Tsai has requested funding from the Commission for his project, "Unconventional Hydraulic Control for Deep-Aquifer Saltwater Intrusion

Mitigation Plan". Dr. Tsai was unable to attend the meeting so the Commission decided to invite Dr. Tsai to give a presentation on his project to the technical committee in December.

Mr. Duplechin reported that he received an email from the Louisiana Office of Conservation with an attached a proposed scope of services for the design phase of a statewide water management plan, along with a questionnaire asking for comments and input on the proposed scope. Mr. Duplechin stated that he received this email because is a member of the Water Management Task Force representing the Commission. Mr. Duplechin requested input from the board members in completing the questionnaire.


Mr. Matt Reonas, DNR, explained that the scope of services and questionnaire were aimed at the development of a long-term planning document that can interface with the coastal master plan released last year by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA).

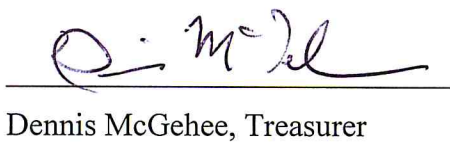
#### **VII. Next Meeting**

The Chairman reported that the next regular Commission meeting of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission will be scheduled on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the U.S. Geological Survey conference room. The next Technical Committee meeting will be Tuesday, December 2, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the U.S. Geological Survey conference room.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

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

  
Joey Hebert, Chairman

  
Dennis McGehee, Treasurer