

MINUTES

*CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

June 18, 2013

The Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission met at 9:30 a.m. on June 18, 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: Trey Argrave, Dale Aucoin, Brian Chustz, Johan Forsman, Joey Hebert, Barry Huggins, John Jennings, Amelia Kent, Dennis McGehee, Julius Metz, Mark Walton and Dr. John Westra.

Others attending the meeting were: Tony Duplechin and Shawn Scallan, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District; Jason Griffith and Paul Ensminger, U.S. Geological Survey; Megan Terrell, Louisiana Office of the Attorney General; Amy Wold, The Advocate; Henry Graham, Louisiana Chemical Association; Matthew Reonas, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; Ryan Simpson, Baton Rouge Area Chamber; Sayi Malineni, Environmental & Energy Professional, and Luci Silva, Brown and Caldwell.

Mr. Jennings made a motion that the minutes of the March 19, 2013 meeting be approved. Mr. Walton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

I. Report from the Administrative Committee

At the request of the Chairman, Joey Hebert, Mr. Dennis McGehee reported on the meeting that was held June 18, 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 May 31, 2013 were distributed for review and comment. Mr. McGehee noted that the Commission has a certificate of deposit that matured on June 18, 2013 in the amount of \$62,445. Mr. McGehee reported that \$20,000 will be transferred from this certificate of deposit into the Commission's savings account. The remainder of the cd will be renewed. Mr. McGehee reported that the Commission had budgeted \$118,000 for the current fiscal year for USGS modeling. This amount was to close out the modeling project, "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". The Commission paid an invoice in June of \$57,500 for the current modeling project, "Development & Maintenance of a Computer Model to Simulate Groundwater Flow and Saltwater Encroachment in the Baton Rouge Sands, Louisiana". This put the expenses for USGS modeling at \$175,500.

2. Copies of the budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 were distributed. Mr. Walton made a motion to amend the budget and increase the item, USGS modeling study, from \$118,000 to \$175,500 to cover the expenses for the new project. Ms. Kent seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Copies of the budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 were distributed. Mr. McGehee reported that this budget currently has \$85,000 for the USGS modeling study. The actual cost for this fiscal year is \$114,200. Mr. Walton made a motion to amend the budget for fiscal year

2013-2014 for USGS modeling to \$114,200. Ms. Kent seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Mr. McGehee reported that all necessary steps for the pumpage fee increase have been completed. The pumpage fee increase was published as a rule in the March 20, 2013 Louisiana Register. The increase will go into effect April 1, 2013. The new rate will be \$5.00 per million gallons.

II. Report from the Technical Committee

At the request of Mr. Hebert, the report of the Technical Committee was made by Committee Chairman, John Jennings, and minutes of the meeting were distributed (attached). Following is a summary of topics discussed at the meeting on June 11, 2013 and further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting on June 18, 2013.

1. Dr. Jeff Hanor, LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics, gave a presentation on "The Baton Rouge Aquifer System: Stratigraphic Architecture and Sources of Saline Contamination". He explained how the aquifers were created and possible sources of the saltwater, indicating that the most likely source is the salt domes south of Baton Rouge. Mr. Hebert stated that he thought Dr. Hanor stated that his presentation is available online. Mr. Griffith added that many of the assumptions made by the USGS for the project are a result of Dr. Hanor's work. Director Duplechin stated he will email the link to the Commissioners along with adding the link on the Commission's website for Dr. Hanor's presentation.

2. Jason Griffith, USGS, gave a short progress report 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". Mr. Griffith reported that they have received the review from the regional groundwater specialist. Mr. Griffith stated that there were very few comments that will need to be addressed. These issues will be addressed in the editorial review. Mr. Griffith estimated that the report will be submitted for publication in 3-5 weeks. Mr. Griffith stated that the Director should receive a draft of the report within a few days. Mr. Griffith cautioned the Commission that this is still a preliminary copy of the report which is subject to revision. The Director stated that he will forward the preliminary copy to the Commissioners. Mr. Griffith requested that the report not be released to anyone outside of the Commission.

Mr. Hebert stated that the strategy is to get the base model published with some additional scenarios. Mr. Hebert stated that the Commission is waiting on the outcome of these scenarios to see if the Commission's management plan for the "2,000-foot" sand needs to be modified. Mr. Hebert questioned Mr. Griffith on the timeframe expected for these scenarios. Mr. Griffith stated that the information in the current model is the 2007-2047 simulation with the 2007 pumpage rates extended through the 40 years. There will also be a 2047 scenario where the pumpage in the industrial district will be reduced by 3.6 mgd. Another scenario will show where

the withdrawals in the industrial district will be reduced to zero. Last, there will be a scenario where withdrawals will be reduced from the “1,500-foot” sand “1,700-foot” sands. Mr. Griffith stated that the USGS is prepared to do additional scenarios in the next project. He commented that the next primary issue to address is the effects of increasing withdrawals from the “1,200-foot” sand in an effort to move some of the withdrawals from the “2,000-foot” sand to the “1,200-foot” sand. Mr. Griffith stated that the USGS can do the percent reductions that Mr. Hebert is inquiring about in approximately a year. Mr. Hebert stated that the power of this model will enable the Commission to use different scenarios to help with the management plan. It will help the Commission predict what changes in pumpage strategy will do to water levels and saltwater movement.

Mr. Aucoin questioned Mr. Griffith when he would have enough information on the “1,200-foot” sand to give a report. Mr. Griffith stated that he should have some preliminary results by November.

Mr. McGehee reported that the property for Baton Rouge Water Company’s scavenger well has been purchased. He stated that drilling began last week.

3. The Technical Committee discussed the most recent pumping rates from the “1,500/2,000-foot” sands to monitor compliance with agreed on reductions and/or commitments. The Director explained that users have until the end of the first month after the quarter they are reporting to submit pumpage reports and that some users are chronically late in submitting their data. Mr. Hebert stated that even though all the data isn’t gathered that the committee would still like to see the report.

III. Director’s Report

Mr. Duplechin reported that he was asked by the Sparta Commission to participate in the Webster Parish Water Fest. It focused on educating fifth graders in the parish on ground water issues.

Mr. Duplechin gave a presentation to the Louisiana Ground Water Association and attended a ground water symposium at LSU. He also attended the spring conference of the Ground Water Management District’s Association (GMDA) in Colorado Springs. The Director stated that GMDA will be hosting a conference in Biloxi in January 2014. He stated that he will be contacting some of the Commissioners who may be interested in giving presentations on ground water projects.

Mr. Duplechin submitted the Commission’s report to the legislature so that the Commission would be in compliance with Act 790. The report mainly focused on how much

ground water was pumped. Many things in Act 790 did not apply to the Commission. Mr. Duplechin reported that he attended a Senate Natural Resources Committee meeting on Senate Bill 203 by Senator Claitor. This bill provided for certain ground water restrictions over the next four years. The bill was deferred and never came up again. Mr. Duplechin stated that he was unable to attend any meetings for Senate Bill 160 by Senator Dorsey-Colomb. The bill was signed into law as Act 177 on June 1st. It required that any provision of law applicable to a ground water conservation district located in a parish with population in excess of 400,000 people, the term "director of the department of public works" means the director of the municipal department of public works for the municipality located in the district with the greatest population. Mr. Duplechin stated that when the Commission was originally formed the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) was referred to as the Department of Public Works. Over the years parts of the Commission's statute were corrected to state DOTD and others were not. So now the parts that were not corrected to state, DOTD, will state the director of the municipal department of public works for the municipality located in the district with the greatest population which is the East Baton Rouge Department of Public Works. Also, the Director stated in looking at other statutes, he came across a bill that changed the Department of Public Works to the office of engineering for DOTD. Mr. Duplechin stated that next year a bill will need to be introduced to clean up the Commission's Enabling Act.

Mr. Duplechin reported that he received a copy Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39 which authorizes and provides for a comprehensive study and evaluation of Louisiana Levee and Water Resource Boards.

Mr. Duplechin stated that he received a call from J.W. Riley with a request from Senator Claitor for the Commission's report. This report is from a resolution introduced by Senator Claitor to have the Commission report on certain things. After looking into the resolution, Mr. Duplechin stated that the resolution was never passed.

The Director reported that he is still trying to get East Baton Rouge Parish to sign 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. EBR Metro Council approved the project at their meeting on February 13, 2013.

IV. Chairman's Report

Mr. Hebert appointed the Nominating Committee for the 2014 officers. The committee will be Brian Chustz, Amelia Kent and Mark Walton. The committee will present their nominations at the September meeting.

V. Other Business

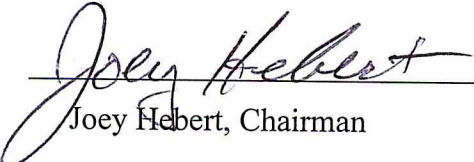
Mr. Hebert reported on the Louisiana State Water Resources Commission meeting. A presentation was made to the Commission concerning water rights. Mr. Hebert also gave the State Commission an update on what the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission was doing concerning saltwater encroachment issues in Baton Rouge. The State Commission's message to the Board was that they are very interested in the Board moving in a timely manner to resolve the issue.

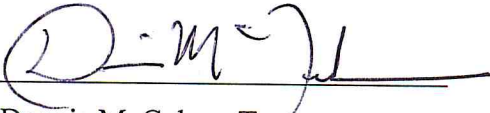
VI. Next Meeting

The Chairman reported that the next regular Commission meeting of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission will be scheduled on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the U.S. Geological Survey conference room. The next Technical Committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the U.S. Geological Survey conference room.

VII. Adjournment

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


Joey Hebert, Chairman


Dennis McGehee, Treasurer