

MINUTES

CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 13, 2016

The Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission met at 9:30 a.m. on December 13, 2016 in the U.S. Geological Survey's auditorium at 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 120, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Barry Hughhins.

The following members were present: Trey Argrave, Dale Aucoin, Barry Hughhins, Amelia Kent, Jeff Miller, Nelson Morvant, Matthew Reonas, Thomas Stephens, Dan Tomaszewski, and John Westra.

Others attending the meeting were: Anthony Duplechin and Shawn Scallan, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District; Todd Talbot, ExxonMobil; Roy Waggenspack, Owen & White Engineers; John Lovelace, U.S. Geological Survey; Harry Vorhoff, Louisiana Attorney General's Office; Sayi Malineni, retired engineer; and Mark Walton, former Commissioner.

Mr. Morvant made a motion that the minutes of the September 20, 2016 meeting be approved. Mr. Aucoin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

I. Report from the Administrative Committee

At the request of the Chairman, Barry Hughhins, Dr. Westra reported on the meeting that was held December 13, 2016 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 December 13, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

1. Mr. Bill Gaines, CPA, gave a brief presentation to the Administrative Committee on the Commission's financial statements as of fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The Commissioners were given copies of the Compilation and Attestation report for their review.

2. Copies of the Financial Conditions as of November 30, 2016 were distributed for review and comment. Dr. Westra stated that the staff will be transferring \$100,000 from the Commission's checking to the savings account. The staff will renew the certificate of deposit that matures on December 30, 2016 for a 13 month period.

3. Dr. Westra stated the Commission presently has a resolution dated April 17, 1990 that states, "If a Commissioner misses (unexcused absences) 3 consecutive regular meetings, the Commission will ask the nominating authority to replace the Commissioner with an active member." Ms. Kent made a motion to amend this resolution to state, "If a Commissioner misses 3 consecutive regular meetings, the District Director will notify the Governor's office and will ask the nominating authority to replace the Commissioner."

Mr. Reonas asked for a list of Commissioners who have missed 3 consecutive regular meetings. Ms. Scallan reported that the following members have missed 3 consecutive meetings: Rosemary Rummmler who represents Pointe Coupee Parish, Julius Metz who represents West Feliciana Parish, and Russell Hicks who represents East Feliciana Parish. Ms. Scallan reported

that Mr. Hicks has resigned from the board but has yet to be replaced. She also stated that Pointe Coupee Parish just recently sent in a nomination to replace Ms. Rummler. Mr. Huggins stated that the reason behind this resolution is to try to get members who want to serve on the Commission. He also stated that the prior resolution has the words “unexcused absences”; however, the board has no definition of unexcused absence. Dr. Westra stated that the reason behind this amendment is that if a person is appointed by an entity to serve on the board and they rarely are in attendance, then you are not properly representing that entity. Ms. Kent added that 3 consecutive meetings is a time period of 9 months. Mr. Reonas questioned the board if they would like to add a definition for unexcused absence. Mr. Stephens stated that the concern is that the board meets on a quarterly basis and if a member cannot make one meeting in 9 months then that person is truly not capable of serving. Mr. Tomaszewski asked if those members could be motivated to attend meetings with possibly a letter from the Director. Mr. Huggins stated that he feels that there must be consequences for Commissioners who do not attend meetings on a regular basis and thought that notifications sent to those Commissioners will more than likely not encourage them to attend. Mr. Stephens then seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Reonas suggested that if a Commissioner has missed two consecutive meetings that the District staff notifies that Commissioner if he misses one more meeting that the staff will alert the Governor’s office and seek another nomination for his seat.

4. Ms. Kent stated that she is required to complete ethics training for a board that she is currently on. She found it surprising that the CAGWCC members were not required to complete this training. The Director stated that he will ask Mr. Vorhoff, Attorney General’s office, to look into this for the Commission. (Mr. Vorhoff sent an email on December 13, 2016 stating that he advises that all commissioners to complete 1 hour of ethics education per year, as required for all public servants under La. R.S. 42:1170(A)(3). Under La. R.S. 42:1102, a public servant includes a public employee, which includes an uncompensated appointee of an elected official. I have not found any exceptions that the CAGWCC would fall under. Commissioners were then informed of this requirement by email on December 14, 2016.)

II. Report from the Technical Committee

The report of the Technical Committee was made by Dale Aucoin. Minutes of the meeting were distributed (attached). Following is a summary of topics discussed at the meeting on December 6, 2016 further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting on December 16, 2016.

1. John Lovelace gave a report on the progress report on USGS’ Baton Rouge Area groundwater model. The objective is to develop a computer model that can be used as a tool to simulate past, current, and possible future conditions in Baton Rouge area sands.

a. **PROGRESS AND SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS:**

i. A hydrogeologic-framework depiction tool that illustrates aquifer and confining-unit thicknesses at arbitrary locations within the model domain is available through internal USGS access at the website:

water.usgs.gov/uo/internal_htmls/batonrouge/.

Vertical hydrogeologic cross sections between two or more specified locations can also be viewed. The web site currently is only available internally to the USGS and will require review and approval before it can be released to the public.

- ii. Potentiometric maps of the “400-foot” sand and upland terrace aquifer from 2009 and 2014 were enhanced and extended using water-level data from the Mississippi River alluvial aquifer and other near-surface aquifers to create water-level surfaces that encompass the entire model area.
- iii. The historic chloride concentrations measured at observation wells screened within the “1,500-foot,” “2,400-foot,” and “2,800-foot” sands were used for preliminary calibration of solute-concentration boundary conditions and the effective porosities and dispersivities within those aquifers, and the simulated hydraulic conductance in different portions of the Baton Rouge fault.

b. PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER:

- i. Refine the water-level observation data set to remove redundant observations (more than one measurement per well within a model stress period), which may improve parameter sensitivity in areas where fewer observations exist.
- ii. Incorporate minor refinements of the hydrogeologic framework into the groundwater model.
- iii. Continue calibration of model to observed water levels and chloride observations in the “1,500-foot,” “2,400-foot,” and “2,800-foot” sands.
- iv. Identify pumping scenarios of interest for simulation of future water-level changes and saltwater encroachment in the “1,500-foot,” “2,400-foot,” and “2,800-foot” sands.

c. There were no problems or concerns

2. Commissioners Aucoin and Tomaszewski gave an update on the work the ad-hoc group had done since the last Technical Committee meeting. After much discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Aucoin and seconded by Commissioner Morvant to recommend to the full Commission the hiring of Owen & White, Inc. (Consulting Engineers) to assist the Commission in preparation of a Bid Package, including design, bidding and construction support, for installation of the first exploratory well, S-18 (adjacent to the DPW Sewage Lift Station on Acadian Thruway). The cost of the contract with Owen & White is not to exceed \$30,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Aucoin made the motion to hire Owen & White, Inc. to develop bid specifications for the drilling of a test well/observation well. Mr. Nelson seconded this motion. The Chairman asked if there was any public comment. Mr. Duplechin then offered the following amended resolution, “to hire Owen & White, Inc. to assist the Commission in preparation of a bid package which includes design, bidding and construction support for the installation of the first exploratory well, S-18 (adjacent to the DPW Sewage Lift Station on Acadian Thruway), not to exceed \$30,000. Mr. Aucoin then amended his resolution. Mr. Morvant seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Mr. Walton gave an update on annual pumpage from the 1,500-foot sand and 2,000-foot sand. Pumpage in each was below mandated limits.

4. Dr. Tsai gave a brief update on the Board of Regents Project:

a. A paper "Modeling complex aquifer systems: a case study in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (USA)" was just accepted for publication in Hydrogeology Journal. The paper acknowledges LaBOR and CAGWCC funding support. I will send more information once the paper is officially published.

b. He will deliver a poster presentation to 2016 American Geophysical Union Meeting next week. The title is "Data-Driven Groundwater Model Development: A Case Study in Baton Rouge, Louisiana". The content is based on the accepted paper. LaBOR and CAGWCC funding support is acknowledged in the poster. I am attaching the poster for your information.

c. They are developing saltwater intrusion management model for the entire Baton Rouge aquifer system. Presentation on a new Board of Regents proposal to development an integrated framework for managing a sole source aquifer in Southeastern Louisiana. The study area would be the Southern Hills regional aquifer system with a focus on Capital Area.

5. Commissioner Reonas stated that the Louisiana Office of Conservation recently released a video, "Waterman". This video is a part of the "Water-Wise in BR" program. Mr. Reonas stated that this video includes earth and environmental lessons along with math and social studies components. Mr. Reonas stated that the goal was to provide actionable real life science that could be utilized in the class room to better understand ground water resources and how they are used here in Baton Rouge. The video is aimed at fourth through eighth graders. The video was then viewed by the Commission. Mr. Reonas stated that free copies of the DVD are available through the Office of Conservation.

III. Director's Report

Mr. Duplechin reported that he along with Chairman Huggins met with Jamie Setze, Director of the Capital Region Planning Commission, to explain to him the works of the Commission concerning saltwater encroachment and solicit their help.

The Director prepared a letter of support for Dr. Frank Tsai's Board of Regents project proposal titled, "Development of an Integrated Framework for Managing Sole Source Aquifer, Southeastern Louisiana". The letter offered financial matching funds of \$20,000 per year for three years as follows: \$10,000 per year from ExxonMobil, \$5,000 per year from Entergy, \$2,000 per year from Southern Ionics, and \$3,000 per year from Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District. The proposal has been submitted to the Board of Regents. Proposal recommendation will be decided in April 2017.

The Director attended a meeting of the Louisiana Water Resources Commission at the Office of Conservation.

IV. Chairman's Report

Mr. Huggins reported that he attended the Capital Region Planning Commission meeting with Director Duplechin. They met with the Commission's Director, Jamie Setze. He

stated that Mr. Setze is an engineer who understands the issues that the Commission faces with saltwater encroachment. Mr. Huggins also attended the screening of the Waterman video at Scotlandville Middle Magnet school. Mr. Huggins complimented Mr. Reonas on his presentation to the children and thought that he connected with them. Mr. Huggins reported that he attended the Louisiana Water Resources Commission meeting and gave a presentation on the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission.

V. Other Business

Mr. Huggins stated that Mr. Dan Tomaszewski's term as board nominee for the Commission expired December 1, 2016. Mr. Tomaszewski stated that he is not interested in seeking another term. Mr. Huggins appointed a nominating committee with Commissioner Jennings serving as Chairman. Mr. Huggins requested that the committee make a recommendation for board nominee at the December meeting. Mr. Jennings was not able to attend the meeting; therefore, Mr. Huggins read the nominating committee's recommendation, "The nominating committee has unanimously nominated Mr. Mark E. Walton to be the Board's representative on the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission. After careful consideration of each candidate, all of which has much experience in water resource management and is knowledgeable concerning the Board's activities, it is the opinion of the nominating committee that Mr. Walton can best represent the interests of all users within the District." Dr. Westra then made a motion to nominate Mr. Mark Walton as board nominee. Ms. Kent seconded this motion. Chairman Huggins then asked if there were any other nominations. Mr. Reonas stated on behalf of Commissioner Ieyoub he requested that the board consider his nominee, Thomas Van Biersel. He stated that Thomas has more than thirty years of groundwater management, spent time at the Louisiana Geological Survey, well versed in Commission work, and would add some fresh ideas to the Commission. Mr. Reonas then made a motion for the Commission to consider Thomas Van Biersel as an alternate candidate for board nominee. There was no second to this motion. Mr. Huggins then asked for a vote on nominating Mr. Walton as board nominee. Nine members were in favor and one member opposed. The motion passed.

Director Duplechin then requested an amendment to the agenda that being the consideration of the Water Leadership Award. Ms. Kent made a motion to add the item to the agenda. Mr. Reonas seconded this motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Duplechin stated that at the December meeting, the Commission requested that Mr. Reonas come up with the criteria for the award. Mr. Duplechin stated that Mr. Reonas completed the write-up for the proposed award which was then emailed to all Commissioners in November 2016. Mr. Reonas stated that this award would recognize an individual or group. Mr. Reonas asked if there were any additions or edits that any Commissioner would like to make to the guidelines. Mr. Reonas stated that he always thought that this would be a good effort on part of the Commission to recognize individuals that have worked towards meeting the Commission's goals over the years along with good public relations for the Commission. Mr. Reonas made a motion to adopt the

Water Leadership Award. Dr. Westra seconded this motion. Mr. Miller commented that one of the criteria is that the award is given every two years. He stated that he doesn't want to see this award as a burden to the Commission and requested that the award be given on an as needed basis. Mr. Miller then amended the motion to adopt the Water Leadership Award which would be presented by the Commission on an as needed basis. Mr. Reonas seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Huggins presented Dr. Westra and Mr. Argrave with plaques of appreciation for their years of service on the Commission.

V. Public Comment

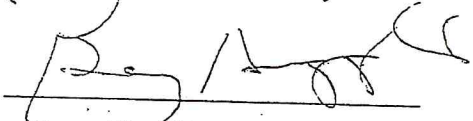
There was no public comment.


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, March 21, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.... The next Technical Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

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


Barry Huggins, Acting Chairman


John Westra, Treasurer