

MINUTES

*CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

June 17, 2014

The Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission met at 9:30 a.m. on June 17, 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, Amelia Kent, Dennis McGehee, Julius Metz, Matthew Reonas, and Dan Tomaszewski.

Others attending the meeting were: Anthony Duplechin and Shawn Scallan, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District; John Lovelace, U.S. Geological Survey; Roy Waggenpack, Owen & White; Joey Hebert, Georgia-Pacific; Mark Walton, former Commissioner; Don Dial, former CAGWCD Director, Megan Terrell, La. Attorney General's Office; Bruce Duhe, Layne Christensen; Amy Wold, The Advocate; and Dr. Frank Tsai, LSU.

Ms. Kent made a motion that the minutes of the March 18, 2014 and April 8, 2014 meetings be approved. Mr. Chustz 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 June 17, 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 May 31, 2014 were distributed for review and comment. Ms. Kent noted that the Commission has a certificate of deposit that will mature on, July 18, 2014 in the amount of \$42,886. Ms. Kent stated that the District staff has authorization to renew a certificate of deposit up to 3 years.

2. Copies of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 were distributed for review. Ms. Kent noted that the budget, Meetings and Associated expenses, was doubled from the 2013-2014 year from \$2,500 to \$5,000. Also, Ms. Kent noted that the modeling study for 2014-2015 will be \$88,400. Mr. Aucoin made a motion to approve the budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. Mr. Tomaszewski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Ms. Kent reported that the Commission currently has a contract with Mr. Robert Schmidt, Adams & Reese, to establish a trust fund for postemployment health benefits. The contract will expire on June 30, 2014. No work has been performed on the contract to date. Ms. Kent reported that the Administrative Committee voted to extend Mr. Schmidt's contract. All fees will remain the same. Mr. Reonas questioned why no work has been done on the trust fund. Ms. Kent didn't know but said that Mr. Schmidt promised some feedback at the September meeting. Mr. Reonas questioned Megan Terrell about how long it would normally take to establish this fund. Ms. Terrell stated that it shouldn't take this long but that at the same time Mr. Schmidt has not billed the Commission for any work. Ms. Terrell stated that if no work has

been done by January 31, 2015 to contact her. Ms. Terrell stated that she can contact some people in the Attorney General's office who may be able to assist with a recommendation of another attorney. Mr. Forsman asked if the funds that have been put aside to date for the trust fund are earning interest. Ms. Scallan reported that the funds are currently in a savings account earning some interest. Mr. Reonas asked who will manage the trust fund. Ms. Kent stated that has not been dealt with at this time. She stated that the first line of business is to set up the fund then the details will be ironed out. Mr. Chustz made a motion to extend the contract from July 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015. Mr. Reonas seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Ms. Kent reported that the Commission received a letter from Baton Rouge Water Company requesting that water well pumpage fees be waived for their scavenger well. Mr. Duplechin reported that the definition of groundwater in the Commission's Enabling Act is "... water suitable for any beneficial purpose percolating below the earth's surface". Beneficial purpose is defined as "the use of ground water for domestic, municipal, industrial, agricultural, recreational or therapeutic purposes or any other advantageous use". Mr. Duplechin stated that since the water from this well is being pumped into the Mississippi River the water does not fall into any of these categories. Mr. Duplechin reported that at a fee of \$5.00 per million gallons, the estimated annual fees from this well would be \$900 - \$1,000 per year. Mr. Chustz questioned if this well is producing for a beneficial purpose: He said the water is being pumped to mitigate the saltwater problem. Mr. Reonas asked if there has ever been any waivers for fees in the past. Mr. Duplechin stated not since he has been the Director. Mr. Tomaszewski asked how the water from this well is classified. Mr. Duplechin reported that the well's use is classified as a dewatering well because there is no state code for scavenger well. Mr. Duplechin suggested to the Commission that they could request advice from the Attorney General's office on this matter. Mr. Reonas made a motion to defer this until the Commission receives an opinion from the Attorney General. Mr. Tomaszewski seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Ms. Kent reported on the progress of the Commission's website. Mr. Clay Fourrier with Dovetail Studio will have something for the Commissioners to preview by the end of July.

III. Report from the Technical Committee

At the request of Mr. McGehee, 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 June 10, 2014 further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting on June 17, 2014.

1. Dan Tomaszewski gave an overview of a proposal that Dr. Frank Tsai presented to NASA as part of their Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) program. Dan has agreed to be a co-principal investigator on behalf of CAGWCC. There will be no cost to CAGWCC. The proposal is titled "Integrating space geodesy and groundwater-subsidence model to support aquifer management on saltwater intrusion and subsidence control in South Louisiana". Mr. Duplechin reported that an email was sent to all Commissioners including the proposal and letter of support.

2. John Lovelace gave a brief update on the Baton Rouge model, 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. The report is being sent to the printer for hard copy. Three additional simulations have been done for the “2,000-foot” sand at the ad-hoc group’s request reflecting possible public supply/industrial pumping changes as well as possible installation of a scavenger well. Hypothetical pumping scenarios showing an increase in the industrial district in the “1,200-foot sand” have been modeled. Work should be finished by September.

Mr. Lovelace added that for future hypothetical pumping scenarios the 2012 pumping data will be used. Mr. Lovelace prepared a spread sheet with the scenarios and will send to the ad hoc group for review.

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 and/or commitments, stating that reported pumpage was within limits.

4. Mr. McGehee updated the Committee on the progress made on the BRWC’s scavenger well project. He stated that it is performing well. Chloride levels are around 110 mg/l in the production well (470 gpm), and between 800 - 900 mg/l in the saltwater well (340 gpm). BRWC is tinkering with the flow rates from each well to find the optimum pumpage ratio. They will be collecting samples from the BREC “Progress Park” well, which is about 1/10 mile N of the scavenger well site, to see what the chloride levels are there. Monthly samples at Lula St. showed lower chlorides last month. He feels that this is because the cone of depression has been moved south of the Lula St. wells as a result of the scavenger well project coming online. Mr. Duplechin added that there was an article in The Advocate today on the scavenger well. The article was titled, “So Far, So Good for Baton Rouge’s Scavenger Well System”.

III. Director’s Report

Mr. Duplechin reported that during the second quarter of 2014, he was interviewed by several different entities about the ground water situation in Baton Rouge. He reported that he was on a television show and a radio show with Tim Johnson, The Louisiana Business and Industry Show. Mr. Duplechin reported that he was interviewed by Cheryl Mercedes with WAFB. He also reported that he was interviewed by Amy Wold with The Advocate and James Skains with the Zachary News.

The Director reported that he went to north Louisiana to assist the Sparta Commission with their Webster Parish Water Festival. He also attended a source water protection workshop in Alexandria, LA.

Mr. Duplechin reported that he coordinated meeting of the ad hoc group and attended a Green Army rally at the State Capitol. He reported that he attended the Ground Water Management District's Association (GMDA) conference in Atlantic City. At the conference, GMDA decided to rejoin the National Water Resources Association (NWRA). Mr. Duplechin stated that he was chosen as one of two delegates to represent GMDA.

Mr. Duplechin reported that he testified at numerous Senate and House Committee meetings on potential legislation that affected ground water and some that directly affected the Commission. Of the bills, only two made it through the process. House Bill 793 proposed by Senator St. Germain. This bill added a new member to the Commission from East Baton Rouge Department of Public Works. Senate Resolution 171 requested that the Louisiana State Law Institute create a Water Code Committee.

IV. Chairman's Report

Mr. McGehee stated that he will be appointing a Nominating Committee to nominate officers for 2015.

V. Public Comment

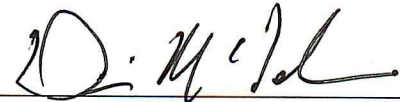
There was no public comment.

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, September 16, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in the U.S. Geological Survey conference room. The next Technical Committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 9, 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. Reonas seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.



Dennis McGehee, Chairman



Amelia Kent, Treasurer