

**Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission**  
**December 12, 2023, 1:30 p.m.**

- I. Call to Order**  
Tom Seagraves – Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission -Technical Committee Chairman
- II. Roll Call**  
Gary Beard – Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District (CAGCD) Executive Director  
Members present: Ms. Gautreaux, Ms. Field, Mr. Leo, Mr. Seagraves, Mr. Shaheen, and Mr. Reonas.  
Members absent: Mr. Dawson, Mr. Savoy, and Mr. Means.
- III. Establishment of a Quorum**  
Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman  
There was a quorum present with 6 members.
- IV. Invocation**  
Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
- V. Pledge of Allegiance**  
Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
- VI. Recognition of Guests**  
Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman  
John Milazzo – Taylor Porter, Roy Waggenspack- Owen & White, David Mitchell- The Advocate, Ann Trappey – BRAC, B. Thompson-Exxon Mobil, Anthony Simon – SWM
- VII. Amendments to the Agenda**  
Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman  
None.
- VIII. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting, October 31, 2023 (action required)**  
Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman  
Motion by Mr. Reonas and second by Mr. Leo to approve the minutes of the October 31, 2023, Technical Committee meeting. No objection. Motion passed.
- IX. Executive Director's Report**  
Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
  - A. Pumping limits - (action required)**  
Mr. Beard said every year at this time, under LAC 56, the pumping limits are established, and it is subject to annual review and re-adoption. He said the

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current limits are set at 1500-ft. sand, twenty-five million gallons per day. The 2000-foot sand is set at 23.5 million gallons per day. Also, the 2000-ft. sand, within the industrial district, is set at 15.25 million gallons per day. He added, to his knowledge, there is no science behind these numbers. The volume coming out of the ground will not be known until the metering system is in place. It is not possible without independent metering to determine whose totals are over the limits. Mr. Beard said a volume analysis was prepared. This analysis presents average daily volumes calculated from self-reported monthly volumes as opposed to the daily limit the Board has put in place. Mr. Beard said he does not advise changing the numbers, only reoption at this time. There will be discussion and reevaluation, once the data from the metering/monitoring system comes in.

The Committee discussed the issues and asked questions.

Mr. Beard said he will be glad to sit down with everybody at the table, industry, domestic water users, and try to work on a solution so that everybody has access to the water.

Mr. Beard recommended spending the next year verifying, working on a model, and making some informed decisions based on good science and engineering.

Chairman Seagraves said the volume analysis made him feel good about the actions of the Technical Committee over the last few months, considering these totals as compared to the recommended limits.

Mr. Shaheen asked Mr. Beard if we would expand this beyond the 1500- and 2000-ft. sands. Mr. Beard said yes, and he is working with Dr. Tsai, Halff & Associates, and other experts to sit down and evaluate all the strata and identify plumes; he added there are some new plumes towards Livingston.

Mr. Leo asked Mr. Beard if we should be contemplating to what extent pumping outside of our jurisdiction is impacting the limits we are setting within our jurisdiction.

Mr. Beard said yes, if someone went into Livingston Parish and decided to pump a certain quantity of water from certain strata, it could affect what is happening in EBR parish. He said we are looking into putting monitoring wells in the other parishes because the private water company that Mr. Shaheen represents has lost two wells in Livingston to the salt intrusion.

The Committee continued discussing and asking questions.

Mr. Beard said the 1.2 million dollars of Capital Outlay that he requested as additional funding for monitoring wells was based on Dr. Tsai's recommendation to put into place new monitoring wells ensuring the Commission can gather all data necessary.

Mr. Reonas said the 1200-ft. sand is one of the ones that we want to look at closely because it is heavily used, and the saltwater plume is moving a bit according to USGS.

Motion by Mr. Reonas and second by Ms. Gautreaux to maintain the pumping limits as is and reevaluate when more information is gathered. No objection.  
Motion passed.

**X. Chairman's Report**

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman

Chairman Seagraves said the well permit action will be deferred to next meeting. He also said West Baton Rouge is still assessing their situation before they come back to the Board.

**XI. Member Agenda Items**

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

None.

**XII. Old Business**

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

None.

**XIII. New Business**

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

None.

**XIV. Commissioner Comments**

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman

Ms. Gautreaux and Chairman Seagraves thanked Mr. Leo for joining the technical committee.

**XV. Announcements**

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman

None.

**XVI. Public Comment (Non-action items only)**

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman

Roy Waggenpack asked about the data Dr. Tsai is using in his models. Mr. Beard said the input data are the volumes reported quarterly by the users. Mr. Beard said he could set up a meeting with Dr. Tsai, Mr. Shaheen, Mr. Seagraves, Mr. Waggenpack, and whomever else would like to attend. He said they could go over the data Dr. Tsai is using and let him explain and discuss the process. Mr. Beard said it is imperative to know what is going on with the aquifer. Mr. Waggenpack suggested looking at the projections of how USGS models show chloride levels.

Mr. Shaheen asked if the USGS chloride models correlate with Dr. Tsai's model.

Mr. Waggenpack said to check the data Dr. Tsai is modeling compared to what USGS was doing. He indicated that Dr. Tsai has accelerated way beyond USGS with all the additional information he has accumulated. Mr. Leo said it is important to bear in mind this kind of data and the increasing accuracy level is vital for land use planning, business development, etc., for various parishes and the state. He said predictability is important for a business to know the long-term implications of moving here. As droughts increase, and other natural disasters increase, these models become more critical.

**XVII. Adjournment – (action required)**

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman

Motion by Ms. Gautreaux and second by Mr. Reonas to adjourn the meeting. No objection. Motion passed.



Gary J. Beard, Executive Director