

Minutes
Board Meeting
Capital Area Groundwater
Conservation District

October 28, 2021 (Amended)

I. Call to Order

The Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District convened for a regular meeting at 2:00 p.m. on October 28, 2021 via zoom conference. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman William Daniel.

II. Roll Call

The following members were present: William Daniel, Cyril E. Vetter, Todd Talbot, Joey Normand, Matthew Reonas, Thomas Seagraves, Ryan Scardina, Alvin Broussard, Paul Davidson, Kenneth Dawson, Patrick Engemann, Karen Gautreaux, Patrick Hobbins, Rachel Lambert, Jesse Means and Jens Rummeler.

Others attending the meeting were: Gary Beard, Executive Director, Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District; Hunter Odom; Marionneaux Kantrow, Allison Wolverton with LEAN, Diana Di Leonardo with the Water Institute, George Jones, Joey Baum, David Mitchell with The Advocate, Anthony Duplechain, Jay Efferson with LA Office of Technology.

III. Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman William Daniel declared a quorum with 16 members present.

IV. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Gary Beard, Executive Director – Invocation
Rachel Lambert – Pledge of Allegiance

V. Approval of Minutes – July 15, 2021

Motion by Ms. Gautreaux and second by Mr. Davidson to approve the July 15, 2021 minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.

VI. Amendments to the Agenda – Chairman William Daniel

Chairman Daniel asked were there any amendments to the agenda. No comments from the Board.

VII. Executive Director's Report – Executive Director - Gary Beard

a. Water Institute – Progress report – Diana Di Leonardo

Ms. Di Leonardo informed the Board of progress to date regarding the project with the Water Institute. Mr. Beard thanked Diana and the Water Institute for a great and very informative forum.

b. By-Laws Modifications – Hunter Odom

Mr. Odom, attorney with Marionneaux Kantrow Law Firm, informed the Board of his work to date regarding the By-Laws Modifications. Mr. Beard advised the Board that he will finish up with Mr. Odom and call a meeting with the Commission to make recommendations.

c. Status of Rules Implementation – Hunter Odom

Mr. Odom informed the Board of the status of Rules Implementation. He stated he is hopeful it will be finalized by the end of 2022.

d. Well inventory results – Coordination with DNR

Mr. Beard thanked Mr. Reonas for his help coordinating efforts with DNR and CAGWCD.

Mr. Beard gave an update on the status of the inventory and advised he would continue to coordinate with DNR.

e. Reclaimed Water Projects

Mr. Beard informed the Board of the anticipated reclaimed water projects with LSU and Angola. He advised the Board that LSU uses 1 million gallons of water per day for irrigation and their cooling tower as well as Angola using a large supply for their farming fields for irrigation. Mr. Dawson asked Mr. Beard if Southern University is still interested. Mr. Beard responded nothing since a few years ago per the original document presented by Southern. Mr. Beard asked for Mr. Dawson's assistance with opening a door at Southern and with the Corps of Engineers to fund the project.

Mr. Dawson agreed to assist.

f. Application for new permits (**action required**)

Mr. Beard informed the Board of three applications for well permits. Applications submitted by Exxon, one new application from the City of Baker and one well across the river no longer at 400 feet now at 350 feet. Mr. Beard stated that the District does not have jurisdiction in Mississippi Alluvial and does not require a permit. Mr. Beard asked Max Lindaman with USGS to give a report on these wells for the Board's information.

Motion by Todd Talbot and second by Tom Seagraves to approve the Exxon's new applications. Board was polled. Scardina – Yes, Rummler – Yes, Means – Yes, Hobbins – Yes, Seagraves – Yes, Broussard – No, Vetter – No, Dawson – Yes, Talbot – Yes, Reonas – abstained, Gautreaux – Yes, Engmann – Yes, Davidson – yes, Normand – Yes, Lambert – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Seagraves and second by Ken Dawson to approve the City of Baker's new application. Board was polled. Davidson – Yes, Normand – Yes, Dawson – Yes, Seagraves – Yes, Reonas – Yes, Vetter – Yes, Hobbins – Yes, Rummler – Yes, Scardina – Yes, Lambert – Yes, Broussard – Yes, Gautreaux – Yes, Engemann – Yes, Talbot – Yes, Means – No. Motion carried.

g. Employee status

Mr. Beard advised the Board of the status of CAGWCD employee positions he will need to fill. (One position will be a civil service classified position and one will be an unclassified position.)

h. Budget for FY 2021-2022 (**action required**)

Mr. Beard opened discussion regarding Budget FY 2021-2022 with a request to move \$20,000 Salaries to outside consultant category. Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Mr. Vetter to approve moving \$20,000 in salaries to outside consultant category. Motion approved.

i. 5 year budget estimates

Mr. Beard informed the Board of the 5 year budget estimates included in their packets. He gave an explanation of the estimates and board discussed.

j. Rate increase – Public meeting (**action required**)

Mr. Beard opened this discussion advising the Board of the current balance in the bank account and in reserves. Mr. Beard asked Hunter to address the Board regarding the statute. Hunter informed the Board of the process enabling CAGWCD to request a public hearing. Mr. Beard asked for a motion to call for a public hearing and the reason for this is to discuss finances and a possible rate increase. Todd Talbot suggested to have a Board meeting and then a public hearing. Hunter stated per the statute you can assess and fix rate annually. Mr. Beard stated the Commission can have a Board meeting first and then a public hearing. Board discussed and agreed. Mr. Beard asked the Board to look at the 5 year plan and then they can discuss and decide on the public hearing thereafter.

k. FY 2021 Budget summary- Budgeted vs. Actual

Chairman Daniel requested Mr. Beard get all the information together for the budget and the Board will discuss at a special meeting.

l. Employee Retirement Program

Mr. Beard advised the Board of the Funded Health Retiree Account being moved to Argent Trust. CAGWCD is no longer in charge of these funds. Argent Trust will pay Office of Group Benefits monthly after receipt of invoice from our office.

m. Community outreach

Mr. Beard advised the Board of the CAGWCD's new video presentation and stated it has had a first round of edits. He said he will sending the completed version to the Board for review.

n. New website and email system

Mr. Beard requested the Board look at the new website and send their feedback. The new email for CAGWCD is la.gov. Mr. Talbot commented the email on the state server is always backed up which will be a good thing.

Mr. Beard commented the old email system will be saved for public records requests.

o. Status of state funding (**action required**)

Mr. Beard informed the Board that in order to get money and Capital outlay we should match 25 percent of 1.25 million requested. This will give us a better score and chance of approval. Money is available for Water Sector program and it may fit the monitoring well program if it is done in phases and done as funding is available. Mr. Beard asked Dr. Tsai to give an update and explain wells and what they are doing. Motion by Mr. Talbot and second by Mr. Seagraves to continue with the application for monitoring wells without the 25 percent match. Board was polled. Mr. Davidson – Y, Mr. Normand – Y, Mr. Reonas – Y, Mr. Talbot – Y, Ms. Gautreaux – Y, Mr. Vetter – Y, Mr. Engemann – Y, Mr. Broussard – Y, Mr. Hobbins – Y, Ms. Lambert – Y, Mr. Seagraves – Y, Mr. Rummler – Y, Mr. Scardina – Y. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

p. Sustainability Partners Contract

Mr. Beard informed the Board that he will send a copy of the completed contract to the Board. Chairman Daniel stated all changes requested have been added to the contract.

VIII. Chairman's report

William Daniel – CAGWCD Chairman

a. Vote for new Secretary-Treasurer (action required)

Mr. Chairman asked for nominations for Secretary-Treasurer. Motion by Chairman Daniel and second by Mr. Hobbins to nominate Matt Reonas for Secretary Treasurer.

Board was polled.

Mr. Davidson – Y, Mr. Normand – Y, Mr. Vetter – Y,
Mr. Engemann – Y, Mr. Broussard – Y, Mr. Hobbins – Y,
Mr. Means – Y, Ms. Lambert – Y, Mr. Seagraves – Y, Mr. Rummeler – Y, Mr. Scardina – Y.
Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

IX. Member Agenda Items

There were no member items.

X. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

XI. New Business

Mr. Vetter asked for a new list of board members. Mr. Beard advised that we will get that done and send to the Board.

XII. Commissioner comments

Mr. Normand commented he wants no more zoom meetings. The mask mandate was lifted. Mr. Beard stated the next Board meeting will be at the House in the Committee room as before.

XIII. Announcements

William Daniel – CAGWCD Chairman

There were no announcements.

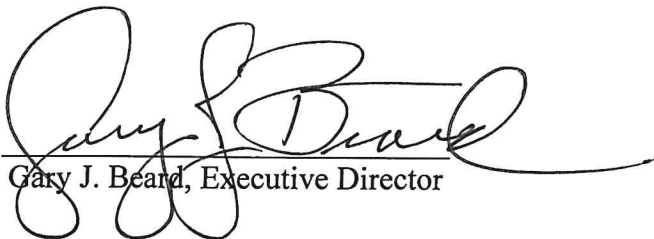
XIV. Public Comment (non-agenda items only)

William Daniel – CAGWCD chairman asked if there were any public comments. No public comments.

XV. Adjournment

William Daniel – CAGWCD Chairman (**action required**)

Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Mr. Talbot and second by Mr. Scardina to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



Gary J. Beard, Executive Director