

Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission
Marriott Hotel – 5500 Hilton Ave., Baton Rouge, LA
October 31, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

Tom Seagraves – Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission (CAGCC)
Technical Committee Chairman
Chairman Seagraves called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Gary Beard – Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District (CAGCD) Executive
Director
Roll Call – Present: Mr. Seagraves, Mr. Engemann, Ms. Field, Mr. Means, Mr. Reonas,
Mr. Savoy and Mr. Shaheen. Absent: Mr. Dawson.

III. Establishment of a Quorum

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman
There was a quorum with 7 members present.

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
Chairman Seagraves recognized the guests.
Guests present: Scott Bergeron – Interested Party; Tyler McCloud – Senate attorney;
Anthony Simon – Secure Water; George Losonsky – Losonsky & Associates; Ann
Trappey – BRAC; Brett Furr – Baton Rouge Water; Patrick Kerr – Baton Rouge Water;
Kristyn Rodriguez – Baton Rouge Water; Anna Gilbert – Owen & White; Roy
Waggenpack – Owen & White; Dennis McGehee – Baton Rouge Water; Shanna Mason
– DEQ Aquifer Evaluation; Sarah Paine – Exxon Mobil; Michael Lane – Baton Rouge
Water; Douglas Melancon – Exxon Mobil; David Mitchell – The Advocate; Ryan Clark –
Half & Associates; Max Lindeman – USGS; Dr. Frank Tsai - LSU

VII. Amendments to the Agenda

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman
No Amendments to the agenda.

VIII. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting, September 21, 2023 (action required)

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman

Motion by Mr. Means and second by Ms. Gautreaux to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023, meeting. Motion carried.

IX. Executive Director's Report

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

Mr. Beard began the Executive Director's report introducing Max Lindeman with USGS and Dr. Frank Tsai with LSU. He said they were asked to be present at the meeting to give an overview on the aquifer and the effects from these new well permits. He said this is a new approach that has been done in the past year to make sure that everything that is permitted minimizes the effect on the drawdown on the aquifer and the saltwater plume.

A. Max Lindeman – USGS

Mr. Lindeman said the **Baton Rouge Water Company, Istrouma well**, was presented with different results, so they revised their well permit and reduced the anticipated pumping rate just to lower the drawdown that could be associated with it. He said the first well on the list was to be installed in the town of Slaughter. He said this well impact was pretty minimal with respect to the drawdown in saltwater intrusion. He continued with details of this well and the effect. Commissioners had questions and comments.

Mr. Lindeman said the next well is for **Parish Water Company and is called the Rambling Oaks well**. It is located north of Denham Springs – Scotlandville Fault. He said it is in the 2400 foot-sand and this well is an exact replacement and this is replacing an existing well exactly. He said in order to simulate this, he had assumed that no well replaced it because if he didn't do that, there would be no drawdown change. He continued with details and the effect. Commissioners had questions and comments.

Mr. Lindeman said the next well, the **Baton Rouge Water Company, Hurricane Creek well**, this one is in that same aquifer, the 2400-foot sand. He said the simulated drawdown from this well was about 5 feet from some of these wells near the fault that have experienced some historical record saltwater intrusion. The well is pretty close to the Denham Springs-Scotlandville Fault. He continued with details of this well and the effect. Commissioners had questions and comments.

Mr. Lindeman said the next well, the **Point Coupee Water Works, Lakeland well**, and the target aquifer for this one is probably 7200-foot sand. He said he does not have a designated model to simulate conditions for this aquifer. He said he did simulations for all the adjacent aquifers to give some sense of what this could look like. He continued with details of this well and the effect. Commissioners had questions and comments.

Mr. Lindeman said the next well is the **Baton Rouge Water Company – Istrouma well**. He said this is a revised well permit where the pumping rate was reduced from 1.7 million gallons a day to 1. He said there was a rank preference in the application – 1. 2400-foot sand, 2. 1200-foot sand, 3. 1700-foot sand and 4. 1500-foot sand. He continued with the details of this well and the effect. Commissioners had questions and comments.

Mr. Lindeman said the next well is the **Baton Rouge Water Company – Istrouma well**. He said this is a revised well permit where the pumping rate was reduced from

1.7 million gallons a day to 1. He said there was a rank preference in the application – 1. 2400-foot sand, 2. 1200-foot sand, 3. 1700-foot sand and 4. 1500-foot sand. He continued with the details of this well and the effect. Commissioners had questions and comments.

West Baton Rouge water well – no changes submitted.

B. LSU Modeling Effects of New Wells on the Aquifer, Frank Tsai, LSU

Dr. Tsai began his presentation of the same wells using a model he had created at the Water Institute. Mr. Beard reminded everyone that the applications were given with certain depths associated with it and certain pumping rates. You may see a permit with a certain depth. He said if in Dr. Tsai's analysis, he showed some different stratas that might have been good to go ahead and look at those depths as well. You will see him give what an application has asked for, but if in his analysis he found other stratas that might work or could work. Mr. Beard said he asked Dr. Tsai to do this as well, look for other alternatives.

Dr. Tsai said he has a run of 10 different new water wells and he presented a couple of them at the last meeting. Dr. Tsai said first he would be talking about seven new water wells. He said the first of the three is north of the Denham Springs-Scotlandville Fault, so it is relatively not a threat to saltwater intrusion with one scenario.

He said well no. 8 and no. 1, are basically between two geological faults. He said they have a great impact of saltwater intrusion, so we have different scenarios, six scenarios for Hurricane Creek, three scenarios for Baton Rouge Arena and six scenarios for Istrouma.

He continued with the details of his modeling and the different scenarios.

Commissioners had questions and comments.

He presented the first one – Pointe Coupee – Lakeland well.

Town of Slaughter well. Mr. Beard said this one is definitely a replacement well.

He said it is in the same strata, at the same depths and at the same pumping rate. He said using DNR's definition of a replacement well, it is a replacement well.

Mr. Beard said by definition it is a replacement well but his data shows as if it were a new well.

Rambling Oaks well. Dr. Tsai said this one has one scenario. The impact is minimal. Chairman Seagraves asked Mr. McGehee where the well was located. Mr. McGehee said Joor Road. It is north of Hooper and south of Denham Road.

Hurricane Creek well. Dr. Tsai said six scenarios were run on this well. Dr. Tsai gave a summary of these six scenarios.

West Baton Rouge Parish Arena well. Dr. Tsai said there were three scenarios for this well. He said he presented the first one at the last meeting and two more at today's meeting.

Istrouma well – Dr. Tsai said he ran six scenarios. Mr. Beard said they started looking at the effects of the two fault lines, the Baton Rouge Fault where we have the saltwater coming across, and the Denham Springs-Scotlandville Fault, which in some cases acts as a barrier to the effect on the southern fault. Mr. Beard said when he worked at the airport, there were some major water lines up in that area. He said

he went over the cross-sections and it looked like there was some sands that were in that same cut, if they took it due north, it almost looked like there was some deeper sands and maybe some better availability. Mr. Beard said he asked Dr. Tsai if they moved that well and theoretically where they could put it. He said they talked about the Denham Fault and what effect it would if we took that pumping rate of 1.7 and moved it a little north, would it impact it? And what would the effect be at different rates? I wanted to show you what kind of effects that fault line would have at those same levels in those same sands. Chairman Seagraves confirmed it is the same information from the Istrouma permit. Mr. Beard said right, applied to a new application. Dr. Tsai went through each scenario and the drawdown. He said the summary here is this well will create 34 additional drawdown feet, drawdown at the site, and you have less than 2 feet drawdown near the Baton Rouge Fault. Mr. Beard said to the Board, that concludes the technical presentations. Mr. Beard said he would like to take the wells in order, allow discussion, and then open it to the public for comments.

C. New Well Permits – (action required)

Pointe Coupee Lakeland well:

Commissioner comments and questions.

Public comments and questions.

Motion by Mr. Means and second by Mr. Shaheen to approve the Pointe Coupee Lakeland well permit.

Public comment.

Roll Call: Mr. Seagraves – Y, Mr. Engemann – Y, Ms. Field – Y, Mr. Means – Y, Mr. Reonas – Y, Mr. Savoy – Y, Mr. Shaheen – Y.

Mr. Beard said this permit will be sent to the full Board.

Town of Slaughter well:

Motion by Mr. Shaheen and second by Mr. Means to approve the Town of Slaughter well.

Roll Call: Mr. Seagraves – Y, Mr. Engemann – Y, Ms. Field – Y, Mr. Means – Y, Mr. Reonas – Y, Mr. Savoy – Y and Mr. Shaheen – Y. Unanimous. Motion passed.

Rambling Oaks well:

Motion by Mr. Means and second by Mr. Engemann to approve the Rambling Oaks well permit as is.

Roll Call: Mr. Seagraves – Y, Mr. Engemann – Y, Ms. Field – Y, Mr. Means – Y, Mr. Reonas – No, Mr. Savoy – Y and Mr. Shaheen – Y. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Hurricane Creek well. Mr. Beard said the model Dr. Tsai uses is the total reported volume for the year 2021. The volume that was actually used is what goes into the model. Mr. Beard also said the historical data to date is what is needed for the model. So, if there is a decrease or increase, or whatever it was in the strata for that last year, Dr. Tsai has that data. He said, as we get the new data, the new data will be sent to Dr. Tsai to include it in that model. It takes into account this flow, with what we know came out or we assume came out in the year before.

Mr. Seagraves recognized public comments from Mr. Furr, Mr. McGehee and Mr. Kerr and Scott Bergeron.

Commissioner comments and discussion.

Chairman Seagraves recognized Ann Trappey with Baton Rouge Chamber for comments. Ms. Trappey introduced herself and informed the Board of the BRAC's mission. She said she would like to have continued discussion with Mr. Beard and the Board regarding their mission.

Commissioner comments and discussion.

Hurricane Creek well:

Motion by Mr. Engemann for the one million gallons a day in the 2400 -ft sand. Questions regarding the amount. Ms. McNamara corrected and confirmed the amount is one million gallons a day. She said Dr. Tsai modeled both 1000 gallons a minute and one million gallons per day. She said we did not change the rate that it would flow, but the amount produced per day.

There is no second on the motion. The motion dies.

Commissioner comments.

Public comments.

West Baton Rouge well:

Mr. Beard said the West Baton Rouge well was a million gallons a day proposed yield. That is the anticipated daily pumpage, a million gallons a day; proposed well yield is a thousand GPM and it is at 2000 feet. He said there were alternates.

Commissioner comments and discussion.

Public comments.

Motion by Mr. Reonas and second by Mr. Shaheen to approve the 1200 foot at a million gallons a day and send to the full Board for final approval.

Commissioner comments.

Public comments.

Chairman Seagraves had additional comments and questions.

Additional public comments.

Roll call: Mr. Seagraves – N, Mr. Engemann – Y, Ms. Field – Y, Mr. Reonas – Y and Mr. Shaheen – Y. Four to one. Motion carries.

Commissioner comments.

Public comments.

Mr. Beard said there will be conversation with West Baton Rouge and bring everyone together before going to the Board to figure this out.

Istrouma well:

Mr. Beard said the options for the Istrouma well, both from various depths, 2400-foot, 1200-foot and 1500-foot at a million gallons a day. A million gallons daily pumpage, 1200 GPM, but a million gallons a day at 3 depths.

No Commissioner comments.

Public comments.

Motion by Mr. Engemann to approve the number six, 1500 feet, 1 million a day, 1200 per hour with a drawdown at the fault of 3.3.

Chairman Seagraves asked if there is a second to the motion by Mr. Engemann. There was no second. Chairman said this one will be tabled. Objections – There were none.

X. Chairman’s Report

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman
Chairman had nothing to report.

XI. Member Agenda Items

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
No member agenda items.

XII. Old Business

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
No old business.

XIII. New Business

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
No new business.

XIV. Commissioner Comments

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman
Mr. Shaheen expressed his thanks to the Commissioners, guests and public, who mentioned developing a master plan to protect our great natural resource.
Commissioners agreed.

XV. Announcements

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman
Dr. Tsai said personally he did not recommend that we allow to pump more at the 1500-ft sand because right now the 1500-ft sand already has huge amounts of saltwater intrusion over to our wells. He said if there continues to be pumping, this will create more saltwater.
Commissioner comments and questions.

XVI. Public Comment (Non-action items only)

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman
No public comment.

XVII. Adjournment – (action required)

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chairman
Motion by Mr. Reonas and second by Ms. Field to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.



Gary J. Beard, Executive Director