

**Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes (NO QUORUM)
House Committee Room 4, Louisiana State Capitol
June 24, 2022, 2:30 p.m.**

I. Call to Order – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
Chairman Daniel called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call – Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
Chairman Daniel called on Mr. Beard to call the roll. Mr. Beard called roll.

Members present – Mr. Daniel, Mr. Vetter, Ms. Machen, Ms. Gautreaux, Mr. Engemann, Mr. Seagraves, Mr. Reonas and Ms. Lambert.

Members absent – Mr. Huggins, Mr. Leo, Ms. Manning-Broome, Mr. Hobbins, Mr. Dawson and Mr. Means.

III. Establishment of a Quorum
Mr. Beard declared the presence of a quorum with 8 members present.¹

IV. Invocation – Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

V. Pledge of Allegiance – Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

VI. Recognition of Guests – William Daniel – CAGWCD Chairman
Chairman Daniel asked the guests to introduce themselves. Roy Waguespack – Owen and White, Scott Bergeron – former Board member, Ryan Clark – Water Institute, Brett Furr – attorney for Baton Rouge Water Company.

VII. Amendments to the Agenda – William Daniel –CAGWCD Chairman
Chairman Daniel asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. No amendments to the agenda.

VIII. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 4/22/22- (action required)
William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
Chairman Daniel asked for any amendments to the minutes and called for a motion to approve them. Motion by Ms. Gautreaux and second by Mr. Reonas to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2022, meeting. Motion passed.

IX. Executive Director’s Report – Gary Beard - CAGCD Executive Director

¹ Mr. Beard called for another meeting to be held on June 30, 2022 to conduct business with actions required on the record as the rule regarding a quorum is based on the total number of Board seats and not just the number of filled seats. There are 18 members, therefore, a quorum should be 10 members present.

Mr. Beard opened with the need for a discussion on the litigation and a personnel issue informing the Board they would have to go into Executive Session.

Motion by Ms. Gautreaux and second by Ms. Machen to go into Executive Session.

Board went into Executive Session. Motion by Ms. Gautreaux and second by Mr. Vetter to exit Executive Session. Board returned to the regular meeting.

Mr. Beard presented the budget to the Board. He stated he had presented the budget to the Administrative Committee and now presents the budget with the adjustments recommended by the committee to the Board for approval.

He presented line items with explanation.

- Expenses – personnel, office space, contracts. Notable-
 - Twenty-five percent match for capital outlay as the Commission is considered a non-state entity when considering funding.
 - Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson, L.L.P has been retained to represent the District and Commission in the ongoing lawsuit filed by Baton Rouge Water Co.
- Mr. Beard stated he wanted to be on the record saying, “there is no slush fund.” Everything is allocated as approved by the Board, and if anything new comes up, those changes are brought before the Board for approval as well.

Chairman Daniel asked if there were any questions. No one had questions so the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the budget. Motion by Mr. Reonas and second by Ms. Gautreaux to approve the budget as presented. Chairman Daniel asked Mr. Beard to call the roll. Ms. Gautreaux – yes, Mr. Engemann – yes, Mr. Vetter – yes, Mr. Reonas – yes, Ms. Lambert – yes, Ms. Machen – yes, Mr. Seagraves – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

X. Chairman’s Report – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman

Chairman Daniel informed the Board that he would like to nominate Mr. Beard to take his spot on the Water Resources Commission. Mr. Reonas stated there had to be 3 nominations for the Governor’s office to appoint someone and went on to describe the function of the Water Resources Commission. Chairman Daniel asked if Mr. Vetter and Ms. Gautreaux would be interested. They both agreed. Motion by Chairman Daniel and second by Mr. Seagraves to nominate Ms. Gautreaux, Mr. Vetter and Mr. Beard to the Governor’s office for an appointment. Motion passed.

Chairman Daniel discussed the changes made over the course of his tenure related to incorporating the public into Commission business stating the Board is trying to be open and transparent to the public. He informed everyone that the Board had two complaints alleging violation of open meetings law, one filed with the Attorney General and the other with the East Baton Rouge District Attorney. Both the District Attorney and Attorney General’s offices found no violations of the rule.

XI. Administrative Committee Report – Karen Gautreaux – CAGCD Administrative Committee Chairman

Chairman Gautreaux advised the Board of the Admin Committee's meeting on June 16, 2022.

She said the budget was discussed as well as rental vs purchase of office space. Also, the committee went into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel.

Mr. Vetter said he talked to the Water Campus manager who would love to meet with Mr. Beard about office space. Ms. Gautreaux urged Mr. Beard to meet with them and discuss options. Mr. Beard agreed he would set up a meeting with the Water Campus.

Ms. Gautreaux informed the Board that the minutes of the April 22, 2022, meeting did not include Joey Normand as a guest. Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to withdraw the original motion to approve the minutes. Motion by Tom Seagraves and second by Patrick Engemann to withdraw the original motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed. Motion by Ms. Gautreaux and second by Mr. Reonas to amend and approve the minutes including Joey Normand as a guest. Motion passed.

Chairman Daniel asked if there were any comments. Mr. Vetter asked who filed the complaints with the AG and DA. Mr. Beard explained Mr. Normand complained he was not given the floor and allowed to speak. Mr. Beard said the opinion of both offices was there was no merit to the complaints.

Chairman Daniel invited Mr. Scott Bergeron to comment. Mr. Bergeron indicated that he wanted to make a comment on the budget. Mr. Bergeron stated that the budget for attorney's fees was very large and the Commission should have avoided the lawsuit.

Mr. Brett Furr attempted to illuminate the Commissioners on how to avoid such a large legal bill, but Chairman Daniel reminded him that comments were limited at this time to the budget. Mr. Furr said the Board would not have to spend \$500,00 if they revisited the SP contract. Chairman Daniel informed him that he is off track from commenting on the budget.

Mr. Reonas reiterated the changes made over the last few years regarding public participation in the Commission meetings. The spirit of the Commission meetings has changed to one of public participation.

Chairman Daniel asked for the vote on the budget to be reconsidered in light of the public comments. The motion to reconsider the vote on the budget, put forth by Ms. Gautreaux and seconded by Mr. Reonas, passed.

There were no additional speakers on the budget. Motion by Ms. Gautreaux and second by Mr. Seagraves to approve the budget as presented. Chairman Daniel asked Mr. Beard to call the roll. Mr. Seagraves – Yes, Ms. Lambert – yes, Ms. Gautreaux – yes, Mr. Engemann – yes, Ms. Machen – yes, Mr. Reonas – yes, Mr. Vetter – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Technical Committee Report – Tom Seagraves – CAGCD Technical Committee Chairman
Mr. Seagraves had no report as there has been no technical meeting.

XIII. Executive Committee report – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
Chairman Daniel had nothing to report from the Executive Committee.

XIV. Member Agenda Items – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
Chairman Daniel asked if there were any member agenda items. Ms. Machen suggested adding to the printed agenda an opportunity for public comment at every agenda item. Mr. Beard recommended amending the by-laws. Chairman Daniel asked that all action items on the agenda have public comment opportunity added to the printed agenda.

XV. Old Business – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
None.

XVI. New Business – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
Chairman Daniel informed the Board that since Mr. Huggins was not present, he would like to defer to the next meeting. He then asked for public comment. There were none.

Motion by Ms. Machen and second by Mr. Reonas to defer the censure of Mr. Huggins to the next Board meeting. Motion passed.

XVII. Commissioner Comments – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
No commissioner comments.

XVIII. Announcements – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
No announcements

XIX. Public Comment (Non-action items only) – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
Chairman Daniel asked if there were any more comments. Mr. Waguespack asked the Commission to try to not meet at 2:30 p.m. on a Friday. Chairman said we will try.

Mr. Furr commented that his further comments would wait for court.

XX. Adjournment – (action required) – William Daniel – CAGCD Chairman
Motion by Ms. Gautreaux and second by Ms. Machen to adjourn.
Motion passed.