

MINUTES

**CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

April 8, 2014

The Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission met at 2:30 p.m. on April 8, 2014 in the Commission's 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: Trey Argrave, Dale Aucoin, Brian Chustz, Johan Forsman, Barry Huggins, John Jennings, Dennis McGehee, Matthew Reonas, and Dan Tomaszewski.

Others attending the meeting were: Anthony Duplechin and Shawn Scallan, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District; Jason Griffith, U.S. Geological Survey; Joey Hebert, Georgia-Pacific; Mark Walton, former Commissioner; Megan Terrell, La. Attorney General's Office; and Bruce Duhe, Layne Christensen.

I. Open Meetings Law

At the request of the Chairman, Dennis McGehee, John Jennings reported on the Open Meetings Law. He stated that the Louisiana Open Meetings Law requires that members of the public be allowed to comment in a meeting prior to action on an agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. The public input is required be specific to the subject and/or the motion before.

Mr. Jennings reported that according to Louisiana Attorney General's Opinion 110267, a Commissioner that is not a member of a particular committee cannot have input until public comment is allowed.

II. Report from the Technical Committee

At the request of Mr. McGehee, the report of the Technical Committee was made by Committee Chairman, John Jennings. Following is a summary of topics discussed at the meeting on April 8, 2014.

1. Mr. Jennings reported on the document, "Plan for Management of the Southern Hills Aquifer System in the Baton Rouge Area". The document was emailed to all Commissioners and revisions were made at the Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Jennings made a motion to accept the plan as revised. Mr. McGehee opened the floor for discussion and comment from the Commissioners. Mr. Dan Tomaszewski commented that the name of the Commission is with the word, ground water as two words; however, throughout the text of the plan the word ground water is written as one word, groundwater. Mr. Jennings reported that the Commission's legal name in the Enabling Act has ground water as two words so it will remain that way. Mr. McGehee then opened the discussion for public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Huggins seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

III. Other Business

Mr. Duplechin reported on bills that are currently up for debate in the legislature. He stated that he attended a session on Senator Claitor's bill. This bill is a two part bill. One part directs the Louisiana State Law Institute to develop a Water Code for the entire State for surface and groundwater. The second part of the bill would implement limitations on groundwater withdrawal over the next six years incrementally to no more than 25 million gallons per day. It states that the Commissioner of Conservation shall not issue any permit which allows the use or withdrawal of 25 million gallons or more of groundwater per day. Mr. Duplechin stated that presently the Commission of Conservation does not issue permits for water wells. The first part of bill was discussed this morning and discussion on part two was deferred until next week.

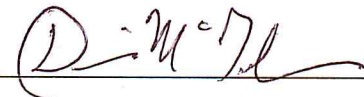
Mr. Duplechin reported that Representative St. Germain's bill, HB 793, which changes the membership of CAGWCC, will be heard by the House Transportation Committee tomorrow. He stated that will attend the meeting to speak on behalf of the bill.

Mr. Matt Reonas recommended that the Commission staff email the approved management plan to Commissioners that were unable to attend the meeting. He also suggested a media release of the plan as soon as possible. Mr. Reonas offered to assist the staff with the press release.

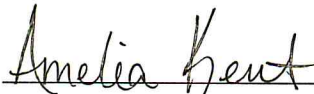
Mr. Jennings and Mr. McGehee thanked the ad-hoc group for their time and dedication in completing the management plan.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, Mr. Jennings made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Huggins seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.



Dennis McGehee, Chairman



Amelia Kent, Treasurer