

Minutes of the
Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission
Technical Committee Meeting
March 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Barry Huggins

The roll was called and a quorum established. Commissioners present were:

Barry Huggins – Chairman*	Dennis McGehee*
Nelson Morvant*	Todd Talbot*
Ken Dawson*	Ronnie Albritton*
J.A. Rummeler*	Mark Walton*
John Jennings	Hays Town

(* Committee members)

Committee members absent were Matt Reonas and Ryan Scardina

Mr. Huggins went around the room to introduce guests. Those in attendance were:

Tony Duplechin	– District Executive Director
Takesha Collins Wright	– LCA
Roy Waggenpack	– Owen & White
Stuart Lambert	– Layne Christensen
Frank Tsai	– LSU and
John Lovelace	- USGS

The previous Meeting's Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Walton to accept the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Mr. Morvant and passed unanimously.

Ryan Clark of the Water Institute was unable to meeting to present an Update on the Long-Range Planning Project, so Mr. Morvant did so in his place.

- Proposed Timeline:
- Identify panel members for State of the Science review: March 6-29th
- Contact panel members, affirm availability, secure contracts: April 1-May 15th
- Panel member convening(s) and review: May 16-Sept 30th
- Individual meetings with Commission Members: May 13-17th
- Individual meetings with Commission Members: June 25-28th
- Three background webinars: Will be scheduled for month of July
- Introduction to Structured Decision Making
 - Dynamics of Supply
 - Dynamics of Demand
- 1st workshop: Afternoon August 1 (2hrs)/Morning August 2 (2hrs)
- Two Background webinars: Will be scheduled August 5-21st
 - Crafting Alternatives/Strategy Tables
 - Creative Actions in other Watersheds

- 2nd workshop: Afternoon August 22 (2hrs)/Morning August 23 (2 hrs)
- 3rd workshop: Afternoon September 12 (2hrs)/Morning September 13 (2hrs)
- Writing final documents: Sept-December 2019

Mr. Talbot reported on the last Planning & Specifications Subcommittee meetings:

Administrative Committee met in January. The first well has been put out for bids twice and both have come back over-budget. Mr. Roy Waggenpack gave an overview of the most recent bids received, pointing out inconsistencies in one of the bids. There was much discussion on what is needed for the well. It was decided that the bid should be for a base hole (2,400') and electric log and plugging and abandoning of that hole. Alternatives would be to complete the well with 2, 4 or 6-inch casing. In addition, a pre-bid conference will be held. Daniel moved and Morvant seconded that the project be re-bid. Motion passed. The contract was advertised for the third time on March 7, 2019 and bids must be turned in by 10:00 AM on April 9, 2019.

Mr. Walton presented an overview of the most recent pumping rates from the 1,500-ft /2,000-ft sands to monitor compliance with agreed on reductions and/or commitments

John Lovelace of the USGS gave a progress report on the Baton Rouge model. The Federal Government shutdown at the end of CY 2018 has delayed publication of the report.

PROGRESS AND SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS:

1. Completed preliminary calibration of the updated groundwater flow model. Improved the fit of water levels simulated with MODFLOW to historic water-level observations by calibration of aquifer-system parameters with PEST++.
2. Utilizing the MODFLOW-computed groundwater flow field, simulated the movement of saltwater in the "600-ft" and "1,000-ft" sands with the solute transport code MT3D-USGS.
3. Began preparation of script to automate the process of running the flow model and creating visualizations of the output files to facilitate calibration and sharing of results.

PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER:

1. Identify areas of model bias by plotting the spatial distribution of residuals (observed minus simulated water levels) at various times in the "400-ft," "600-ft," "800-ft," and "1,000-ft" sands. Attempt to alleviate any systematic bias identified with boundary-condition modification and/or reparameterization.
2. Adjust model parameters to calibrate chloride concentrations simulated in the "600-ft" and "1,000-ft" sands to historic chloride measurements in those sands.
3. Identify cooperator concerns in the "400-ft," "600-ft," "800-ft," and "1,000-ft" sands, and consider water-management alternatives amenable to analysis with the new groundwater model.
4. Prepare report "Simulation of Groundwater Flow and Chloride Transport in the "1,500-Foot", "2,400-Foot", and "2,800-Foot" Sands of the Baton Rouge Area, Louisiana" for publication.
5. Continue preparation of model visualization script.

PROBLEMS/CONCERNS:

None.

Dr. Tsai gave a report on the Board of Regents ITRS Projects

Matt Reonas proposed to monitor the effect of reductions in Georgia Pacific groundwater use. Mr. Albritton of GP stated that GP plans to cut back operations the Port Hudson to just tissue and paper towel production, as well as one natural gas power plant. He stated that GP is still looking at which wells will be used. Mr. Huggins asked that that information be shared with the Commission when it is made public. Ballpark figures are a 2/3 reduction in pumpage.

John Lovelace reviewed possible effects of the reduction in pumpage, considering several scenarios. He pointed out where USGS had transducers currently.

Mr. Huggins mentioned that BASF would be closing their plant on US-61. Could be a possibility to maintain their 1,500' well as a monitor well.

Committee member Comments

Mr. Huggins asked about wells in Ascension Parish. Mr. Duplechin replied that all existing wells will be grandfathered in but existing wells will be required to begin submitting pumpage information and to begin paying pumpage fees. The possibility of hiring temporary help to track down the wells in Ascension. He moved that the agenda be amended to address a vote to recommend the hiring of temporary help. (Dawson/Walton). Vote unanimous. Motion to full Commission to allow Director to hire temporary help to "chase" down Ascension Parish wells, as well as outstanding wells in audit. (Talbot/Morvant) no public comment. Commissioner Dawson offered his help with ident

Public Comments

Adjournment

Barry Huggins - Committee Chairman

Action Required