

MINUTES

CAPITAL AREA GROUND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 19, 2019

I. Call to Order

The Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission met for a regular meeting at 9:30 a.m. on March 19, 2019 in the U.S. Geological Survey's auditorium at 3535 South Sherwood Forest, Suite 120, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Nelson Morvant.

II. Roll Call

The following members were present: Ronnie Albritton, William Daniel, Kenneth Dawson, Barry Huggins, John Jennings, Dennis McGehee, Nelson Morvant, Joey Normand, Matthew Reonas, Ryan Scardina, Tom Stephens, Todd Talbot, Hays Town and Mark Walton. The following members were absent: Mark Frey, Lucas Hopkins and "J.A." Rummel.

Others attending the meeting were: Anthony Duplechin and Shawn Scallan, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District; Candice Hillman, Louisiana Attorney General's Office; Steve Hardy, The Advocate; Tokesha Wright, Louisiana Chemical Association; Tyler McCloud, Louisiana House of Natural Resources Committee; John Lovelace and Max Lindaman, U.S. Geological Survey; L. Shay McLaughlin, William Leonards and William Fath, Louisiana Legislative Auditor; Danny Lee and Megan Mancheste, Exxon Mobil; Johan Forsman, Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals; Michael Layne, Baton Rouge Water Company; and Alyssa Dausman, The Water Institute of the Gulf

III. Amend Agenda

There were none.

IV. Minutes

Mr. Daniel made a motion that the minutes of the December 12, 2018 be approved. Mr. Jennings seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

V. Report from the Administrative Committee

At the request of the Chairman, Nelson Morvant, Mr. Jennings reported on the meeting that was held March 12, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Following is a summary of items discussed at the meeting and further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting on March 19, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

- Mr. John McKowen reported on the CAGWCC audit for fiscal year 2017-2018. Mr. Daniel made a motion to accept the audit. Mr. Morvant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The financial conditions as of January 31, 2019 were reviewed.
- The proposed sexual harassment policy was reviewed. Mr. Huggins made a motion to accept the policy. Mr. Town seconded the motion. Commissioner Walton commented that the policy needs to include page numbers and where it states Department of Administration needs to state Division of Administration. Mr. Daniel commented to add a bullet under, Training, to state "The above training also applies to all CAGWCC Commissioners". Mr. Huggins amended his motion to update the policy to add the revisions. Mr. Morvant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Two five year projection handouts were presented to the board. One with no fee increase and one with an increase in pumpage fees from \$10 to \$20 per million gallons.
- Mr. Huggins made a motion to increase pumpage fees from \$10 to \$20 per million gallons. Mr. Morvant seconded the motion. The vote was yes -13 members; no – 0 and abstain – 1. The motion passed.
- The proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 was reviewed.
- Mr. Daniel made a motion to increase the Owen & White contract by \$3,000. Mr. Morvant seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Report from the Technical Committee

The report of the Technical Committee was made by Barry Hugghins. Following is a summary of topics discussed at the meeting on March 12, 2019 and further discussion and action at the regular Commission meeting on March 19, 2019.

- Commissioner Walton presented an overview of the most recent pumping rates from the “1,500-foot” and “2,000-foot” 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.
- Dr. Tsai gave a report on the Board of Regents ITRS Projects.
- Mr. Talbot gave an update on the bids received for the test well project. He stated that the bids were above the budgeted amount and were rejected. The project was advertised again. On April 9, 2019 the bids will be reviewed.
- Alyssa Dausman, The Water Institute of the Gulf, gave a presentation on the timeline for phase 1 for the long-term strategic planning for the Commission.
- Mr. Hugghins made a motion to amend the agenda to add the item to discuss the hiring of a contract worker to assist the Director. Mr. Normand seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Hugghins then made a motion to hire temporary help to assist the Director with adding the Ascension Parish water wells that meet the qualifications for pumpage fees and to complete the investigation of the water wells in question for the Legislative Auditor’s office. Mr. Hugghins added that the funds are included in the current budget. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VII. Director’s Report

Director Duplechin reported that he attended the Ground Water Management District Association’s meeting in Phoenix. Mr. Duplechin stated that he met with the Legislative Auditor’s team several times. Mr. Duplechin represented the Commission at a meeting of the U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Development. He made a presentation on the activities of the Commission to the Baton Rouge Round Table. He met several times with the Water Institute of the Gulf. Director Duplechin also represented the District at the Louisiana Rural Water Association Source Water Protection Workshop. The Director reminded the Commissioners that their Financial Disclosure tier 2.1 compliance is due May 15th.

VIII. Chairman’s Report

Chairman Morvant made a motion to revise the resolution dated April 17, 1989 that established the Executive Committee to consist of the following Commission officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, and Chairman of the Administrative Committee to add the Chairman of the Technical Committee. Mr. Reonas offered a substitute motion to also add the Chairman of the Planning & Specifications Subcommittee. There was no second. The motion failed. After discussion, Mr. Daniel made a motion to add the Chairman of the Technical Committee to the Executive Committee. Mr. Walton seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

IX. Commission Member Comments

There were none.

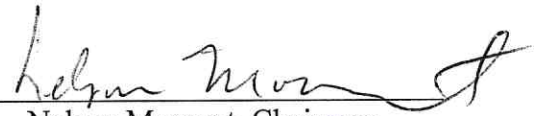
X. Public Comment

There were none.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, Mr. Talbot made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Jennings seconded this motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.


Mark Frey, Treasurer


Nelson Morvant, Chairman