

TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS
Regular Business Meeting
 October 29-30, 2014
 Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Center, Kingsville, Texas
AGENDA

Wednesday, October 29, 2013

- A. Call to Order and Invocation – 1:15 p.m.
 - B. Welcome to Kingsville, Mayor Sam Fugate
 - C. Welcome to the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Center and Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Fred C. Bryant, *Leroy G. Denman, Jr. Endowed Director of Wildlife Research. Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville*
 - D. Speaker Sessions – Regional Focus
 - 1. Regional Issues: a look at Kenedy County GCD, Brush Country GCD, and Duval County GCD, Mary Sahs, Felix Saenz, and Atlee Parr
 - 2. City of Brownsville Desalination Plant, Judy Adams, *Water Treatment Manager, Brownsville Public Utilities*
 - E. Roll Call
 - F. Announcement of new members
 - G. Discussion and possible action on minutes of prior meeting
 - H. Discussion and possible action on Financial reports
 - I. Election of Vice President to serve remainder of term (through September 30, 2015)
 - J. Discussion and possible action on legislative proposals and TAGD Legislative Policy
- 5:30 p.m. Networking reception/dinner at Butch's Steakhouse (included with registration)

Thursday, October 30, 2013

- A. Call to Order – 8:30 a.m.
- B. Speaker Sessions – Statewide Focus
 - 1. Current ground water investigations at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, *Richard Hay, Assistant Director, Center for Water Supply Studies, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi*
 - 1. Water Supply Enhancement Program: Increasing Available Surface and Ground Water Through Brush Control, *Aaron Wendt, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board*
 - 2. Texas Underground Injection Control Program Overview, *Lorrie Council, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality*
- C. Officer and Committee Reports

Executive Director (Stacey Steinbach)	Groundwater Protection (David Van Dresar)
Executive Committee (Kathy Turner Jones)	Information/Education (Carolyn Cadena & Leah Adams)
Legislative Committee	Railroad (Sue Young)
Bylaws Committee (Zach Holland)	Aquifer Storage and Recovery (Tim Andruss)
Drought Preparedness (David Van Dresar)	Soil & Water Conservation (Joel Pigg)

- D. Member and Group Reports
- E. Other TAGD Business
- F. Adjournment

Thank you to our meeting hosts and sponsors
Kenedy County GCD, Brush Country GCD, and Duval County GCD!

Membership Form

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Thank you for supporting TAGD. We welcome and encourage your participation! Membership in TAGD runs from October 1 - October 1 each year and is prorated on a quarterly basis for new membership applications. If you have any questions about membership or benefits, please call 1-512-522-8243.

Upon receipt of a completed application form and approval by the Executive Committee, you will receive an invoice for payment.

Member Name

Apex Geoscience Inc.

Primary Contact Information

First Name

William

Last Name

Gamblin

E-mail Address

wgamblin@apexgeo.com

Add this e-mail to the Google Group(s)?

Yes NO

Street Address

2120 Brandon Drive

City

Tyler

State

TX

Zip Code

75703

Phone Number

903-581-8080

Membership Information

(select the appropriate choice based on your entity type)

GCD Members

- Annual Budget \$0-\$99,999: \$550.00
- Annual Budget \$100,000-\$249,999: \$750.00
- Annual Budget \$250,000-\$499,999: \$1,000.00
- Annual Budget \$500,000-\$999,999: \$1,250
- Annual Budget \$1,000,000 and up: \$1,500.00

Associate Members

- Individual or Sole Proprietorship: \$500.00
- 501(c)(3) or Educational Institution: \$750.00
- Small Corporation (budget<\$500,000) or Non-GCD Government Entity: \$1,000.00
- Medium Corporation (budget \$500,000-\$1,000,000): \$1,250.00
- Large Corporation (budget>\$1,000,000): \$1,500.00

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Member Name

Robert L. "Robby" Cook, III Governmental Affairs

Primary Contact Information

First Name

Robby

Last Name

Cook

E-mail Address

robbycook@westcapitol.com

Add this e-mail to the Google Group(s)?

Yes NO

Street Address

1122 Colorado, Suite 208, West Gate Building

City

Austin

State

TX

Zip Code

78701

Phone Number

979-758-4233

Membership Information

(select the appropriate choice based on your entity type)

GCD Members

- Annual Budget \$0-\$99,999: \$550.00
- Annual Budget \$100,000-\$249,999: \$750.00
- Annual Budget \$250,000-\$499,999: \$1,000.00
- Annual Budget \$500,000-\$999,999: \$1,250
- Annual Budget \$1,000,000 and up: \$1,500.00

Associate Members

- Individual or Sole Proprietorship: \$500.00
- 501(c)(3) or Educational Institution: \$750.00
- Small Corporation (budget < \$500,000) or Non-GCD Government Entity: \$1,000.00
- Medium Corporation (budget \$500,000-\$1,000,000): \$1,250.00
- Large Corporation (budget > \$1,000,000): \$1,500.00

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Upon receipt of a completed application form and approval by the Executive Committee, you will receive an invoice for payment.

Member Name

Kelly Hart & Hallman LLP

Primary Contact Information

First Name

Monica

Last Name

Jacobs

E-mail Address

monica.jacobs@kellyhart.com

Add this e-mail to the Google Group(s)?

Yes NO

Street Address

301 Congress Ave., Ste. 2000

City

Austin

State

TX

Zip Code

78701

Phone Number

5124956405

Membership Information

(select the appropriate choice based on your entity type)

GCD Members

- Annual Budget \$0-\$99,999: \$550.00
- Annual Budget \$100,000-\$249,999: \$750.00
- Annual Budget \$250,000-\$499,999: \$1,000.00
- Annual Budget \$500,000-\$999,999: \$1,250
- Annual Budget \$1,000,000 and up: \$1,500.00

Associate Members

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- 501(c)(3) or Educational Institution: \$750.00
- Small Corporation (budget<\$500,000) or Non-GCD Government Entity: \$1,000.00
- Medium Corporation (budget \$500,000-\$1,000,000): \$1,250.00
- Large Corporation (budget>\$1,000,000): \$1,500.00

**Minutes of
Regular Meeting
TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS
August 26, 2014
San Marcos Embassy Suites and Conference Center**

These Minutes are a record of the items discussed, including motions on any matters that involve the TAGD Membership. The Minutes mostly follow the order on the previously distributed agenda, but may not have been discussed in that order, as noted in the Minutes.

- A. Call to Order.** President Kathy Turner Jones called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.
- B. Invocation.** Gary Westbrook gave the invocation.
- C. Roll Call.** Secretary Leah Adams called the roll and informed the Chair there were 50 District Members in attendance, comprising a quorum. A list of GCDs represented at the meeting is attached as Attachment 1.
- D. Discussion and possible action on minutes of prior meeting.** Kathy Turner Jones presented the minutes from the last meeting. Joel Pigg made the motion and Steve Walthour seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Discussion and possible action on Financial Reports.** Stacey Steinbach presented the financial reports. Jim Conkwright made the motion and Harvey Everhart seconded to approve the financial reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Discussion and possible action on amendments to Financial Policy.** Steve Walthour gave a discussion of the new Financial Policy. The changes include: (1) an amendment to allow for financial reviews in lieu of financial audits, as recommended by our auditor, and (2) an amendment to allow the Executive Committee to make budget amendments related to grant awards. The F&B made these edits so that the financial policy mirrors our Bylaws and to streamline efforts. Bob Patterson made a motion and Alan Day seconded to approve the amendments to the Financial Policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- G. Discussion and possible action on Employment Policy.** Kathy Turner Jones presented changes to the Employment Policy. She recommended the development of a policy after Sheila Gladstone's employment presentation at the last meeting. Stacey looked at nonprofit employment policies and came up with the draft. The Bylaws and Executive Committees have offered feedback on the draft. Jason Coleman made a motion and Zach Holland seconded to approve the Employment Policy as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- H. Discussion and possible action on Bylaws amendments.** Zach Holland presented the changes to the Bylaws, including (1) overall clean up, including the addition of an ED section and mirroring the changes to the financial policy, (2) updating TAGD's contracting ability, and (3) incorporating the various adopted policies into the document (now we have: Amicus Brief, Financial, Employment, Legislative). Steve Walthour made a motion and David Van Dresar seconded to approve the amendments to the Bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.
- I. Discussion and possible action on 2014-2015 District Membership dues, Associate Membership dues, and quarterly meeting registration fees.** Steve Walthour presented the Finance and Budget Committee's proposed dues and fees for the upcoming year, and noted that the committee recommended that no changes be made to the 2013-2014 dues for the upcoming year. Janet Adams made a motion and Joel Pigg seconded to approve the dues and fees for the upcoming year. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Discussion and possible action on Executive Committee's recommendation regarding staff performance evaluation. Kathy Turner Jones presented the Evaluation Committee's and the Executive Committee's recommendation to raise the TAGD Executive Director's salary by \$10,000 due to her value to the organization to be more competitive in the market. The raise also would include an increase in the cell phone stipend to \$100 and the addition of a matching retirement benefit of at least 6% with a 2 to 1 match to be set up by the Executive Committee. Budgeting these items will be addressed with item K the 2014-2015 Annual Budget item.

K. Discussion and possible action on 2014-2015 Annual Budget. Steve Walthour presented the 2014-2015 budget. He expected income for the 2013-2014 budget to be \$182,000 which is \$29,000 more than the adopted budget for that year. The expected income would put TAGD \$4,100 in the black for expenditures. The 2014-2015 income is expected to be \$162,000. The biggest change will be in personnel. Steve predicts a drop in cash reserves for the 2014-2015 budget year due to a need to support growth in the organization. There were no questions or comments on the presented budget. Janet Adams made a motion and David Alford seconded to approve the raise, stipend increase, and retirement for staff, a \$5,000 bonus to President, and the retirement presented in agenda Item J. David Van Dresar made a motion and Alan Day seconded to approve the 2014- 2015 Budget with the prior motion changes. Both motions passed unanimously.

L. Discussion and possible action on 2015 TAGD quarterly meetings. Stacey Steinbach noted that TAGD would be surveying members regarding dates and locations for future TAGD meetings after the conclusion of the Summit. After some discussion, Harvey Everhart made the motion and Gary Westbrook seconded to authorize the Executive Committee to determine the locations and dates of the 2015 quarterly meetings based on the results of the online surveys. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Discussion and possible action on Texas Groundwater Summit 2015. Stacey noted that TAGD signed a two-year deal with IEM per action at the 2014 Annual meeting, so this item is just to determine whether to execute a contract with the San Marcos Embassy Suites for 2015. After a discussion of the 2015 Texas Groundwater Summit, Zach Holland made the motion and Alan Day seconded to authorize the Executive Committee to approve a contract with the San Marcos Embassy Suites for the 2015 Texas Groundwater Summit. The motion passed unanimously.

N. Discussion and possible action on legislative proposals. Stacey Steinbach wanted to bring the draft ASR and brackish groundwater bills being considered by the TWCA Groundwater Committee to the TAGD membership for direction. After some discussion, Greg Sengelmann made a motion and Ron Naumann seconded the motion to vote "No" for TAGD to support the TWCA ASR bill due to a belief that the bill ignores aquifer concerns for pumping and does not allow for adequate landowner protests. Before a vote was taken, Gary Walker made a motion and Harvey Everhart seconded to table the prior motion. The motion passed unanimously. C.E. Williams then made a motion and Steve Walthour seconded to allow for an online poll vote on the bill once TWCA submits a draft of the bill changes that are currently in the works. The motion passed unanimously. Stacey Steinbach then gave a summation of the brackish groundwater bill being considered by the TWCA Groundwater Committee. After some discussion on the bill, Zach Holland made a motion and Steve Walthour seconded to follow the same process as the ASR bill and use an online poll of the membership to determine TAGD's position on the TWCA brackish groundwater bill draft.

O. Committee Reports. The report as listed below:

1. Executive Director – Stacey referred to the Executive Directors report included in the agenda packets.
2. Executive Committee – Kathy Turner Jones referred the membership to the minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting in board packets.

3. Legislative Committee – Bob Patterson reported no other legislative issues other than the ASR and brackish groundwater issues discussed during the meeting.
4. Bylaws Committee – Zach Holland expressed appreciation to all those that helped with the Bylaw amendments and update.
5. Drought Preparedness – None.
6. Groundwater Protection – None.
7. Information & Education – Carolyn Cadena asked everyone to check out the feature article on Texas Water and let everyone know featuring a GCD on the website was going to begin again. She also presented the formation of the following subcommittees: 1) GCD Index Committee; 2) GCD Manual Committee which will hopefully include a 101 Handbook for New GCDs or General Managers; 3) Salary Survey Committee; and 4) Outreach Tools Committee. Carolyn then provided a presentation of the new online GCD Index.
8. Railroad – None.
9. Aquifer Storage and Recovery – None due to prior ASR discussion.
10. Soil & Water Conservation – None.

O. Member and Group Reports. The reports are as follows:

1. GCD Reports – Paul Weatherby from Middle Pecos GCD asked if other GCDs were having casing failure issues with older O&G wells due to water flood injection and asked for any GCDs to contact him if they have a casing integrity checking policy or dealt with the RRC on such issues. Panola County reported the beginning of a County wide aquifer study as a collaborative effort between local oil and gas companies and the District.
2. GMA Reports – None.
3. RWPG Reports – None.
4. Environmental Flows Advisory Group Reports – None.

P. Other TAGD Business. No other business.

Q. Adjournment. Zach Holland made a motion and Slate Williams seconded to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Turner Jones adjourned the meeting at 12:15 pm.

Prepared and submitted by Stacey Steinbach, Executive Director, and Leah Adams, Secretary.

Approved by the Members on _____, 2014.

Kathy Turner Jones, President

Leah Adams, Secretary

Attachment 1
Members Attending the TAGD Quarterly Business Meeting
August 26, 2014
San Marcos Embassy Suites and Conference Center

1. Bandera Co. River Authority and Groundwater District
2. Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
3. Bee Groundwater Conservation District
4. Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
5. Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District
6. Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District
7. Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District
8. Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District
9. Coke County Underground Water Conservation District
10. Crockett County Groundwater Conservation District
11. Culberson County Groundwater Conservation District
12. Duval County Groundwater Conservation District
13. Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District
14. Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District
15. Glasscock Groundwater Conservation District
16. Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District
17. Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District
18. High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1
19. Irion County Water Conservation District
20. Kenedy County Groundwater Conservation District
21. Jeff Davis County Underground Water Conservation District
22. Live Oak Underground Water Conservation District
23. Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District
24. Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District
25. Lone Wolf Groundwater Conservation District
26. McMullen Groundwater Conservation District
27. Medina County Groundwater Conservation District
28. Mesa Underground Water Conservation District
29. Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District
30. Middle Pecos Groundwater Conservation District
31. Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
32. Neches and Trinity Valleys Groundwater Conservation District
33. North Plains Groundwater Conservation District
34. North Texas Groundwater Conservation District
35. Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District
36. Panola County Groundwater Conservation District
37. Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District
38. Plateau Underground Water Conservation and Supply District
39. Plum Creek Conservation District
40. Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District
41. Prairelands Groundwater Conservation District
42. Real-Edwards Conservation and Reclamation District
43. Red River Groundwater Conservation District
44. Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District
45. Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District
46. South Plains Underground Water Conservation District
47. Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District
48. Sterling County Underground Water Conservation District
49. Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District
50. Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

BALANCE SHEET

As of September 30, 2014

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
WellsFargo Bank - Checking	9,042.07
WellsFargo Bank - Savings	75,030.05
Total Bank Accounts	\$84,072.12
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	41,902.25
Total Accounts Receivable	\$41,902.25
Other current assets	
Deposits	400.00
Prepaid Rent	465.00
Total Other current assets	\$865.00
Total Current Assets	\$126,839.37
TOTAL ASSETS	\$126,839.37
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	84,433.05
Retained Earnings	34,398.83
Net Income	8,007.49
Total Equity	\$126,839.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$126,839.37

Tuesday, Oct 21, 2014 09:03:43 AM PDT GMT-5 - Accrual Basis

Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: TAGD - FY14 P&L

October 2013 - September 2014

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Income			
Grants and Donations	5,500.00	2,500.00	220.00 %
Interest Income	152.39	36.00	423.31 %
Meeting Income			
Leadership Training Income	6,375.00	0.00	
PFA Training	3,550.00	4,000.00	88.75 %
Quarterly Meeting Income	34,960.00	23,000.00	152.00 %
Texas Groundwater Summit	35,702.25	30,000.00	119.01 %
Total Meeting Income	80,587.25	57,000.00	141.38 %
Member Dues			
Membership Dues - Associates	29,000.00	22,000.00	131.82 %
Membership Dues - Voting	76,512.50	72,250.00	105.90 %
Total Member Dues	105,512.50	94,250.00	111.95 %
Total Income	\$191,752.14	\$153,786.00	124.69 %
Gross Profit	\$191,752.14	\$153,786.00	124.69 %
Expenses			
Meeting Expenses			
Leadership Training Expenses	3,925.40		
Meeting Supplies	1,130.97	1,000.00	113.10 %
Quarterly Meeting Expenses	10,562.90	9,000.00	117.37 %
Total Meeting Expenses	15,619.27	10,000.00	156.19 %
Office Expense			
Business Phone	900.37	840.00	107.19 %
Cell Phone	735.00	840.00	87.50 %
Furniture and Equipment	3,836.20	3,500.00	109.61 %
Internet	334.95	440.00	76.13 %
Postage and PO Box	168.46	200.00	84.23 %
Rent	6,325.33	5,580.00	113.36 %
Supplies	835.31	800.00	104.41 %
Website	739.25	800.00	92.41 %
Total Office Expense	13,874.87	13,000.00	106.73 %
Personnel			
Executive Director			
Health Insurance Reimburse	4,569.00	5,645.00	80.94 %
Payroll Taxes	6,258.30	5,355.00	116.87 %
Salaries	74,999.96	70,000.00	107.14 %
Total Executive Director	85,827.26	81,000.00	105.96 %

Health Insurance Reimburse	3,172.72	4,800.00	66.10 %
Payroll Taxes	2,581.89	3,200.00	80.68 %
Salaries	40,557.84	45,000.00	90.13 %
Total Staff	46,312.45	53,000.00	87.38 %
Total Personnel	132,139.71	134,000.00	98.61 %
Professional Services			
Audit/Tax Return	5,075.00	4,500.00	112.78 %
Contracted Services		800.00	
Insurance - Bonds	1,916.05	400.00	479.01 %
Payroll/Bookkeeping/Banking	1,883.77	3,600.00	52.33 %
PFIA Instructor	1,450.00	2,000.00	72.50 %
Texas Legislative Service	1,650.00	1,700.00	97.06 %
Total Professional Services	11,974.82	13,000.00	92.11 %
Travel/Confer/Dues/Outreach			
Conference Fees	2,315.00	2,200.00	105.23 %
Member Dues/Registrations	153.63	450.00	34.14 %
Outreach	5,461.72	4,400.00	124.13 %
Travel and Hotel	2,205.63	2,450.00	90.03 %
Total Travel/Confer/Dues/Outreach	10,135.98	9,500.00	106.69 %
Total Expenses	\$183,744.65	\$179,500.00	102.36 %
Net Operating Income	\$8,007.49	\$ -25,714.00	-31.14 %
Net Income	\$8,007.49	\$ -25,714.00	-31.14 %

Wednesday, Oct 15, 2014 11:04:35 AM PDT GMT-5 - Accrual Basis

**TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS
LEGISLATIVE POLICY**

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts is a 501(c)(3) organization created exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes. As such, TAGD's principal goals related to legislation affecting groundwater conservation districts and the management of groundwater in Texas is to:

1. Serve as an informational resource for State and Federal Legislators and agencies; and
2. Inform TAGD members of relevant legislation and how it may impact district governance.

Toward that end, TAGD representatives and employees should endeavor to serve as a premier resource on groundwater management practices in the State and keep the membership up to date on the status of legislation affecting groundwater conservation districts. TAGD believes that such efforts are the best way to positively affect and respond to legislation related to groundwater conservation districts. In the limited instances where legislative advocacy is deemed necessary by TAGD members, this Policy will serve as a guide for participation and decision-making. Nothing in this Policy should be construed as limiting a member's ability to pursue lobbying activities on behalf of an employer or client.

2.0 EMPLOYEE, OFFICER, AND COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

TAGD's Executive Director should serve the following roles related to legislative information and advocacy:

1. Act as the main point of contact for Legislators, legislative staffers, and the public concerning TAGD legislative positions;
2. Function as a resource for and provide relevant information to public officials as necessary in furtherance of TAGD's mission and this Policy;
3. Inform the membership of pending legislation of possible interest to groundwater districts and provide regular updates on tracked legislation as provided herein;
4. Notify the membership of Legislative Committee meetings as necessary; and
5. Report lobbying activities to the Executive Committee on a regular basis and to the Texas Ethics Commission as required by law.

As maintained in the Bylaws, TAGD's Vice President is the chair of the Legislative Committee. As it relates to this Policy, the Vice President is responsible for:

1. Presiding over meetings of the Legislative Committee;
2. Facilitating compliance with TAGD's policies related to legislative advocacy;
3. Working with the Executive Director to respond to inquiries regarding TAGD's legislative positions; and
4. Coordinating with the Executive Director to serve as resource for public officials as necessary in furtherance of TAGD's mission and this Policy

| The Legislative Committee is responsible for:

1. Initiating legislative proposals, policies and resolutions for presentation to TAGD's membership;

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2. Informing TAGD's membership of pending legislation of possible interest to groundwater districts;
3. Developing a position on legislation of possible interest to groundwater districts that is pertinent to the TAGD; and
4. Acting on legislation with approval from the Executive Committee.

3.0 Legislative Committee Participation

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3.1. Membership on the Committee

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At the start of each fiscal year, TAGD shall open up membership in the Legislative Committee ("Committee") for a two-week sign up period (the "sign-up period"). Any individual employed by a TAGD-member GCD may serve on the Committee, but membership is limited to one representative per TAGD-member GCD. Individuals who qualify and sign up during the sign-up period will make up the standing Committee until the subsequent fiscal year, when the process will be repeated.

If an individual begins employment with a TAGD-member GCD after the sign-up period, they may join the Committee outside of the sign-up period as long as no other employee of that member-GCD is already a member. If an individual otherwise misses the sign-up period but wishes to sign up for the Committee during a fiscal year, they may request to join the Committee by email to the Executive Director. The Committee will then vote to approve or deny the membership request for membership during that fiscal year.

Individuals employed by TAGD Associate Members may also sign up to serve on the Committee during the sign-up period, subject to approval by the Executive Committee, but membership is limited to one representative per TAGD Associate Member.

3.2. Committee Votes

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Each member of the Committee is entitled to one vote on all matters before the Committee.

3.3. Consensus

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At the first meeting of each fiscal year, the Committee shall define the voting standards that will be used for the Committee.

3.4. Committee Meetings

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Committee meetings may not be closed to TAGD-member GCDs.

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4.0 LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

During a session of the Texas Legislature, the Executive Director should regularly inform TAGD's membership of pending legislation of possible interest to groundwater districts. In so doing, the Executive Director should track such legislation and provide updates to the membership as applicable. The Legislative Committee should give an update on prospective and pending legislation, as well as a summary of the positions TAGD has taken on such legislation, if any, at each TAGD meeting that occurs during a session of the Texas Legislature.

5.0 POLICY STATEMENTS

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Policy statements drafted prior to each Legislative Session are TAGD's preferred method of legislative advocacy. Beginning in January of each even-numbered year, the Legislative Committee should meet regularly by electronic communication, by conference call, or in person to discuss and attempt to reach consensus on pending issues related to groundwater districts that may be raised during the next session of the Texas Legislature. Any policy statements drafted and approved by the Committee should be presented to the full membership for a vote prior to the beginning of the legislative session, if possible. Approved policy statements may be distributed to groundwater conservation district boards, Legislators and their staff, and any other interested parties. To the extent that a piece of proposed legislation encompasses an approved position statement, TAGD representatives may support and advocate for such legislation, including testifying for bills at Committee hearings. In such testimony, the TAGD representatives should explicitly note whether the applicable position statement was or was not unanimously approved by the TAGD membership.

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6.0 OTHER LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

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Starting in January of each odd-numbered year and running through the end of the Texas Legislative Session, the Committee should meet regularly by electronic communication, by conference call, or in person. The purpose of these meetings should be to determine whether any pending legislation filed or amended since the last meeting warrants action by TAGD and to vote on relevant bills. If the Committee cannot reach a consensus on the bill, as that term is defined by the Committee, it will remain in the neutral category and TAGD should avoid taking a position.

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Pursuant to the Bylaws, the Committee may not act on legislation without approval from the Executive Committee. The Legislative Committee should regularly report the status and result of Committee votes on proposed bills to the TAGD Membership and summarize TAGD positions during pending legislation updates at TAGD quarterly meetings as described in section 3.0.

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Executive Director's Report - October 2014 TAGD meeting

Administrative and Financial

We have included 4th quarter financials (balance sheet, profit and loss, and budget detail) in member packets. As you can see, the last fiscal year was a good year for TAGD. We planned on taking more than \$25,000 from reserves, but actually did not use any reserves and instead made over \$8,000 for the year, giving us nearly \$130,000 in total assets.

Membership

As you all know, membership renewal forms went out at the first of the month. About 40% of our 118 members have already returned the forms. If you haven't submitted your form, please do so as soon as possible. Second notices will go out the first week of November, and the Bylaws require us to cancel memberships that have not been renewed by December 1st.

We will update membership lists and send them out in December. We will also update the members' only page of our website with membership information. We are still very interested in creating a TAGD "look book" with pictures, so please send us an electronic image of you/your staff or let us take pictures at a TAGD meeting.

Legislative and Agency Matters

In October, the TWCA board approved 4 draft bills to be circulated as "TWCA consensus language." These bills address long-term permitting, aquifer storage and recovery, the State Auditor's GCD authority, and TDLR authorities related to apprentice well-drillers and enforcement. You'll recall that TAGD supported three of these bills at TWCA and abstained from voting on the ASR bill.

Over the next few months, we will continue working with TAGD members and other stakeholders on brackish legislation, including the consideration of new ideas for incentivizing brackish groundwater development without impacting fresh water resources. We also anticipate that we will start seeing bills related to administrative procedures and streamlining GCD rules, and we will keep you all posted on those developments.

At the October meeting, we are hoping to clarify some of the committee participating and voting procedures in our Legislative Policy. These amendments are aimed to ensure that we are all on the same page when it comes to Legislative Committee action and so that TAGD has a standing Legislative Committee that can be called on when necessary. Every Legislative Committee action will still have to be approved by the Executive Committee or the full membership before being put into place.

Outreach and Education

Carolyn continues to head up our outreach and education efforts. At our last quarterly meeting, we shared with you our desire to increase the activity of the Outreach & Education Committee. Since that time, the Committee has been busy on several fronts. In September, TAGD publicly released the Groundwater Conservation District Index (GCDI) on the TAGD website. The online interactive tool was made possible by a grant from the Dixon Water Foundation and donations from Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, Central Texas GCD, Clearwater UWCD, Middle Pecos GCD, Lone Star GCD, Hemphill County UWCD, Sandy Land UWCD, and

Upper Trinity GCD. TAGD introduced the GCDI at the TWCA conference in early October. We are very pleased with the positive feedback we have received and overall excitement from GCD members and the public. Please check your GCD's GCDI page and let us know if any change should be made. We will be doing annual updates to make sure the data stays current.

Carolyn continues to publish "This Week in Texas Water," a weekly compilation of water-related articles, which she posts to the TAGD website and tweet to TAGD's Twitter followers. We have also resurrected the Featured District page on our website where we publish human-interest articles profiling different member districts. Our current profiled district is Panola County GCD. We are currently working on our next article featuring Southeast Texas GCD.

Finally, since our last quarterly meeting, the Outreach & Education Committee has formed four subcommittees consisting of TAGD members. The GCDI Subcommittee will direct decisions related to the parameters, data, and online component of the GCDI. The GCD Handbook Subcommittee will work toward developing a GCD 101 resource for new GCDs and General Managers. The Publications Subcommittee will work on developing articles on popular issues to be made available to GCDs with the goal of facilitating similar inter-district messaging. The Salary Survey Subcommittee, spearheaded by Leah Adams, is conducting an in-depth salary survey that, when finished, will assist GCDs in making compensation decisions for different categories of GCD positions. The goal is to have the first phase of the Salary Survey completed by the beginning of 2015.

In September, I spoke about brackish groundwater management at the Texas Desalination Association's annual conference. In October, Carolyn gave a presentation about the GCDI at the TWCA fall meeting. In November, I will again speak about brackish groundwater management at the University of Texas Water Law CLE conference, and both Carolyn and I will speak at Clearwater UWCD's Water Symposium.

TAGD Meetings

The 2014 Texas Groundwater Summit was a great success. Conference evaluations were overwhelmingly positive on both the overall program and the San Marcos Embassy Suites. Based on those reports and the TAGD conference survey results, we have already booked that hotel for TGS15, to be held August 25-27, 2015. Overall, we had 312 total attendees (down from 326 last year), 16 sponsors (up from 11 last year), and 20 exhibitors (up from 15 last year). Total net revenue for the summit was \$35,702.25, up nearly \$10,000 from last year. **We are so grateful to those of you who attended the summit and our sponsors and exhibitors, who make this event successful year after year.**

We are working with IEM to streamline costs and brainstorm ways to increase attendance in the hopes of sustaining this kind of success 2015. We believe the main reason for decreased attendance is competition. When we started the Summit in 2012, there were only a handful of other conferences in the fall period. Now, there are more than 15 other meetings, including conferences produced by out-of-state, for-profit organizations with a business model of producing conference around the country. When considering conferences, I encourage you to keep your registration fees in state – whether it's at TAGD, TWCA, or any of the other Texas non-profit organizations that produce conferences.

As for our 2015 TAGD meetings, the TAGD conference survey showed greatest support for the current meeting schedule of late-February, late-May, late-August, and late-October schedule in 2015. We may move the late May schedule to early June to avoid the Memorial Day holiday and so that the meeting can (hopefully) be after the legislature has adjourned.

We are looking forward to being in Kingsville next week and are so grateful to Brush Country GCD, Duval County GCD, and Kenedy County GCD for hosting and sponsoring the event. We are lucky to have introductions from Sam Fugate, the Mayor of Kingsville, and Dr. Fred Bryant, the Leroy G. Denman, Jr. Endowed Director of Wildlife Research at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. We will also have a BBQ dinner at Butch's Steakhouse in downtown Kingsville, included in your registration fees.

Unfortunately, registration is down significantly for our Kingsville meeting. We have 25% fewer registrations than we did this time last year for Cleburne, and as of October 24th, we only have 32 member GCDs registered, meaning that unless we get additional registrations in the next week we will likely not have a quorum at the meeting. For this reason, we may not recommend a fall "travel" meeting to the Executive Committee for next year. The Executive Committee will meet in November to discuss the 2015 meeting schedule and we will update the membership once the decisions have been made.