

**Minutes of
Regular Meeting
TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS
October 30-31, 2012
Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District Offices
655 Conroe North Park Drive, Conroe, TX, 77303**

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.

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

- A. Call to Order and Invocation.** TAGD President Kathy Turner Jones called the meeting to order at 1:16 pm. Gary Westbrook gave the invocation.
- B. Welcome to Conroe, by Mayor Webb K. Melder**
- C. Speaker Sessions**
1. Introduction to Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District, Kathy Turner Jones, General Manager, and Paul Nelson, Assistant General Manager, Lone Star GCD
 2. Summary of Proposed Chapter 356 TWDB Rules, Kristen Fancher, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C.
 3. Discussion of issues for 83rd Legislative Session and beyond:
Monique Norman, Law Offices of Monique Norman
J.D. Head, Fritz, Byrne, Head & Harrison, PLLC
Jason Hill, Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C.
Drew Miller, Kemp Smith LLP
Claudia Russell, Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, Acosta LLP
- D. Roll Call.** Secretary Kirk Holland called the roll, and informed the Chair there were 32 District Members in attendance, not comprising a quorum. Without objection from the membership, President Jones announced that TAGD would move ahead with the agenda items, for later ratification.

On Wednesday, October 31, 2012, the Secretary again called the roll, and informed the Chair there were 33 District Members in attendance, thus comprising a quorum. At that time, Steve Walthour made and C.E. Williams seconded a motion to ratify the actions of the membership from the previous day [the actions listed below]. The motion passed unanimously.

A list of GCDs represented at the meeting during the second roll call is attached as Exhibit 1.

- E. Announcement of new members.** TAGD Executive Director Stacey Steinbach announced that the Executive Committee has approved a membership application for a new Associate Member, Resource Action Programs.
- F. Discussion and possible action on minutes of prior meeting.** Charles Beseda noted that Prairielands GCD attended the August 2012 TAGD meeting but was not listed as being in attendance. Steve Walthour moved and Jim Conkwright seconded a motion to approve the minutes with the addition of Prairielands GCD to the attendance list. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Discussion and possible action on Financial Reports.** TAGD Treasurer Steve Walthour gave an overview of TAGD's end of year financial reports, noting that the Texas Groundwater Summit saw a net profit of over \$35,000, allowing TAGD to end the year with \$20,000 more in assets than the same time in 2011. Steve moved to approve the financial reports and Janet Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- H. Discussion and possible action on requests for support of grant applications.** After discussion, President Jones recommended that TAGD form a subcommittee to look at the pros and cons of TAGD's supporting grant applications generally, and as warranted to evaluate possible mechanisms to provide that support in a controlled fashion. She then noted that this was similar to the subject in Item K on this agenda, and opened up that agenda item for discussion and possible action along with Item H.
- I. Discussion and possible action on 2013 TAGD quarterly meetings.** Stacey Steinbach reminded the membership of the previously adopted dates for meetings in 2013. The Texas Groundwater Summit would continue to be August 27-29, 2013, but because of spacing issues, Stacey recommended holding quarterly meetings in February, May, and October, with the October meeting to be held in conjunction with a participating member GCD. Joe B. Cooper made and C.E. Williams seconded a motion to hold quarterly meetings February 26-27 and May 29-30 in Austin, and a late October or early November meeting at a GCD to be determined by the Executive Committee after TAGD solicits volunteer GCDs, and at a date to be approved by the hosting GCD and the Executive Committee. The motion passed unanimously.
- J. Discussion and possible action on 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 356 proposed rules.** Stacey Steinbach reiterated some of the points Kristen Fancher made in her presentation and noted that it was a good opportunity for TAGD to be involved in the rulemaking process. Due to the comment period ending on November 1, 2012, Stacey made a recommendation that she draft a comment letter on the rules consistent with Kristen's presentation to be filed by the close of the comment period. Ron Fieseler made and Paul Weatherby seconded such a motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- K. Discussion and possible action on TAGD's membership/participation in other Texas water organization(s).** Stacey Steinbach noted that TAGD has received a handful of requests from other organizations to join in various efforts in recent months. Notably, she discussed membership opportunities in H2O4Texas, an organization aimed at securing funding for the State Water Plan. TAGD President Kathy Turner Jones appointed a subcommittee on grants, projects, and associations with other organizations, to look at this issue and consider proposing a policy for addressing future requests; she asked Steve Walthour to chair the subcommittee, and appointed Leah Adams, Kirk Holland, Dirk Aaron, Gary Westbrook, and C.E. Williams to the subcommittee. A report to the membership would be made in the February members meeting.
- L. Discussion/possible action on TAGD office space during the 83rd Legislative Session.** Stacey Steinbach noted that TAGD Associate Member Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta, LLP had offered the use of an office and periodic use of its conference rooms to TAGD during the legislative session. In exchange for this opportunity, TAGD would waive Bickerstaff's membership fees and provide the firm with three free passes to the 2013 Texas Groundwater Summit. Steve Walthour made and Zack Holland seconded a motion to approve the arrangement and the motion passed unanimously.

President Jones then recessed the meeting until 8:40 AM the following day, for a tour of the San Jacinto River Authority's Lake Conroe Dam, led by GM Jace Houston, and a Members' networking dinner.

Wednesday, October 31, 2012

A. Call to Order. President Jones called the meeting to order from its recess and breakfast at 8:40 AM.

B. Speaker Sessions.

1. Groundwater Management Thesis Presentation, John Dupnik, University of Texas at Austin
2. TDLR Well Driller/Pump Installer Program, W.L. Stribling, Project Manager, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
3. Texas Well Owner Network Update, Drew Gholson, TWON Coordinator, Texas Well Owner Network

C. Committee Reports

1. **Executive Director – Stacey Steinbach.** Stacey previously submitted a written ED report that provided the members more detail of her activities. She noted that most of her recent work was related to the GCD database, and she would be presenting on that project at a water law conference the following week. Stacey provided a membership update, noting that nearly all members had paid their 2012-2013 dues, and reminded the membership that the next TAGD meeting would be held February 26-27 in Austin, with TAGD Day at the Capitol happening on February 27th. She highlighted the approaching legislative session and said that Legislative Committee meetings would begin soon.
2. **Executive Committee – Kathy Turner Jones.** Kathy directed the membership to the Executive Committee minutes included in member packets. She noted that the Executive Committee would be holding a workshop/retreat on Dec. 4-5 to discuss long-term vision for TAGD, and that members were encouraged to share their thoughts with their TAGD Area Reps for input into the Executive Committee Retreat.
3. **Legislative Committee-David Van Dresar.** Stacey provided a report during her Executive Director Report. She noted that there would be a Legislative Committee meeting in Austin on Dec. 5, following the Executive Committee Retreat, and that the committee would be reviewing the draft priorities list. Stacey will send out a draft listing of the possible priorities to the members and requested that members email her with ideas and thoughts on the legislative priorities.
4. **Groundwater Protection and Drought Preparedness Council-David Van Dresar.** No report.
5. **Bylaws Committee-Cindy Weatherby.** No report.
6. **Information and Education-Deanya Williams.** Stacey provided a report during her Executive Director Report, and also noted an upcoming initiative to improve networking capabilities and sharing among outreach and education directors from member GCDs.
7. **Railroad-Bob Patterson.** Bob provided an update on rulemakings at the Railroad Commission and encouraged GCDs to get involved, as the RRC didn't appear to be supporting alternative completion language or utilizing consistent definitions of usable quality water in its rulemaking.

8. **Aquifer Storage and Recovery-David Mauk.** No report.
9. **Soil and Water Conservation.** Mike McGuire mentioned that EQIP may be going away in in the federal Farm Bill and gave an update on root rot control efforts that have been recently approved by EPA.

D. Member and Group Reports

1. **GCD reports.** Kirk Holland noted that the latest Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District newsletter was now available, and Kathy Holland encouraged members to take a copy of Lone Star GCD's newest brochure.
 2. **GMA reports.** Kirk Holland reported that GMA 10 is working on its annual requirement of going through each management plan on an annual basis. The GMA will be meeting in early December to review management plans and DFCs.
 3. **RWPG Reports.** Joe B. Cooper reported that their RWPG is waiting on population estimates. Gary Westbrook asked whether anyone was looking into 10-year cycles for water planning.
 4. **Texas Environmental Flows and Advisory Group Reports.**
 - a. Trinity: no report
 - b. Sabine: no report.
 - c. Guadalupe: Tim Andruss reported that the group met the previous day to discuss administrative matters and appoint Cow Creek GCD to the group.
 - d. Colorado: no report.
 - e. Brazos: Judy Parker reported that the group came up with a plan that is now under protest by the environmental members of the committee. It has been submitted to TCEQ.
- E. Other TAGD Business.** Paul Nelson, Assistant General Manager of Lone Star GCD, noted that this quarterly meeting was his first. He said he appreciated the knowledge that members bring to and share with the group.
- F. Adjournment.** At 12:05 PM, Steve Walthour made, and Mike McGuire seconded, a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Steinbach, Executive Director, and Kirk Holland, Secretary

Approved by the Membership on _____, 2013

Kathy Turner Jones, President

Kirk Holland, Secretary

Attachment 1

**Members Attending the TAGD Quarterly Business Meeting
October 30-31, 2012
Conroe, TX
(Present on second roll call)**

1. Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer CD
2. Bee GCD
3. Blanco-Pedernales GCD
4. Bluebonnet GCD
5. Brazos Valley GCD
6. Central Texas GCD
7. Clearwater UWCD
8. Coastal Bend GCD
9. Coastal Plains GCD
10. Gonzales County GCD
11. High Plains UWCD #1
12. Jeff Davis County GCD
13. Live Oak UWCD
14. Lone Star GCD
15. McMullen GCD
16. Middle Pecos GCD
17. Middle Trinity GCD
18. Mid-East Texas GCD
19. Neches & Trinity Valley GCD
20. North Plains GCD
21. Panhandle GCD
22. Panola County GCD
23. Pineywoods GCD
24. Plateau UWC&SD
25. Post Oak Savannah GCD
26. Prairielands GCD
27. Real-Edwards Cons. & Recl. District
28. Rolling Plains GCD
29. Southeast Texas GCD
30. Sutton County UWCD
31. Texana GCD
32. Upper Trinity GCD
33. Victoria County GCD