

**Minutes of
Regular Meeting
TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS
February 26, 2013
Crowne Plaza Austin**

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, February 26, 2013

A. Call to Order and Invocation. TAGD President Kathy Turner Jones called the meeting to order at 10:15 am. Gary Westbrook gave the invocation.

B. Speaker Sessions

10:00 am	<i>Texas Farm Bureau vs. TCEQ</i> , Challenging TCEQ's Surface Water Curtailment Rules, Doug Caroom, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP
10:30 am	Legislative Update/Discussion, Stacey Steinbach, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
11:00 am	Utilizing Social Media for Advocacy and Education, Amy Hays, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M University
12:00 pm	Break for lunch
1:30 pm	Evaluating the Contributions of Existing and Proposed Pumping to Future Drawdowns at a Regional Scale (Impacts on Desired Future Conditions) and at a Local Scale (Drawdowns at Specific Wells), Gary Westbrook, Post Oak Savannah GCD, and Steve Young, INTERA Inc.

C. Roll Call. Secretary Kirk Holland called the roll at 1:40 pm, and informed the Chair there were 49 District Members in attendance, comprising a quorum; one more were subsequently added to the attendance list. A list of GCDs represented at the meeting is attached as Exhibit 1.

D. Membership Update. TAGD Executive Director Stacey Steinbach provided a membership update. As of February 2013, TAGD has 81 District Members and 22 Associate Members for FY 12/13.

E. Discussion and possible action on minutes of prior meeting. It was noted that the location on the minutes needed to be corrected. With that edit included, Jim Conkwright moved and Mike McGuire seconded a motion to approve the minutes as revised. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion and possible action on Financial Reports, Budget, and Annual Report. Stacey provided an overview of TAGD's recent financial reports, a summary of the draft FY11/12 Annual report, and an update from the recent meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee. That committee met via conference call on February 19th to discuss the redirection of funds dedicated to office expenses for this fiscal year (TAGD won't be using the bulk of these expenses due to the generous arrangement with Bickerstaff for office and meeting space during the Legislative Session). The committee discussed the use of the office funds for a website project to improve the GCD database (see below) as well as funds for additional print and outreach materials and meeting expenses. After much discussion, the committee proposed to leave \$2,500 of those funds in the office category and move \$7,500 to the meeting expenses categories to cover the additional costs of providing beverages at meetings, hosting the Capitol breakfast, and securing help at the February and May TAGD meetings. Stacey noted that TAGD is at a point where it needs help with pre-meeting details and an additional staff person on-site to help with registration and other member needs. To that end, and at the direction of the Finance and Budget Committee, TAGD requested a proposal from IEM (the company that manages our Texas Groundwater Summit) related to providing limited administrative services for our February and May meetings. Joe P. Cooper made and Zach Holland seconded a motion to approve the financial reports and the Annual Report, authorize moving \$7,500 from the office expenses

category of the Budget to the Meeting Expenses category of the Budget, and approve the contract for administrative meeting services with IEM, and the motion passed unanimously.

G. Discussion and possible action on recommendations from subcommittee on grants, projects, and other organizations. Stacey gave a summary of this committee meeting earlier in the day. The committee, consisting of Steve Walthour, Chair, and Kirk Holland, Leah Adams, Dirk Aaron, Gary Westbrook, and C E Williams recommended the following principles be incorporated into a future Bylaws amendment:

1. TAGD may contribute financial assistance to an organization or research effort only upon a written proposal from a member GCD and a subsequent vote of the full membership at a regular TAGD meeting;
2. At the written request of a member GCD that includes a summary of the benefits to TAGD, TAGD's Executive Committee may vote on whether TAGD should lend non-monetary support to a groundwater research effort or project; and
3. TAGD may become a member of other organizations only upon a written proposal from a member GCD and a subsequent vote of the full membership at a regular TAGD meeting.

H. Discussion and possible action on legislative initiatives and legislation. Stacey provided a legislative update to the membership, highlighting a number of the more far-reaching groundwater bills filed so far, noting that at this point there were lots of moving parts on those bills and that their ultimate language and their probability of passing into law were uncertain.

I. 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 legislative session, and reminded the membership that the membership would be meeting at the Capitol Complex the next morning for TAGD's "Groundwater Day at the Capitol", with breakfast and a speech from Senator Duncan. She also reminded the membership that the next TAGD meeting would be held on a Wednesday and Thursday (because of Memorial Day holiday that week), May 29-30 in Austin, with Public Funds Investment Act Training happening on Wednesday, May 29th.
2. **Executive Committee – Kathy Turner Jones.** Kathy provided a summary from the committee's meeting earlier that morning and from a workshop/retreat that occurred Dec. 4-5. Concepts from that meeting will be incorporated into an executive summary for future consideration by the membership.
3. **Legislative Committee-David Van Dresar.** Stacey provided a report during her presentation, and no further report was needed. She reminded members that updated tracking reports would routinely be uploaded to the private part of the TAGD website, so to check back for the latest information.
4. **Conference Planning Committee – Stacey Steinbach.** Stacey reported that good progress was being made in advance planning for the conference, which will be held at the San Marcos Conference Center on August 27-29, 2013, and that a full status report would be given to the members in the May meeting.
5. **Bylaws Committee-Cindy Weatherby.** No report.
6. **Groundwater Protection and**
7. **Drought Preparedness Council-David Van Dresar.** David noted that the Texas Well Owner Network recently released a manual for training well owners. He also informed the membership on a recently released study on hydraulic fracturing and groundwater.
8. **Information and Education-Deanya Williams.** Deanya informed the group that she was working on a possible discount or premiums on ESRI software for TAGD members.

The committee also provided feedback on the TAGD flyer to be used in outreach and education efforts, as well as at the Capitol.

9. **Railroad-Bob Patterson.** Bob noted an upcoming panel on hydraulic fracturing at the National Ground Water Association Conference in San Antonio in early May, and reminded the membership of the pending Railroad Commission rulemakings and several key issues associated with them. He wants to hold a Railroad Commission Committee meeting before May 1.
10. **Aquifer Storage and Recovery-David Mauk.** No report.
11. **Soil and Water Conservation.** Mike McGuire mentioned that many things in this arena are in limbo – the fiscal cliff deal extended the Farm Bill one year, but there are still a lot of unanswered questions, especially as to what is and is not exempted.

D. Member and Group Reports

1. **GCD reports.** Zach Holland noted that Bluebonnet GCD has received a permit application for 10 wells and exporting more than 20,000 acre-feet per year for cities outside the GCD, which has sparked a lot of interest from the local community. Steve Walthour mentioned that North Plains GCD has just completed a 2012 Irrigation Conservation Demonstration project and he has copies of the report available for those interested.
2. **GMA reports.** David Van Dresar informed the membership that GMA 15 is conducting an interlocal agreement to hire a consultant to help with the next round of DFC submittals. They will be meeting on April 11, 2013. Larry French, TWDB, raised the agency's efforts with respect to Total Estimated Recoverable Storage, and said TWDB is working on getting those numbers out sometime this year. He also discussed the next round of DFC adoptions and some of TWDB's funding requests for the next biennium, which emphasize additional GAM support and brackish groundwater development. He said he would forward a calendar of DFC adoption deadlines for dissemination to the membership and that the agency would use that calendar in prioritizing Total Estimated Recoverable Storage figures across the state.
3. **RWPG Reports.** Members are waiting on the state demographer's report. Mary Sahs noted that she would be providing a planning cycle update at the upcoming Texas Water Conservation Association meeting. C.E. Williams informed the membership that GMA 1 and Region A would be meeting on March 21, 2013.
4. **Texas Environmental Flows and Advisory Group Reports.** Judy Parker noted that the Brazos region would be meeting in April but that much of the relevant information would not be released until 2014.

E. Other TAGD Business. None.

F. Adjournment. Shortly before 4 PM, Steve Walthour made, and Winton Milliff 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 February 26, 2013 Austin, TX

1. Bandera Co. River Authority and Groundwater District
2. Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer CD
3. Bee GCD
4. Bluebonnet GCD
5. Brazos Valley GCD
6. Central Texas GCD
7. Clearwater UWCD
8. Coastal Bend GCD
9. Coke County UWCD
10. Colorado County GCD
11. Crockett County GCD
12. Evergreen UWCD
13. Fayette County GCD
14. Glasscock GCD
15. Gonzales County UWCD
16. Hemphill County UWCD
17. High Plains UWCD #1
18. Hill Country UWCD
19. Irion County WCD
20. Jeff Davis County GCD
21. Kenedy County GCD
22. Live Oak UWCD
23. Llano Estacado UWCD
24. Lone Star GCD
25. Lone Wolf GCD
26. Lost Pines GCD
27. Lower Trinity GCD
28. McMullen GCD
29. Menard County UWD
30. Mesa UWCD
31. Mesquite GCD
32. Middle Trinity GCD
33. Mid-East Texas GCD
34. North Plains GCD
35. North Texas GCD
36. Panhandle GCD
37. Panola County GCD
38. Plateau UWC&SD
39. Post Oak Savannah GCD
40. Prairielands GCD
41. Real-Edwards Cons. & Recl. District
42. Red River GCD
43. Rolling Plains GCD
44. Sandy Land UWCD
45. Southeast Texas GCD
46. Sterling County UWCD
47. Sutton County UWCD
48. Texana GCD
49. Trinity Glen Rose GCD
50. Upper Trinity GCD
51. Victoria County GCD