

**Minutes of
Regular Meeting
TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS
August 27, 2013
San Marcos Embassy Suites**

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 and Invocation.** President Kathy Turner Jones called the meeting to order at 9:12am. Gary Westbrook gave the invocation.
- B. **Roll Call.** Secretary Kirk Holland called the roll and informed the Chair there were 45 District Members in attendance, comprising a quorum; 2 additional District Members joined shortly after Roll Call. A list of the 47 GCDs represented at the meeting is attached as Attachment 1.
- C. **Discussion and possible action on minutes of prior meeting.** Joe B. Cooper made and Judy Parker seconded a motion to approve the minutes, and the motion passed unanimously.
- D. **Discussion and possible action on Financial Reports.** Steve Walthour directed the membership to the financial reports included in board packets. Ron Fieseler made and Mike McGuire seconded a motion to approve the reports, and the motion passed unanimously.
- E. **Discussion and possible action on membership in the Groundwater Management Districts Association.** Pursuant to the Bylaws amendments approved in item F. below, Steve Walthour submitted a request to join the Groundwater Management Districts Association, and referred members to the information included in board packets. He then made a motion to approve joining GMDA at organizational level. The motion was seconded by C.E. Williams, and the motion passed unanimously.
- F. **Discussion and possible action on Bylaws amendments.** Cindy Weatherby outlined the proposed Bylaws amendments offered by the Bylaws Committee. The amendments included specifications for TAGD offering financial or non-financial support to groundwater research or efforts, the process by which TAGD may become a member of another organization, the creation of an Honorary Membership level at TAGD, and a provision that TAGD endeavor to keep at least 50% of total budgeted expenses in reserves on an annual basis. Zach Holland made and Janet Adams seconded a motion to approve the Bylaws amendments as proposed, and the motion passed unanimously.
- G. **Discussion and possible action on contract for bookkeeping services with Lone Star GCD.** Kathy summarized the contractual relationship TAGD has with Lone Star GCD for bookkeeping services. Gary Westbrook made and Steve Walthour seconded a motion to renew the contract, and the motion passed unanimously.
- H. **Discussion and possible action on Texas Groundwater Summit.** Stacey provided an update on the 2013 Groundwater Summit, and recommended continuing the conference into 2014 and 2015. Zach Holland made and Gary Westbrook seconded a motion to authorize a 2-year conference production contract with Innovation Event Management to produce the Texas Groundwater Summit. The motion passed unanimously.

I. **Discussion and possible action on 2013-2014 District Membership dues, Associate Membership dues, and quarterly meeting registration fees.** This item was taken up with three separate votes.

- Quarterly meeting registration fees. Stacey made outlined the proposed adjustment to registration fees for the next fiscal year that were approved by the Executive Committee earlier in the month. Over the past year, more attendees have been participating in the happy hour reception prior to the dinner and skipping the dinner itself, creating planning and organizational challenges for TAGD staff. Because most of the “networking” happens during the happy hour reception, and in an effort to streamline/add certainty to costs, Stacey recommended eliminating the separate dinner option, but incorporating an actual TAGD reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres at each quarterly TAGD meeting. The per person cost of the reception would be included in the cost of meeting registration. To further ease planning efforts, Stacey the proposal includes a slight increase to late registration costs, with the hope that more people will register early. Proposed registration fees for the FY 13-14 year are:
 - TAGD Member Registration (Early Bird Rate): \$120
 - TAGD Member Registration (Late Rate): \$150
 - Non-TAGD Member Registration (Early Bird Rate): \$165
 - Non-TAGD Member Registration (Early Bird Rate): \$195

Judy Parker made and C.E. Williams seconded a motion to approve the proposed quarterly meeting registration fees. The motion passed unanimously.

- New TAGD employee. Stacey outlined three options for membership dues to meet budget needs, as approved for distribution by the Executive Committee. Stacey explained that the budget increase was due to funds necessary to hire a prospective Program Director. Steve Walthour and Gary Westbrook stated that TAGD could absolutely benefit from another staff person, and it would help all GCDs. LG Raun made and Roy Rodgers seconded a motion to authorize TAGD’s Executive Director to hire an employee consistent with the proposed budget, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Membership dues. The members then began a lengthy discussion on which of the dues options would best support TAGD’s budget needs without overburdening TAGD members. Option #1 is based on a GCD’s budget, and Zach Holland asked whether one-year capital expenditures would be included in the calculated budget amount. Steve Walthour said that GCDs should exclude one-year “budget busters”, and Stacey noted that it would be up to each individual GCD to determine and define its budget. Kirk Holland expressed support for the budget option, explaining that because a lot of ideas come from smaller GCDs, he would regret having a system that might exclude smaller GCDs, such as presented in Option #2 (across the board \$1,000 dues). Leah Adams also expressed support for a dues increase, but asked about GCDs that may have already budgeted the previous dues amount for this calendar year, and Kathy Turner Jones said TAGD would work with GCDs that did not have the amount in their current budget. Dirk asked whether TAGD considered one option for GCD members and another option for associate members. Though no one had comments on that option, C.E. Williams noted that under Option #1 as presented, GCDs with the smallest budget would not see an increase in their dues. He suggested a \$50 increase for GCDs with the smallest budgets so all GCDs would see some increase in membership dues. Cindy Weatherby commented that she preferred Option #1 as presented, and expressed

concern that any increase for small GCDs might result in a loss of members. Roy Rodgers noted that the \$1000 across the board option (Option #2) would probably exclude his GCD from being TAGD members, as it would be 6% of his budget. Harvey Everheart expressed support for TAGD and the proposed dues increase. C.E. then made a motion to amend Option #1 so that the lowest GCD budgets would be required to pay \$550, keep the other dues tiers as presented, and adopt Option #1 as amended. Scott Holland seconded the motion. Kathy called for a vote, and 10 members were opposed. Many who opposed the motion seem to do so on the basis of the \$50 increase for the small-budget GCDs. Ron Gertson requested a record vote. Thirty-five members voted in favor of Option #1, as amended, and 11 members voted against Option #1, as amended. There were no abstentions recorded. The motion passed.

- J. **Discussion and possible action on 2013-2014 Annual Budget.** Steve Walthour made a motion to accept the proposed budget with Option #1, as amended. Zach Holland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- K. **Discussion and possible action on 2014 TAGD quarterly meetings.** Stacey noted that IEM would be conducting TGS evaluations and TAGD would be updating the TAGD meeting survey in order to gain some insight for the best dates/venues for 2014 TAGD meetings. Gary moved and Jim Polonis seconded a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to select date and venue specifics after conference evaluations were complete. The motion passed unanimously.
- L. **Discussion and possible action on creation of TAGD Management Plan.** No discussion or action.
- M. **Election of Officers and Executive Committee members for the next two fiscal years.** Janet Adams outlined the slate of officers recommended by the Nominations Committee and made a motion to elect those officers for the 2013-2015 term. Janet Guthrie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. After the TAGD areas held elections where necessary, the Executive Committee is as follows:
- President - Kathy Turner Jones - Upper Gulf Coast
 - Vice-President - Bob Patterson - North Texas
 - Treasurer - Steve Walthour - Ogallala
 - Secretary - Leah Adams - Upper Carrizo
 - Parliamentarian - Zach Holland - Upper Gulf Coast
 - Past-President - Janet Adams - Far West Texas
 - Tim Andruss - Lower Gulf Coast
 - Ron Fieseler - Lower Edwards Trinity
 - Jim Polonis - Upper Edwards Trinity
 - Greg Sengelmann - Edwards Carrizo
- N. Committee Reports.
- **Executive Director.** Stacey Steinbach referred members to the Executive Director's report.
 - **Groundwater Protection.** David Van Dresar gave an overview of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee, which is made up of various agencies across the state. He noted the Committee's next meeting would be September 10th at 1pm. At the previous meeting on July 17th, the Committee discussed the 83rd Legislative Session

and current groundwater classification systems across the state. David noted that some legislation proposed to classify groundwater in a manner that would impact a GCD's ability to manage aquifers, and said that the Committee would be urging agencies and legislators to utilize its system so that classification could be streamlined and all groundwater management needs would be included.

- **Executive Committee.** Kathy Turner Jones referred members to the approved minutes of recent Executive Committee meetings and encouraged questions from those who have them.
- **Information & Education.** No activity reported.
- **Legislative Committee.** David encouraged members to read Stacey's wrap up included in board packets. Kathy suggested making the report into a handout or some sort of deliverable for the website.
- **Railroad.** Bob Patterson gave a summary of a recent informal meeting at the Railroad Commission on the draft disposal/injection well rules. The process of developing the rules has been a lengthy one, with steps forward and backward along the way, including a re-start of the rulemaking in January. On the positive side, it does look like permit applicants will be required to notify GCDs of some applications, but many GCDs still have concerns with the current draft, including how underground sources of drinking water will be protected. He noted that GCDs may submit written comments on the rules until September 12th, and encouraged members to get involved in the process. Harvey Everheart noted that RRC would be holding another informal meeting in Midland on September 4th. Joe B. Cooper stated that he and three other TAGD members took a tour of the RRC's groundwater office while they were at the meeting in Austin. He noted that much of the data being used by that office is outdated, an important consideration when employees in that office are determining surface casing and other well specifications. He encouraged TAGD members to share data with RRC and work with groundwater staff to make sure all potential underground sources of drinking water would be protected. Joe said the employees essentially protect brackish groundwater to 3,000 mg/L ppm, but are willing to make a note of water up to 8,000 mg/L ppm that is being treated and used and take that data into account when applications come in. GCDs can do a lot by sharing information with RRC, he said
- **Bylaws Committee.** With the adoption of the Bylaws amendments, Cindy Weatherby had nothing new to report.
- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery.** David Mauk gave a summary of a recent environmental flows stakeholder meeting in Seguin. He noted that he has seen some interest in doing ASR in that area, and that environmental flows stakeholders should be talking about what that might mean in their context.
- **Drought Preparedness.** David Van Dresar noted that there are currently 1,080 public water systems (out of 4,656) that are implementing some form of drought contingency plan. As it relates to watering restrictions, 740 PWSs are implementing mandatory restrictions (471 of those systems are on groundwater) and 340 are implementing voluntary restrictions (152 of those systems are on groundwater). Almost the entire state (97%) is in some stage of drought. At this time last year at this time only 89% of the state was in some stage of drought. The good news is that the map shows we're in better shape than originally thought except for areas of south Texas and the panhandle. David encouraged members to contact TCEQ if they know of systems having problems. He also reminded members to respond to his requesting drought information from member GCDs so he could report back to the committee next week.

- **Soil & Water Conservation.** No report.

O. Member and Group Reports

- **GCD Reports:** Stacey introduced Peggy Jones, a director of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.
- **GMA Reports:** None
- **RWPG Reports:** None
- **Environmental Flows Advisory Group Reports:** None

P. **Other TAGD Business.** None.

Q. **Adjournment:** Without objection, Kathy Jones adjourned the meeting at 11:17am.

Prepared and submitted by Stacey Steinbach, Executive Director, Kirk Holland, past-Secretary, and Leah Adams, Secretary

Approved by the Members on _____, 2013

Kathy Turner Jones,
President

Leah Adams,
Secretary

Attachment 1
Members Attending the TAGD Quarterly Business Meeting
August 27, 2013
San Marcos, TX

1. Bandera County RA and CD
2. Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer
CD
3. Bee GCD
4. Blanco-Pedernales GCD
5. Bluebonnet GCD
6. Brazos Valley GCD
7. Clearwater UWCD
8. Coastal Bend GCD
9. Coastal Plains GCD
10. Crockett County GCD
11. Evergreen UWCD
12. Fayette County GCD
13. Gonzales County UWCD
14. Headwaters UWCD
15. Hemphill County UWCD
16. High Plains UWCD #1
17. Irion County UWCD
18. Jeff Davis County UWCD
19. Kinney County GCD
20. Live Oak UWCD
21. Llano Estacado UWCD
22. Lone Star GCD
23. Lone Wolf GCD
24. McMullen GCD
25. Medina County GCD
26. Mesa UWCD
27. Middle Trinity GCD
28. Neches and Trinity Valleys GCD
29. North Plains GCD
30. North Texas GCD
31. Panhandle GCD
32. Panola County GCD
33. Pecan Valley GCD
34. Pineywoods GCD
35. Plateau UWC&SD
36. Plum Creek GCD
37. Post Oak Savannah GCD
38. Red River GCD
39. Rolling Plains GCD
40. Sandy Land UWCD
41. Santa Rita UWCD
42. Southeast Texas GCD
43. Sterling County UWCD
44. Sutton County UWCD
45. Texana GCD
46. Upper Trinity GCD
47. Victoria County GCD