

**Minutes of
Regular Meeting
TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS
February 25-26, 2014
South Austin Marriot, Austin, Texas**

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 1:13 PM and made several announcements concerning the high attendance at the meeting and how to connect to the Wi-Fi through the hotel. Gary Westbrook gave the invocation.
- B. Keynote Presentation.** Stacey Steinbach introduced the keynote speaker, Bech Bruun, Board Member of the Texas Water Development Board. Board Member Bruun then gave an update on TWDb's activities.
- C. Speaker Sessions - DFC Updates and Explanatory Reports,** by Kristen Fancher (Sledge Fancher, PLLC), Larry French (Director, Groundwater Resources Division, of the Texas Water Development Board, and Bill Hutchinson (Independent Groundwater Consultant).
- D. Roll Call.** Secretary Leah Adams called the roll and informed the Chair there were 46 District Members in attendance, comprising a quorum. A list of GCDs represented at the meeting is attached as Attachment 1.
- E. Announcement of New Members.** Stacey Steinbach made an announcement of three new members to TAGD. They are Rusk County Groundwater Conservation District, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, and Sledge Fancher, PLLC. Hance Scarborough, LLP, has submitted an application and will be presented as a new member at the next meeting.
- F. Discussion and possible action on minutes of prior meeting.** David Van Dresar asked to delete the statements under the D. President's Report and Committee Roundtables: Groundwater Protection, suggesting that text have inadvertently been copied over from previous minutes. Stacey agreed, and Harvey Everhart made a motion and Joel Pigg seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.
- G. Discussion and possible action on financial reports, Annual Report, and TAGD financials.** The items were tabled until Section M on tomorrow's agenda.
- H. Legislative Workgroup Reports (Permitting, Brackish Groundwater, ASR, Oil and Gas Reporting, Well Construction and Enforcement, Registration)**
1. **Permitting** – Kathy Jones, Committee Chair reported the group met February 18th and reviewed an amended version of Rep. Isaac's HB 1796. Kathy also stated the group is working on this issue with Brian Sledge and Hope Wells, co-chairs of the Texas Water Conservation Association Groundwater Committee. Brian reported that TWCA and TAGD are working hard on this issue, but previous attempts have been unsuccessful. TWCA is currently working on a laundry list for permitting requirements and cutbacks.
 2. **Brackish Groundwater** – Bob Patterson, Committee Chair, reported that TWCA, TAGD, and Texas Desal Association have been coordinating and meeting regularly to discuss consensus ideas for development of brackish groundwater within GCDs.

3. **ASR** – Tim Andruss, Committee Chair, reported that the committee has had one meeting, and is working on identifying core principles related to ASR. The committee will meet at the end of the TAGD meeting to look at the New Mexico ASR policies and see if they would work for Texas.
4. **Oil and Gas Reporting** – C. E. Williams and Alan Day, Committee Chairs, are working with TWCA committee members, including TXOGA staff, to frame up the perceived issues. A “permit by rule” concept has floated as a possible middle solution. The Committee also hopes to develop a concept paper on disposal wells for future distribution.
5. **Well Construction and Enforcement** – Leah Adams, Committee Chair, reported the committee is working with members of TWCA to identify well construction and enforcement issues. The committee met Friday, February 21, 2014 for their first meeting and reviewed past proposed legislation as a starting point for identifying issues.
6. **Registration** – John Dupnik reported he is working with the Austin Board of Realtors to include a notice of GCD jurisdiction in seller’s disclosure notices. He noted that the goal is to implement the change at the regional level and then use the process as a model for encouraging a state-wide disclosure requirement.
7. **Reporting** – Lonnie Stewart, Committee Chair, reported that the group is hoping to work with TWDB staff to better understand the kind of reporting information that would be useable by TWDB. The group will prepare information and reporting options in case a bill is filed at the next legislative session.

Following these reports, Stacey Steinbach thanked all committee members for their hard work.

The meeting was recessed until Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 8:30 A.M.

- I. **Call to Order after Recess.** President Kathy Turner Jones introduced Steve Walthour to give the financial reports tables. Steve reported the finances have been moved back to Austin. As part of the transition, the finance and budget committee has approved a financial policy for TAGD. After reporting the finances, Joel Pigg made and Andy Garza seconded the motion to approve the draft financial policy and included financial reports. The motion passed unanimously. Steve stated that the audit would be available at the next meeting because it was not completed in time to make this agenda. The Annual Report was then presented by Stacey Steinbach to the members. Zach Holland made and David Van Dresar seconded the motion to approve the Annual Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Speaker Session -

1. An Extension education program to help water districts conserve water and operate more effectively, Gabriele Bonaiti, Extension Program Specialist – Water District Program
2. Introduction to the U.S. Geological Survey and USGS-GCD Cooperative Studies, Johnathan Bumgarner, Chief, Hydrologic Studies Section, USGS
3. Using advanced analytical chemistry and hydrogeological modeling to identify and quantify the relative risk of groundwater contamination in area engaged in

unconventional drilling, Zacariah Hildenbrand and Scott Nelson, Inform Environmental LLC.

4. Estimated Recoverable Storage: What it does, doesn't and might mean for planning, Wade Oliver, Intera.

K. Executive Director's Report. Stacey Steinbach referred members to the Executive Director's report available in the meeting packet.

L. President's Report. President, Kathy Turner Jones reported there has not been an Executive Committee meeting since the last TAGD meeting in October. Kathy asked Stacey to place the new conference call voting policy for non-controversial votes on the website for everyone to review.

M. Committee Report, GMA Updates, and Other TAGD Business. No TAGD committees met due to the Legislative Committee meetings. No GMA updates and no other TAGD business.

N. Adjournment: Without objection, Kathy Turner Jones adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.

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 on February 26, 2014

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