

**Minutes of  
Regular Business Meeting  
TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS  
January 27-28, 2016  
Crowne Plaza, Austin, TX**

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 Joe B. Cooper called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM on January 27, 2016.
- B. Speaker Sessions.**
1. TWDB Updates – Larry French
  2. TCEQ & GCDS – Cary Betz
- C. Roll Call.** Secretary Leah Adams called the roll and informed the President that 53 District Members were in attendance, comprising a quorum. A list of GCDs represented at the meeting is attached as Attachment 1.
- D. Membership update and announcement of new members.** Joe B. Cooper announced the acceptance of two new Associate Members, Smith Robertson LLP and RMBJ Geo Inc. Joe B. Cooper then welcomed any first time TAGD meeting attendees. Executive Director Sarah Schlessinger provided a membership update, introducing Beth Hood as TAGD’s new Program Administrator.
- E. Discussion and possible action on minutes of prior meeting.** Joe B. Cooper presented the minutes from the last meeting. Sarah Schlessinger proposed an amendment to the spelling of “outdoing” to “outgoing” on page four of the minutes. Joel Pigg made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. David Van Dresar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. TAGD Annual Report & Membership Management Update.** Sarah Schlessinger presented the FY15 Annual Report. The report showed a 2% growth in total income from FY14 to FY15, with a Net Income of \$16,324 for FY15. Sarah Schlessinger also presented that the 2015 Texas Groundwater Summit had seen an 18% increase in summit registrants and a 23% increase in summit profits. Sarah Schlessinger reported that approximately 80% of registrants for the January 2016 Regular Business Meeting used the new credit card processing option to register for the meeting. Sarah Schlessinger introduced Beth Hood, TAGD’s new Program Administrator, to present TAGD’s new membership management platform Wild Apricot.
- G. Discussion and possible action on FY15 Q4 and FY16 Q1 finances.** Joe B. Cooper introduced Treasurer Zach Holland to present the finances for the FY15 Q4 and FY16 Q1. Steve Walthour moved to accept FY15 Q4 finances as presented, and Alan Day seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jim Conkwright moved to accept FY16 Q1 finances as presented, and Doug Shaw seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- H. Discussion and possible action on FY15 Audit.** Zach Holland stated TAGD used the same auditor as last year in the interest of continuity Sarah Schlessinger

provided a review of the Audit report. Gary Westbrook moved to approve the FY15 Audit as presented, and Harvey Everhart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- I. Discussion and possible action on TAGD Legislative Policy. Parliamentary** Kody Bessent presented the details of the legislative policy amendment to the membership. Kody stated the change would create active subcommittees within the full Legislative Committee body and define their structure and function. Discussion regarding membership desire for advance notice of subcommittee meetings followed. Ron Fieseler moved to approve the Legislative Policy amendment with the floor recommendation to change the word “affiliated” to “related” in Section 3.5. David Mauk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- J. GCD Panel: Education in GCDs, Adeline Fox, Morgan Ayers, and Alan Day.** Sarah Schlessinger moderated a panel on groundwater conservation districts educational programs.
- K. Groundwater Topics Caucuses: Education/Outreach, ASR, and Regional Water Planning.** Joe B. Cooper asked Sarah Schlessinger to introduce the caucus themes and room structure. Sarah Schlessinger presented the caucus objective to be an opportunity to hold a roundtable discussion with colleagues that you may not otherwise have a chance to have a dialogue with. Each caucus was directed to record its three main takeaways to present to the full membership at their conclusion.

Following the caucus reports, Joe B. Cooper recessed the meeting at 5:04 PM.

- A. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M and Mike McGuire provided TAGD with an invocation.
- B. How to Engage your Local representative - Kody Bessent** Joe Cooper introduced Kody Bessent for his presentation.
- C. Rule Updates Since the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature – Ty Embrey, Monique Norman, Greg Ellis, Brian Sledge.** Rule updates required by the passing of certain bills in the 84<sup>th</sup> legislature were presented.
- D. Case law Updates – Mike Gershon, Drew Miller, Greg Ellis.** Presentation on case law updates.
- E. Officer and Committee Reports.** Joe B. Cooper moved into committee reports as listed below:
  - 1. Executive Director – Sarah Schlessinger thanked members for participating in successful caucuses. Sarah Schlessinger provided a recap of the annual report and provided a forecast of TAGD projects to come
  - 2. Executive Committee – Joe B. Cooper introduced the committee members and discussed the committee retreat where the idea of the legislative subcommittee was created.
  - 3. Legislative Committee – Dirk Aaron stated that 35 GCD members had signed up for the Legislative Committee and would be meeting that afternoon for their first Legislative Committee meeting.
  - 4. Groundwater Protection – David Van Dresar stated no groundwater contamination had been reported yet in 2016. David stated the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee joint monitoring report will be ready

soon and that they are working to help TDLR biologically monitor wells and define endangered species.

5. Drought Preparedness – David Van Dresar reported that while officially no drought reported in the State, 1100 public water supply systems are operating under mandatory or voluntary restrictions and 18 water systems still on the 180-day list.
6. Information & Education – Leah Adams presented the completed 2015 salary survey to the membership. Sarah Schlessinger will make the report available to the membership.

**Member and GMA Reports.** Gary Westbrook informed TAGD membership that the TCEQ petition filed against Post Oak Savannah was dismissed and is available on their website. Joe B. Cooper stated that Middle Trinity GCD updated their rules based on the 84<sup>th</sup> legislature changes. Suzanna Consecro, a water rights attorney with TAGD member Branscomb, PC is interested in GCD water rights stories. Alan Day with the Brazos Valley GCD updated the membership on new rules in place to enforce DFCs.

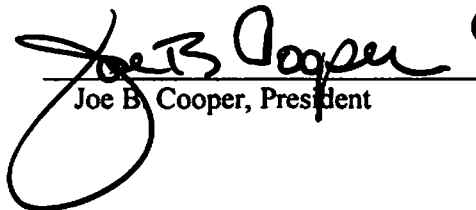
**P. Other TAGD Business.** Joe B. Cooper opened up other TAGD business:

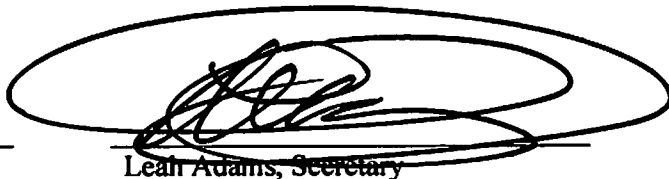
- a) Kody Bessent announced he was leaving High Plains Water District to take a position with the Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. as their new Vice President of Operations & Legislative Affairs. To fill Kody's position as Parliamentarian the Executive Committee nominated Lonnie Stuart to serve as Parliamentarian pro tem until a May election. To fill the Ogallala TAGD area representative, members of the Ogallala TAGD Area caucused and selected Amber Blount as their representative.
- b) Joe B. Cooper thanked Collier Consulting for helping sponsor the TAGD meeting with their exhibition booth.

**Q. Adjournment.** Joe B. Cooper adjourned the meeting at 12:14 P.M.

Prepared and submitted by Sarah Schlessinger, Executive Director, and Leah Adams, Secretary.

Approved by the Members on May 18, 2016.

  
Joe B. Cooper, President

  
Leah Adams, Secretary

**Attachment 1**  
**Members Attending the TAGD Regular Business Meeting**  
**January 27-28, 2016**

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. **Coastal Bend Groundwater Conservation District**
10. **Coastal Plains Groundwater Conservation District**
11. **Coke County Underground Water Conservation District**
12. **Crockett 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. **Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District**
18. **Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District**
19. **High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1**
20. **Irion County Water Conservation District**
21. **Jeff Davis County Underground Water Conservation District**
22. **Kenedy County Groundwater Conservation District**
23. **Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District**
24. **Live Oak Underground Water Conservation District**
25. **Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District**
26. **Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District**
27. **Lone Wolf Groundwater Conservation District**
28. **Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District**
29. **McMullen Groundwater Conservation District**
30. **Mesa Underground Water Conservation District**
31. **Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District**
32. **Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District**
33. **Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District**
34. **Neches and Trinity Valley Groundwater Conservation District**
35. **North Plains Groundwater Conservation District**
36. **North Texas Groundwater Conservation District**
37. **Northern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District**
38. **Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District**
39. **Panola County Groundwater Conservation District**
40. **Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District**
41. **Plateau Underground Water Conservation and Supply District**
42. **Plum Creek Conservation District**
43. **Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District**
44. **Prairelands Groundwater Conservation District**
45. **Real-Edwards Conservation and Reclamation District**
46. **Red River Groundwater Conservation District**
47. **Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District**

48. Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District
49. South Plains Underground Water Conservation District
50. Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District
51. Sterling County Underground Water Conservation District
52. Sutton County Groundwater Conservation District
53. Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

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