

TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 10:00 AM

GoToMeeting Video Conference Call

Minutes

- A. **Call to order & roll call.** President Amber Blount called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Andy Garza, Diana Thomas, David Bailey, Kelley Cochran, Zach Holland, Ron Fieseler, Janet Adams, Bobby Bazan, and Doug Shaw were present. Doug Shaw was introduced as the new North Texas TAGD Area representative per the area caucus after Drew Satterwhite's departure. Also present were Executive Director Leah Martinsson and Programs & Operations Manager Julia Stanford.
- B. **Review and possible action on minutes of the August 12, 2022 meeting.** President Amber Blount presented the minutes from the previous Executive Committee meeting. Andy Garza moved to approve the minutes with two minor edits of extraneous words. Kelley Cochran seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. **Executive Director report.** Leah Martinsson delivered a report on TAGD activities and operations, including a membership renewal update, a recap of the Texas Groundwater Summit, the upcoming the GCD Index update, and the winter 2023 business meeting. Goliad County GCD joined since the last meeting, bringing membership totals to 92 district members and 40 associate members.
- D. **Discussion and possible action on officer vacancy.** Appointment of a temporary replacement to fill the role of Vice-President until a special election at the January business meeting was discussed. The TAGD Bylaws provide that the Executive Committee shall appoint a temporary replacement after the departure of an officer. President Amber Blount shared her opinion that the committee should appoint someone that would not be able to stand for election in January, in order to preserve the integrity of the nomination process. This would include the current officers and the past president. Janet Adams made a motion for Amber to serve in this role since she has the experience. Zach seconded the motion and several committee members expressed support. Motion carried unanimously.
- E. **Discussion and possible action on Texas Groundwater Summit event support.** Leah Martinsson detailed a meeting in which IEM proposed a contract for \$40,000 for management of the 2023 Texas Groundwater Summit, reflecting an increase of \$7,000. IEM had indicated that there would likely be another increase for 2024. The proposed contract also reflected a reduction in services that had historically been provided. Leah stated that there has been a loss of IEM's institutional knowledge with the departure of longtime event manager Andrea Stout, leaving TAGD staff to fill the gaps and take a more hands-on role in planning. Leah mentioned that TAGD leadership has long considered bringing Summit management in-house and with these recent developments, this may present an appropriate opportunity to do so if an additional TAGD staff person were hired. Kelley Cochran agreed that managing

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the event in-house is the best option. Bobby Bazan asked for details about the specific services IEM provides, and Ron Fieseler expressed concerns about finding an adequate part-time employee and suggested full-time assistance. Other committee members shared support for in-house management of the Summit and an associated addition of TAGD staff. Leah explained that to do this would require a budget amendment. She explained that any proposed budget amendment would first be considered by the Finance and Budget Committee. The Executive Committee would then consider any recommendation from the Finance and Budget Committee and vote on whether to approve presenting a proposed budget amendment to the full membership. For timing reasons associated with hiring staff to support Summit planning, the possibility of holding a special meeting for this purpose during December was discussed. No action was required.

- F. **Discussion and possible action on other matters.** No other matters were discussed, and no action was taken.
- G. **Adjournment.** Ron Fieseler moved to adjourn the meeting. Bobby Bazan seconded the motion. President Amber Blount adjourned the meeting at 10:51am.