

## TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday May 17, 2023, 2:00 PM  
GoToMeeting Video Conference Call  
**Minutes**

- A. **Call to order & roll call.** President Amber Blount called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm. Andy Garza, Diana Thomas, David Bailey, Zach Holland, Ron Fieseler, Doug Shaw, Kelley Cochran, Stephanie Keith, and Janet Adams were present. Also present were Executive Director Leah Martinsson, Programs & Operations Manager Julia Stanford, and Administrative & Event Assistant Annick P. Maddox.
- B. **Review and possible action on minutes of the February 9, 2023 meeting.** President Amber Blount presented the minutes from the previous Executive Committee meeting. Kelley Cochran moved to approve the minutes. Andy Garza seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. **Executive Director report.** President Amber Blount asked Leah Martinsson to provide a report on TAGD activities. Leah provided an update on events, membership renewals, TAGD staff, and finances to the committee. She shared that two GCDs, Starr County and Saratoga, had not renewed their TAGD membership due to financial challenges. There was a discussion regarding the possibility of those districts retaining TAGD membership, but no action was taken.
- D. **Discussion and possible action on FY23 Q2 finances.** President Amber Blount asked Treasurer David Bailey to present the FY23 Q2 finances. David indicated that the Finance and Budget Committee had met to consider the finances and recommended approval. David asked Leah Martinsson to provide some additional detail on the quarterly finances. She then reviewed the FY23 Q2 Budget vs. Actuals report. There was a brief discussion about the impact on income from the rescheduled February Business meeting. Zach Holland made a motion to approve FY23 Q2 finances. Diana Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- E. **Discussion and possible action on FY24 member dues and fees.** President Amber Blount explained that member dues and fees are set in advance of the budget in order to allow for that information to be considered in conjunction with and subsequently integrated into the budget. As a result, the draft proposed budget is shared at this time as information only with no decisions being made at this time. She then asked Treasurer David Bailey to present the proposed member dues and fees for FY24, as considered by the Finance and Budget Committee. He explained that the proposal reflected an option to raise member dues for membership levels 4 and 5 and increase business meeting fees, based on those tiers paying a significantly smaller percentage of their budgets toward dues. He also indicated that there was a proposed increase to the business meeting rate, which had not been raised since 2018. Amber Blount then opened up discussion on the proposed dues and fees, asking each Executive Committee to share feedback from their TAGD area. While some TAGD areas were comfortable with the proposed increase, others felt that

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there should be a more intentional process to consider future dues increases. With respect to member fees, Diana Thomas shared that several smaller districts were concerned about increasing business meeting fees and the possibility it would prevent those districts from attending. Zach made a motion to approve an increase in business meetings fees to \$210 for members and \$265 for non-members. Janet Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried with Diana Thomas opposed. David Bailey made a motion to adopt and increase in membership dues for levels 4 and 5 only (option 2). Andy Garza seconded the motion. Zach Holland expressed his preference to wait on raising membership dues to allow for a thorough discussion and suggested that, given TAGD's robust savings, TAGD could potentially run a deficit budget for FY24 in the event the Executive Committee sought to make salary adjustments beyond what the net income could support for the year. David Bailey withdrew his motion based on the discussion. Janet Adams made a motion for membership dues to remain unchanged for FY24. Ron Fieseler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. **Discussion of draft proposed FY24 budget.** President Amber Blount explained that there would be no action on the draft proposed FY 24 budget at this time and asked Treasurer David Bailey to preview that draft for the Executive Committee. David provided some background and context on the draft proposed budget and asked Leah Martinsson to provide some additional detail. Leah Martinsson identified those items that were adjusted, as highlighted and answered a few questions about specific budget items. Diana Thomas asked about the process and timing of discussions on salaries and the proposed budget. Amber Blount outlined the evaluation process for the Executive Director and how any salary increase would be considered as a part of that evaluation process and then integrated into the proposed budget before going to a vote of the full membership at the August business meeting. No action was taken.
- G. **Discussion and possible action on TGWA membership application.** President Amber Blount shared that TGWA had applied for membership with TAGD and asked Leah Martinsson to provide some background on the application. Leah explained that unlike the arrangement with TWCA, TAGD does not currently have a reciprocal membership arrangement with TGWA. She asked for direction from the Executive Committee on whether TAGD should offer reciprocal membership to TGWA. Zach Holland made a motion to approve the application and direct Leah to coordinate with TGWA as to whether they would like to provide reciprocal memberships rather than paying dues. Doug Shaw seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- H. **Discussion and possible action on other matters before the committee.** Amber Blount reminded the Executive Committee that there will be elections for TAGD

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officers in August and shared that the first step in that process will begin in mid-June with the Nominating Committee soliciting officer suggestions.

- I. **Adjournment.** Amber Blount adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.