

**· Approved Minutes of  
Regular Business Meeting  
August 29, 2023 9:00am  
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort, San Antonio**

These minutes are a record of the items discussed, including motions on any matters that involve the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (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.** President Amber Blount called the meeting to order at 9:04AM, August 29, 2023. Jacob Hernandez gave the invocation.
  
- B. **Roll Call & Distribution of Election Ballots.** Stephanie Keith called roll and Julia Stanford distributed a ballot to each present voting member. 76 members – including proxies - were present, comprising a quorum. A complete list of Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) represented at the meeting is included as Attachment 1.
  
- C. **Membership Update and Announcement of New Members.** Amber Blount announced that TAGD is now comprised of 92 GCD members and 43 associate members. Amber welcomed first-time attendees and asked them to introduce themselves. Those recognized included Sarah Kouba (Lone Star GCD), Robbyn Hill (Brewster County GCD), Amber Redden (Reeves County GCD), Raymond Alaniz (Duval County GCD), and Angela Lance (Permian Basin UWCD).
  
- D. **Discussion and Possible Action on Minutes of Prior Meeting.** President Amber Blount presented the minutes of the June 6 -7, 2023, business meeting. Lori Barnes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Gary Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  
- E. **TAGD Office Election.** President Amber Blount shared an overview of the Nominating Committee process for officers under the bylaws. Amber reported that no written nominations were received by the Nominating Committee and then she introduced the nominees selected by the Nominating Committee to appear on the ballot: David Bailey for President, Doug Shaw for Vice President, Stephanie Keith for Secretary, Janet Guthrie for Treasurer, and Kelley Cochran for Parliamentarian. Each of the nominees briefly introduced themselves and their backgrounds. Amber Blount opened the floor for nominations, and none were offered. David Van Dresar made a motion to approve the ballot by acclamation. Alan Day seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- F. Discussion and Possible Action on FY23 Q3 Finances.** Treasurer David Bailey presented the FY23 Q3 finances, including the Finance & Budget Committee's and Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the FY23 quarterly financials. Executive Director Leah Martinsson provided additional detail on the budget vs. actuals and reported that TAGD finances are on track. Leah also reported that the projected income for FY23 is tracking significantly ahead of expectations and provided an update on TAGD savings, which have grown to over \$400,000 during the past four years. Steve Walthour made a motion to approve the FY23 Q3 finances. Andy Garza seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- G. Discussion Possible Action on FY23 Budget Amendment.** President Amber Blount and Treasurer David Bailey explained a proposed budget amendment for FY23 that the Executive Committee developed as a result of Leah Martinsson's employee evaluation. The amendment would increase the member dues income category to reflect realized income and increase the personnel expense category to allow for a \$10,000 salary stipend for the Executive Director. David Bailey noted that while the amendment could be approved by the Executive Committee alone according to the TAGD Financial Policy, the committee instead sought full membership approval. Steve Walthour made a motion to approve the proposed FY23 budget amendment. Dirk Aaron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- H. Discussion Possible Action on FY24 Budget.** President Amber Blount opened the FY24 budget agenda item by clarifying a comment she made at the last business meeting about expenses, sharing that income earned from TAGD meeting registrations goes toward all budgeted expenses and are not intended to only offset meeting expenses. Treasurer David Bailey then provided a brief overview of the proposed FY24 Budget that was approved and recommended by the Finance & Budget Committee and Executive Committee. He noted changes from the draft budget that was originally shared at the June business meeting, including an increase to the Executive Director salary. Dirk Aaron made a motion to approve the proposed FY24 Budget. Kathy Turner Jones seconded the motion. Amber Blount then opened the item up for discussion. Rhetta Hector asked why the Executive Committee did not instead consider a proposed 15% salary increase for all staff. Amber Blount explained that the Executive Committee reviewed the suggested 15% salary increase and chose to move forward with the budget as presented, with a 7:1 vote by the Executive Committee. Dirk Aaron called the question. Meredith Allen shared concerns about how TAGD would account for the negative operating income. Amber Blount and David Bailey reiterated the proposal has only small amount coming from reserves, of which TAGD currently has over \$400,000, and that TAGD has consistently generated income in excess of the budget, which is only a guide. Past President Zach Holland then shared that the net income in excess of the budget

from FY23 more than cover the proposed deficit in the FY24 budget. Zach continued to share the importance of establishing future goals and a growth plan going forward as an organization. Meredith Allen expressed concerns about disincentivizing staff with lower salary increases. Steve Walthour asked about TAGD's reserves, and Amber Blount reiterated that there is \$422,000 in TAGD's reserves. Steve shared support for these types of discussions, but also supported the proposed budget based on such a small impact to TAGD's reserves. Lynn Smith expressed his appreciation for the value of services provided by TAGD and said that without those services, smaller districts with budget constraints would not be able to monitor or participate in legislative discussions. The proposed FY24 budget passed with 17 opposed, including proxy votes denoted below with an asterisk. Districts voting against the budget included Coke County GCD\*, Culberson County GCD, Crockett County GCD, Glasscock GCD, Hickory UWCD\*, Hill Country UWCD\*, Irion County WCD, Kimble County GCD, Kinney County GCD, Lipan-Kickapoo WCD, Lone Wolf GCD\*, Menard County UWD, Reeves County GCD, Santa Rita UWCD\*, Sterling County UWCD, Sutton County GCD, and Uvalde County UWCD.

**I. Discussion and Possible Action on 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature Legislator Resolutions.**

Executive Director Leah Martinsson presented a template resolution to thank legislators on the House Natural Resources Committee and Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs, as well as personalized resolutions thanking Representatives Tracy King and Four Price. The resolutions were reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. Gary Westbrook made a motion to approve these templates and personalized resolutions for distribution. Alan Day seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**J. Announcement of Election Results & TAGD Area Caucus.** Based on the outcome of the officer election, the TAGD areas not represented by an elected officer were asked to gather and appoint their area representative on the TAGD Executive Committee. Those representatives include:

- a. **Far West Texas** – Haley Davis
- b. **Upper Edwards Trinity** – Diana Thomas
- c. **Lower Edwards Trinity** – Dave Mauk
- d. **Upper Gulf Coast** – Zach Holland
- e. **Lower Gulf Coast** – Andy Garza

**K. Office and Committee Reports.** Executive Director Leah Martinsson provided the Executive Director report on TAGD activities. The following Officer and Committee reports were then provided:

- a. **Executive Committee Report:** Amber Blount provided a report on the Executive Committee's activities.

- b. **Legislative Committee Report:** Doug Shaw reported no updates at this time.
- c. **Finance Committee Report:** David Bailey provided a report on the Finance Committee's activities.
- d. **Bylaws Committee Report:** Andy Garza reported no updates at this time.
- e. **Education/Outreach Committee Report:** Stephanie Keith reported no updates at this time.

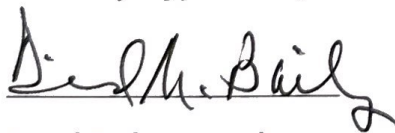
**L. GMA and Member Updates.** President Amber Blount shared some recent staffing changes at districts and invited members to provide any other relevant updates. Each GMA was then given the opportunity to provide updates on the status of their Groundwater Management Area, including progress on the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs), model updates, and future meeting dates.

**M. Discussion and Possible Action on Honorary Membership Nominations.** Amber Blount announced that TAGD has received nominations for two Honorary Memberships - Ron Fieseler and Steve Walthour. Gary Westbrook moved to approve the nominations. Kathy Turner Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Gary Westbrook shared his appreciation for Ron Fieseler's contributions and presented his honorary membership. Janet Guthrie presented Steve Walthour's honorary membership and shared anecdotes about his service.

**N. Executive Committee Recognition.** Amber Blount recognized the new and outgoing Executive Committee members. Leah Martinsson and Julia Stanford presented all committee members with a small gift of appreciation from TAGD for their service.

**O. Other TAGD Business.** Leah Martinsson recognized the Conference Planning Committee for their support and the successful planning of the 2023 Texas Groundwater Summit. Leah announced that all room facilitators and Conference Planning Committee members will receive a thank you gift. Amber Blount presented Leah Martinsson, Julia Stanford, and Annick Maddox with gifts of appreciation for their hard work preparing for the Summit. Leah Martinsson recognized Amber Blount for her term as TAGD President and presented her with a gavel for her service. There were no other matters discussed. Amber Blount adjourned the meeting at 10:40am.

Prepared and submitted by Leah Martinsson, Executive Director, and Stephanie Keith, Secretary. Approved by the Members on January 30, 2024.



David Bailey, President



Stephanie Keith, Secretary

Attachment 1

Voting GCD Members Present at August 2023 TAGD Business Meeting  
Districts present and voting by proxy signified with an asterisk (\*)

- 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 Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District
- 8 Brush Country Groundwater Conservation District
- 9 Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District
- 10 Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District
- 11 Coastal Bend Groundwater Conservation District
- 12 Coastal Plains Groundwater Conservation District
- 13 Coke County Underground Water Conservation District\*
- 14 Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
- 15 Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District
- 16 Crockett County Groundwater Conservation District
- 17 Culberson County Groundwater Conservation District
- 18 Duval County Groundwater Conservation District
- 19 Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District
- 20 Gateway Groundwater Conservation District
- 21 Glasscock Groundwater Conservation District
- 22 Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District
- 23 Guadalupe County Groundwater Conservation District
- 24 Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District
- 25 Hickory Underground Water Conservation District\*
- 26 High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1
- 27 Hill Country Underground Water Conservation District\*
- 28 Hudspeth County Underground Water Conservation District
- 29 Irion County Water Conservation District
- 30 Jeff Davis County Underground Water Conservation District\*
- 31 Kenedy County Groundwater Conservation District
- 32 Kimble County Groundwater Conservation District
- 33 Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District
- 34 Lipan-Kickapoo Water Conservation District
- 35 Live Oak Underground Water Conservation District
- 36 Llano Estacado Underground Water Conservation District
- 37 Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District
- 38 Lone Wolf Groundwater Conservation District\*
- 39 Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District\*
- 40 Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District\*

- 41 McMullen Groundwater Conservation District
- 42 Menard County Underground Water District
- 43 Mesa Underground Water Conservation District
- 44 Mesquite Groundwater Conservation District
- 45 Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District
- 46 Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
- 47 North Plains Groundwater Conservation District
- 48 North Texas Groundwater Conservation District
- 49 Northern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
- 50 Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District
- 51 Panola County Groundwater Conservation District
- 52 Pecan Valley Groundwater Conservation District
- 53 Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District
- 54 Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District\*
- 55 Plateau Underground Water Conservation and Supply District
- 56 Plum Creek Conservation District
- 57 Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District
- 58 Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District
- 59 Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District
- 60 Real-Edwards Conservation and Reclamation District
- 61 Red River Groundwater Conservation District
- 62 Reeves County Groundwater Conservation District
- 63 Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District
- 64 Rusk County Groundwater Conservation District
- 65 San Patricio County Groundwater Conservation District
- 66 Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District
- 67 Santa Rita Underground Water Conservation District\*
- 68 South Plains Underground Water Conservation District
- 69 Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District
- 70 Southwestern Travis County Groundwater Conservation District
- 71 Sterling County Underground Water Conservation District
- 72 Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District
- 73 Trinity Glen Rose Groundwater Conservation District
- 74 Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District
- 75 Uvalde County Underground Conservation District
- 76 Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District