

TEXAS ALLIANCE OF GROUNDWATER DISTRICTS

Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 2, 2024, 10:00 AM
GoToMeeting Video Conference Call
Minutes

- A. Call to order & roll call.** President David Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Executive Committee members Amber Blount, Stephanie Keith, Doug Shaw, Zach Holland, Diana Thomas, Andy Garza, Kelley Cochran, and Dave Mauk were present. Janet Guthrie signed on at 10:08 am. Also present were Executive Director Adam Foster, Director of Programs & Communications Julia Stanford, and Manager of Administration Annick P. Maddox.
- B. Review and possible action on minutes from prior meetings.** President David Bailey presented the minutes from the January 29, 2024 Executive Committee meeting. Andy Garza made a motion to approve the minutes. Kelley Cochran seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. Executive Director updates.** President David Bailey asked Executive Director Adam Foster to provide an update on TAGD activities. Adam provided an update on his first 70 days of employment including his training with Leah Martinsson during her last two weeks, meetings with TWDB, WCAC, TWCA Legislative Committee, and other events. He also shared an update on new members, TAGD investments, the GCD Index, interim charges, GAC rule suggestions submitted to TCEQ, registrations for the Spring Regular Business Meeting, PFIA training, and the Summit. Adam also detailed other efforts, including working with EDF staff on a GCD groundwater science funding request to TWDB. Adam asked Julia Stanford to give an update on TAGD's webinars. Julia shared that TAGD was co-hosting with TGWA a series of webinars focused on various human resources topics. Stephanie Keith asked a question about the GCD Index. Adam and Julia answered. No action was required.
- D. Discussion and possible action on FY24 Q2 finances.** President David Bailey asked Treasurer Janet Guthrie to present the FY24 Q2 finances, but due to technical difficulties Adam Foster began to review the reports. Adam shared that the Finance & Budget Committee met previously to consider and approve the FY24 Q2 finances. He then walked through the budget vs. actuals report and reminded the committee that additional income since 3/31/2024 is not reflected in this report, but that income is still tracking as expected. Adam pointed out that expenses are approximately at or below the 50% threshold within each subcategory except for technical training due to lack of a sponsorship for the boot camp. Janet Guthrie made a motion to approve taking the FY24 Q2 finances to the full membership for approval. Doug Shaw seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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E. Discussion and possible action on FY22-23 Agreed Upon Procedures Report.

David Bailey asked Treasurer Janet Guthrie or Adam Foster to present the Agreed Upon Procedures Report as previously approved by the Finance & Budget Committee. Janet Guthrie asked Adam Foster to present to allow him to demonstrate his knowledge and understanding of the report. Adam went over the findings of the report. Amber Blount asked a question about a finding in regards to reconciliation methods and Annick P. Maddox answered with further explanation from Janet Guthrie. Andy Garza made a motion to approve the FY22-23 Agreed Upon Procedures Report. Janet Guthrie added further context to a finding regarding the value of CD's and expressed her positive remarks on the report. Zach Holland seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Discussion and possible action on FY25 member dues.

President David Bailey asked Adam Foster to present the proposed member dues for FY25, as considered by the Finance and Budget Committee. Adam explained that a similar proposal to raise dues was generally supported by this committee last year but ultimately did not pass. He shared that this proposal reflected the option to raise member dues for membership levels 4 and 5 in addition to creating a new membership level 6 for budgets \$1.5 million and up. Kelley Cochran asked a question regarding the implications for increasing associate member dues. There was a discussion that followed sharing concerns on how raising associate member dues could affect sponsorships. Amber Blount expressed a strong concern and asked if the intention behind the proposed member dues was purely to avoid a budget deficit. Doug Shaw replied no, and described the need to plan for the future and long-term success of TAGD which included increasing staff salaries. David Bailey reminded the committee of TAGD's robust financial reserves. Zach Holland agreed with the need for a long-term financial strategy for TAGD as an organization with 3 full-time staff members, as TAGD's solvency was previously based on only two. Diana Thomas and Stephanie Keith both expressed their agreement with Zach Holland's comments. Kelley Cochran expressed a concern in raising dues for associate members, noting that they are non-voting members, and how that might affect sponsorships intended to offset costs associated with TAGD's events. A short discussion followed, and the proposed level 6 membership dues for both GCDs and associate members was lowered to \$2950. President David Bailey called for a motion. Zach Holland expressed he was in favor of raising dues and also the need to meet in person to create a defined plan for TAGD's future. Doug Shaw and Dave Mauk both expressed their agreement. Zach Holland made a motion to accept the proposed dues with the amendment on level 6 with the commitment of the Executive Committee and Finance & Budget Committee gathering in person for long-term financial planning no later than 1 year from today.

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Doug Shaw seconded the motion. Diana Thomas abstained from voting as her TAGD area would not be affected by dues increases on the higher tiers. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Discussion of draft proposed FY25 budget (no action). At 11:41 am, Doug Shaw had to leave the meeting and signed off. President David Bailey asked Adam Foster to present the draft proposed FY25 budget. Adam Foster went over each line item. Amber Blount asked a question regarding a specific budget item for accounting costs with the request to strongly consider eliminating TAGD's third party accountant. There was a brief discussion that followed, with David Bailey sharing that this discussion would be best handled internally amongst TAGD staff. Amber Blount also explained that it was her understanding that the remaining amount of the previously approved bonus for Julia Stanford and Annick P. Maddox was to be funded by TAGD reserves. Zach Holland agreed with Amber, noting that the approved bonus was independent of the budget. David Bailey asked Adam Foster to amend the budget to include this change, and then asked the committee if there were any other questions or discussions concerning the draft budget. There was no further discussion and no action was taken.

H. Discussion and possible action on other matters before the committee.

President David Bailey asked the committee for discussion and possible action on any other matters. Kelley Cochran asked the committee if they could discuss a time and place to meet in person. There was a short discussion that followed regarding the planning of an Executive Committee Retreat that would also include the Finance and Budget Committee. Andy Garza offered to host the retreat.

I. Adjournment. President David Bailey adjourned the meeting at 12:07 pm.