

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District
3074 Westfork Dr., Suite A, Baton Rouge
February 21, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order**
Karen Gautreaux – Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission (CAGCC)
Chair
- II. Roll Call**
Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
Members present: Mr. Engemann, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Seagraves, Ms. Gautreaux, Ms. Field, Ms. Manning-Broome, Mr. Leo, Mr. Shaheen, Mr. Vetter, Ms. Machen, Mr. Reonas, Mr. Savoy, Mr. Means and Mr. Hobbins.
Members absent: Mr. Brown, Mr. Phares, and Mr. Ewing
- III. Establishment of a Quorum**
Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair
Chair Gautreaux declared the presence of a quorum with fourteen members present.
- IV. Invocation**
Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
- V. Pledge of Allegiance**
Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director
- VI. Recognition of Guests**
Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair
Tara Wicker, The W Consulting Group; Roy Waggenspack, Owen & White; Anna Gilbert, Owen & White; Dennis McGehee, Baton Rouge Water; Tokesha Collins-Wright; Louisiana Chemical Association; Anthony Simon, Secure Water Management; Douglas Melancon, ExxonMobil; Scott Bergeron, interested party; David Hawley, CK Associates; George Losonsky, Losonsky & Associates; Ray Kirk, Westlake. Ms. Gautreaux acknowledged at this time that Dr. Machen was now present, and welcomed with congratulations Ms. Giacometto, the Secretary of DEQ.
- VII. Amendments to the Agenda**
Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair
The agenda was amended to move the Technical Committee report and Old Business items, before the Executive Director’s report, to allow interested parties to leave once their issues were addressed. Motion by Mr. Leo and second by Mr. Seagraves to amend the agenda order. None opposed. Motion passed. The agenda order was changed.

VIII. Approval of Minutes – November 2, 2023, Meeting (action required)

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair

Mr. Leo specified an edit to his remarks, in the minutes of the November 2, 2023, meeting. There was no contention. Motion by Ms. Manning-Broome and second by Mr. Seagraves to approve the edit to the minutes adding the correction of Mr. Leo’s remarks. No objections. Motion passed.

IX. Technical Committee Report

Tom Seagraves – CAGCC Technical Committee Chair

A. Pumping Limits (action required)

Mr. Seagraves detailed some historical pumping limits and the requirement for an annual re-establishment of limits. He noted that in December the Technical Committee voted and recommended to the Board to confirm the current limits, but there was no quorum at the last Board meeting. Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Mr. Dawson to approve the current pumping limits. No objection. Motion passed. Pumping limits were approved.

B. New Well Permits (action required)

1. Westlake Vinyls Well No. 1 – Industrial
500 feet deep in Ascension Parish
1,000 gpm & 1,440,000 gpd

2. Westlake Vinyls Well No. 2 – Industrial
500 feet deep in Ascension Parish
1,000 gpm & 1,440,000 gpd

3. Lion Copolymer Well No. 1 – Industrial
530 feet deep in Ascension Parish
1500 gpm & 2,160,000 gpd

4. Lion Copolymer Well No. 2 – Industrial
530 feet deep in Ascension Parish
1500 gpm & 2,160,000 gpd

5. Lion Copolymer Well No. 3 – Industrial
530 feet deep in Ascension Parish
1500 gpm & 2,160,000 gpd

Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Mr. Savoy to approve the 2 Westlake Vinyls permits and the 3 Lion Copolymer permits.

Mr. Leo commented, ensuring that one of the wells for Lion will be a backup. Mr. Beard confirmed it is a backup and all three will be metered.

Mr. Vetter questioned, is this aquifer water being used for industrial processing? Mr. Beard said, yes, they are all shallow and there is no effect on the southern fault line.

Mr. Reonas commented there is some evidence of subsidence using shallow aquifers in NOLA east, so it should be something to consider in the future.

Mr. Vetter questioned; is there any way we can include all parishes that are on the aquifer? Mr. Beard responded, this is a legislative issue, and, in the past, there has been motion in that direction. Mr. Vetter said he would like to pursue this. No opposition to approval of the five permits.

Roll call vote: Mr. Dawson-y, Mr. Engemann-y, Ms. Gautreaux-y, Ms. Field-y, Mr. Hobbins-y, Mr. Leo-y, Ms. Machen-y, Ms. Broome-y, Mr. Means-y, Mr. Reonas-y, Mr. Savoy-y, Mr. Seagraves-y, Mr. Shaheen-y, Mr. Vetter-y.

Unanimous vote. Westlake Vinyl's (2 new wells) and Lion Copolymer (3 new wells) were approved.

X. Old Business

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

- A. West Baton Rouge – Mr. Beard gave specifics on why the Board was being asked to reconsider this well for approval. Mr. Hobbins made the motion to approve. Mr. Savoy seconded. Ms. Machen asked for a recap/clarification between the last examination and this one. Mr. Beard explained that he sat with the Parish leaders, and they said the new well is to serve as reserve capacity. It could turn on simultaneously with the other(s) but that would be in emergency situations. With meters on, the District will know which wells are working and when. The intent is not to run them parallel, but in alternate form. Ms. Machen pointed out there would be no net increase. Mr. Beard confirmed. Mr. Leo asked if there was an informal understanding that WBR would contact the District if, in their judgment, they had an emergency which required them to operate this well simultaneously. Mr. Beard confirmed that WBR would let the District know. Mr. Reonas said he wanted the stipulations to be in the permit. Mr. Beard confirmed that the stipulations will be included in the permit. Mr. Seagraves pointed out that WBR has been very cooperative, and their intention is to move farther north for new wells. Mr. Shaheen spoke about this being in the 2000 ft-sand and Roy Waggenspack commented about well depth, saltwater movement, and his opinion that approval for this well is necessary to meet demand should one of the other wells go out.

Roll call vote: Mr. Dawson-y, Mr. Engemann-y, Ms. Gautreaux-y, Ms. Field-y, Mr. Hobbins-y, Mr. Leo-y, Ms. Machen-y, Ms. Broome-y, Mr. Means-y, Mr. Reonas-y, Mr. Savoy-y, Mr. Seagraves-y, Mr. Shaheen-y, Mr. Vetter-y. Unanimous vote. West Baton Rouge - Arena Well No. 2 was approved.

XI. Executive Director's Report

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

A. Financial Update – Q2 FYE 2024

Mr. Beard detailed that CAGCD is within its first quarter budget and will have the second quarter available soon.

B. FYE 2023 Audit Update

CAGCD's annual budget was submitted on time. All minor issues have been addressed and CAGCD is in good shape. The auditor plans to attend the next meeting and be able to give a full analysis.

C. Authorization to go to bid on Monitoring Probes & Equipment (**action required**)

Mr. Beard detailed the funds that are available and said he will need to advertise for bids on the equipment for the monitoring wells, and bids on installation as well. He requested Board approval to receive construction bids, especially for the equipment. Motion by Mr. Seagrave and second by Mr. Dawson to approve construction bids for equipment and installation. No objections.

Roll call vote: Mr. Dawson-y, Mr. Engemann-y, Ms. Gautreaux-y, Ms. Field-y, Mr. Hobbins-y, Mr. Leo-y, Ms. Machen-y, Ms. Broome-y, Mr. Means-y, Mr. Reonas-y, Mr. Savoy-y, Mr. Seagraves-y, Mr. Shaheen-y, Mr. Vetter-y.

Unanimous vote. Construction bids for equipment and installation were approved.

D. 2024 Schedule of Board meetings – (**action required**)

Motion by Mr. Leo and second by Ms. Manning-Broome to schedule Board meetings every other month on [the third] Thursday, with a 1:00 p.m., meeting time. No objections. Motion passed.

E. Resolution: to do all things in conjunction with well owners, to protect the aquifer, and provide water (**action required**). Motion by Mr. Reonas and second by Mr. Dawson to defer, to ensure the final draft was precisely what it should be, for long-term planning. No objections. Motion to defer carried.

XII. Administrative Committee Report

Patrick Hobbins – CAGCC Administrative Committee Chair

Mr. Hobbins said there was nothing to report due to lack of a quorum.

A. By-Laws – revisions to move public comment to beginning of meetings (**action required**)

Motion by Mr. Hobbins and second by Mr. Dawson to send the By-Laws revisions back to the Administrative Committee, for further review and consideration. No objections. Motion carried.

XIII. Executive Committee Report

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair

A. Executive Session – Legal Strategy (**action required**)

Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Ms. Machen to go into Executive Session. None opposed. The executive session ended at 4:05 p.m. At this time, Ms. Manning-Broome noted an edit to the minutes of the November 2, 2023, meeting.

Motion by Mr. Leo and second by Ms. Field to amend the November 2, 2023, minutes to include Ms. Manning-Broome's edit. None opposed. Motion carried.

B. Resolution – (action required)

Mr. Beard read the resolution for the record - to authorize the Executive Director and the Commission to do all things necessary to prevent the waste of groundwater resources. Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Mr. Means to adopt the resolution. No objections. No public comment.

Roll call vote: Mr. Dawson-y, Mr. Engemann-y, Ms. Gautreaux-y, Ms. Field-y, Mr. Hobbins-y, Mr. Leo-y, Ms. Machen-y, Ms. Broome-y, Mr. Means-y, Mr. Reonas-y, Mr. Savoy-y, Mr. Seagraves-y, Mr. Shaheen-y, Mr. Vetter-y. Unanimous vote. The resolution was adopted. Motion passed.

XIV. Member Agenda Items

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

No member agenda items.

XV. Public Comment on Non-action Items

- A. Roy Waggenpack, Owen & White Engineers – Mr. Waggenpack congratulated the commission on the new website. He requested a change to his comment about WBR's well, noted in the September 21, 2023, minutes, under item 11. He commented on wanting an opportunity to change his comments on the record, moving forward. [The minutes stated WBR's new well was in the same sands as the other well, but they are in fact in different sands. This was clarified during the review of the wells during the meeting today].
- B. Dennis McGehee, Baton Rouge Water Company – Mr. McGehee made comments and asked for reconsideration of Istrouma and Hurricane Creek wells at the next Technical Committee meeting, due to them being indirect replacements for wells out of service. Mr. Seagraves replied that he would be happy to have these wells on the agenda of the next Technical Committee meeting. He said, for the Committee as well as the Board, the issue is how will BRWW guarantee the overall water take, since they are refusing the meters. Mr. McGehee said that is not his side of the project, but that he would agree to not turn the well on until it was resolved one way or another.

XVI. Chairman's Report

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair
Nothing to report.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Reonas and seconded by Mr. Dawson. Meeting adjourned.



Gary J. Beard, Executive Director