

**Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**  
**Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission**  
**3074 Westfork Dr., Suite A, Baton Rouge, LA 70816**  
**September 19, 2024, 2:30 p.m.**  
**Amended Version**

**I. Call to Order**

Karen Gautreaux – Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission (CAGCC)  
Chair

**II. Roll Call**

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

Members present: Nolan Brown, Bob Brady, Jr., Bill Dawson, Patrick Engemann, Karen Gautreaux, Angela Machen, Jesse Means, Greg Phares, Matt Reonas, Glenn Shaheen, Cyril Vetter. Also present: Gary Beard, Lisa Manda, Jennifer VanValkenburg, Murphy Foster, Esq., Catherine Crawford, Esq., Janet Boles, Esq.

Members absent: Ken Dawson, Lane Ewing, Patrick Kerr, Patrick Hobbins, Jonathan Leo, Camille Manning-Broome, Rachael Lambert

**III. Establishment of a Quorum**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair  
11 members and a quorum 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

Matthew Waguespack – LA Farm Bureau Federation, Brett Furr – Taylor Porter for Baton Rouge Waterworks, Scott Bergeron, Dennis McGehee, Baton Rouge Water Co., John Roberts – Attracct, Whitney Bourque – Attracct, John Daigle – LEAN, Anthony Simon, Ryan Clark – Halff, Roy Waggenspack – interested party, Tara Wicker – The W Consulting Group.

**VII. Amendments to the Agenda**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair

Mr. Phares made a motion to move item “C” (regarding Retiree Health Care Trust Fund) under IX to “A”. Mr. Reonas seconded. No objection/unanimous.

**VIII. Approval of Minutes – July 30, 2024, meeting (action required)**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair

Mr. Means moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Shaheen seconded the motion. No objections/unanimous approval.

**IX. Executive Director's Report**

Gary Beard – CAGCD Executive Director

A. Discussion of complaint regarding the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund – John Roberts

Mr. Roberts explained that funding is based on a number of assumptions as well as investment performance in the future plus number of employees, among other things. He had spoken with Scott Fontenot, who reviews the CAGCC OPEB liabilities, and Scott said CAGCC is not necessarily required to fund OPEB liabilities, that the only thing we're required to do is to continue to pay as we go into this fund.

Commissioners Mr. Phares, Mr. Shaheen, Ms. Machen, Mr. Reonas asked questions and made comments.

B. Summary and response to comments on the September 4<sup>th</sup> Budget Public Hearing

Mr. Vetter commented on Mr. Furr's budget comments, spoken at the hearing. He wanted the record to reflect that Mr. Furr's comment that CAGCC lost in litigation was not entirely accurate.

C. Proposed Budget and Resolution - Budget, Contracts, Fees (**action required**)

Mr. Beard explained some points of interest on the budget in Category A and revenue, and also noted a typo – that we used 51 billion gallons to make the budget, not 52. The budget was calculated at the rate of \$65/million gallons of water pumped from the aquifer. Discussions between commissioners. Mr. Beard continued into Category B, operating expenses. After discussions on Category B, Mr. Beard moved on to Category C, contracts. Mr. Phares had many questions on contract payments and made a motion as follows: "I would make a motion, Madam Chair, that the director and the staff and whoever is appropriate reallocate those funds from those categories that I just mentioned to at least 50 percent fund these contracts for our subject matter experts." (Categories he had recently mentioned by name were the Executive Director, Legal Fees, Simon's contract, Mr. Daniel's contract). Mr. Bill Dawson seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Public comments by Mr. Brett Furr, and then Mr. Scott Bergeron. Mr. Phares then restated his motion to fund USGS and Water Institute at least 50% of their former budget (\$133,505 and \$436,000 former budgets respectively) from these line items: Attorney's fees, Mr. Simon's contract, Mr. Daniel's contract, CPAs, and the auditor. Attorney's fees are the "big dog". He said, leave it to Mr. Beard and his staff as to how that ought to be funded to best service these line items from which it is being taken. Mr. Bill Dawson reiterated his second. More discussions. Mr. Reonas made a substitute motion that the budget be ratified as is. Mr. Means seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Brown - yes, Mr. Engemann - no, Ms. Machen - yes, Mr. Means – yes, Mr. Phares – no, Mr. Reonas – yes, Mr. Bill Dawson – yes, Mr. Bob Brady – yes, Mr. Shaheen – yes, Mr. Vetter – yes. 8-2 and the substitute motion passed to approve the budget as is.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Means made a motion to pass the budget resolution. Mr. Reonas seconded. Public comment opened. No comments. Roll call vote on the budget resolution: Mr. Brown – yes, Mr. Engemann – yes, Ms. Machen – yes, Mr. Phares – yes, Mr. Reonas – yes, Mr. Bill Dawson – yes, Mr. Bob Brady – yes, Mr. Shaheen – yes, Mr. Vetter – yes. Unanimous. Motion to approved the budget resolution passed.

**X. Chairman’s Report**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair  
None.

**XI. Administrative Committee Report**

Patrick Hobbins – CAGCC Chair  
None.

**XII. Technical Committee Report**

Glenn Shaheen – CAGCC Technical Committee Chair  
None.

**XIII. Executive Committee Report**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair  
None.

**XIV. Member Agenda Items**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair  
None.

**XV. Old Business**

Cyril Vetter – CAGCC Commissioner

A. Resolution on Commissioner/public recusal and disclosure of economic interest in aquifer (**action required**)

Mr. Vetter described his resolution as a simple conflict of interest resolution where the party must self-recuse if there is a direct or indirect financial interest in the aquifer. Questions and discussion followed. No action taken on Mr. Vetter’s resolution of recusal and disclosure of economic interest in aquifer.

**XVI. New Business**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair  
None.

**XVII. Commissioner Comments**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair  
None.

**XVIII. Announcements**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair

None.

**XIX. Public Comment (Non-action items only)**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair

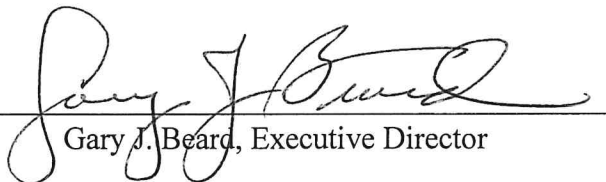
None. Mr. Vetter noted that whoever has been sending anonymous letters has wasted their stamps. He said, “If you don't have the courage of your convictions to sign your name, I'm not going to have the courtesy to read what you say. Chair Gautreaux agreed entirely.

Mr. Roy Waggenpack asked for clarification on the resolution for recusal/disclosure. Dennis McGehee had comments about the screens displaying more details in the future.

**XX. Adjournment (action required)**

Karen Gautreaux – CAGCC Chair

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Vetter. Second by Mr. Means.

  
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Gary J. Beard, Executive Director