



Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District



Watching out for A Treasured Earth Resource

Dedicated to the conservation, orderly development and protection of quality of ground water in the Capital Area

Volume 38, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012

WE'VE MOVED

Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District Office Re-locates

The Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District office has moved, but only a few doors down from the old location. We are still at 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, but have moved into Suite 137. All telephone and fax numbers remain the same, as do our email addresses.

Commission News

Upcoming Meetings

The Technical Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 4, 2012 in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey at 3535 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be held at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 11, 2012 in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Administrative Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission conference room, Suite 129, 3535

South Sherwood Forest Boulevard, one hour before the regular meeting.

September Meetings

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee met on Tuesday, September 11, in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey.

District Director Anthony Duplechin reported on Commissioner of Conservation James Welsh's response to the CAGWCC petition to have the boundaries of Conservation Order ENV 2012-GW011 expanded, as well as extend the reporting date for the order until the end of the first quarter of 2013. Commissioner Welsh found

that there was no scientific evidence for either extending the boundary or the reporting date, and denied the request.

The Office of Conservation's Environmental Division has hired Mr. Matt Reonas as their Education and Marketing Representative. Unfortunately, Mr. Reonas was unable to attend the Technical Committee meeting to give an overview of Conservation's plans. During his visit to the District Office the previous week, Mr. Reonas asked about membership of the Commission, who the major "players" are in the Capital Area, and contact information for other areas to see what has been done in the realm of public outreach.

Jason Griffith (USGS) gave a progress report on the Baton Rouge model (Simulation of Ground-Water Flow in the “1,500-foot” and “2,000-foot” Sands and Movement of Saltwater in the “2,000-foot” Sand of the Baton Rouge Area) that USGS has been working on. This included a power point presentation with several interesting animations.

PROGRESS AND SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS:

- a. Completed groundwater-flow model calibration from pre-development (1940) through 2007.
- b. Completed the saltwater-transport model calibration with MT3D from pre-development (1940) through 2007.
- c. Completed the saltwater-transport model calibration with SEAWAT from pre-development (1940) through 2007.
- d. Completed simulating the effects of the status-quo pumping scenario on groundwater levels and saltwater concentrations with MODFLOW 2005, MT3D and SEAWAT.
- e. Completed simulating the effects of reduced withdrawals from “2,000-foot” sand wells at the ExxonMobil Refinery and Chemical Plant with MT3D and SEAWAT.
- f. Completed simulating the effect of a hypothetical scavenger well in the “2,000-foot” sand at several locations and with several drawdown rates, with both MT3D and SEAWAT.
- g. Completed simulating the effects of discontinuing groundwater withdrawals from the “2,000-foot” sand in

the Industrial District after 2007 with both MT3D and SEAWAT.

- h. Completed simulating the effects of discontinuing groundwater withdrawals from the “2,000-foot” sand in the Industrial District after 2007 with both MT3D and SEAWAT.
- i. Completed simulating the effects of discontinuing groundwater withdrawals from the “1,500-foot” sand at the Georgia Pacific Plant.
- j. Continued writing the report .

PLANS FOR NEXT QUARTER:

- a. Complete report writing.
- b. Submit report for USGS colleague review
- c. Provide copy of report to CAGWCC for comment.

John Lovelace reported on the USGS Draft Project Proposal:

“DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A COMPUTER MODEL TO SIMULATE GROUNDWATER FLOW AND SALTWATER ENCROACHMENT IN THE BATON ROUGE SANDS, LOUISIANA”

- a. Stated that USGS and CAGWCC staff had met with Mayor Holden, Public Works Director William Daniel and Chief Engineer Bryan Harmon to discuss EBR’s continued support and funding of the modeling efforts. Mayor Holden pledged EBR’s support and financial assistance.
- b. CAGWCC’s financial contribution to the modeling effort will probably require a pumpage fee increase. This will be discussed at the September 18 Commission meeting. The regulatory

process will take five months. The last fee increase was in 2008 (from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per million gallons).

- c. Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Jennings seconded that the USGS modeling proposal be brought up before the full Commission at the September 18th meeting.

Discussion on the following suggested topics was held:

- 1. Decrease 2,000-foot sand withdrawal in the Industrial Zone below the current 26 MGD

Commissioner Aucoin stated that ExxonMobil is in the process of reducing their pumpage from the “2,000-foot sand” and hopes that another user will not increase pumpage from that sand, thus negating ExxonMobil’s efforts.

- 2. Set a limit on the 1,500 foot sand

The driver on the limit placed on the “2,000-foot sand” was drawdown. The driver on any reduction in allowable pumpage of the “1,500-foot sand” would be saltwater encroachment.

- 3. Funding of monitoring wells (could be considered part of the model study and funded through increased groundwater cost)

DNR’s \$2 million monitoring program with USGS is based on using existing wells

- 4. Update of CAGWCC five year plan based on consumers’ long term plans

Director Duplechin passed out copies of the 1991 Request for Water Utilization Information form and asked that members look it over and mark it up, as necessary, in preparation for a new request for information being sent out.

Commission Meeting

The Commission met on Tuesday, September 18, in the conference room of the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Administrative Committee had met in the Capital Area conference room earlier in the morning. The following actions were presented to the Commission for consideration by the Administrative Committee:

District office relocation to Suite 137 - passed unanimously.

Increase pumpage fees from \$4.00 per million gallons to \$5.00 per million gallons - passed unanimously.

The Technical Committee report was given by Committee Chairman McGehee (see report above).

Upon the recommendation of the Technical Committee, Mr. Walton made a motion that the Commission accept the USGS proposal titled, "Development and Maintenance of a Computer Model to Simulate Groundwater Flow and Saltwater Encroachment in the Baton Rouge Sands, Louisiana". Mr. Aucoin seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Walton reported that the Nominating Committee recommended Mr. Joey Hebert be nominated for the office of Chairman; Mr. John Jennings be nominated for the office of Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Dennis McGehee be nominated for the office of Treasurer. There being no further nominees from the floor, Mr. Walton made a motion to accept the nominees. Mr. Rills seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.



PUMPAGE FEE
INCREASE

The Commission will increase its pumpage fees from \$4.00 per million gallons to \$5.00 per million gallons to cover the additional costs of the USGS modeling study along with the maintenance of the current model. \$5.00 per million gallons will bring in an additional \$56,000 per year. The USGS proposal for the next eleven years will be at a cost to the Commission of \$50,800 to \$99,600 per year. The rulemaking process to increase the pumpage fees will take approximately 5 months for the fee to go into effect. The last fee increase was 2008. In 1975 fees for pumping were set at \$1.00 per million gallons pumped. Following is the historical timeline for pumpage fee increases:

- 1/1/85 - increased fee to \$1.50
- 9/1/93 - increased fee to \$2.50
- 1/1/96 - increased fee to \$3.50
- 4/1/08 - increased fee to \$4.00

The District staff will proceed with the steps to increase the fee. Paperwork will be submitted by November 20. A Notice of Intent should be published in the December 20, 2013 Louisiana Register, with a public hearing being held in late January, 2013. The proposed effective date of the new rule is April 1, 2013.

Thank You

Act 601 of the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature replaced the representative to the Commission from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development with one from the Office of Conservation within the within Department of Natural Resources. Commissioner James H. "Jim" Welsh selected John Adams, an attorney with Conservation's Environmental Section, to represent him on the Commission. We welcome Mr. Adams to the Commission.

As a result of this change, we will be saying goodbye to a long-time member of the Commission. Zahir "Bo" Bolourchi, Director of Dams, Levee & Reservoir Development with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, has served on the Commission for some 29 years, since 1983.

Throughout the years, Bo has been very influential in helping the Commission develop and implement the District's policies.

In his years on the Commission, Bo has held the following offices:

- 1984 – Technical Chairman
- 1985 – Technical Chairman
- 1985 – Treasurer
- 1986 – Vice-Chairman
- 1987 – Chairman
- 1991 – Technical Chairman
- 1993 – Treasurer
- 1994 – Treasurer
- 1995 – Vice-Chairman
- 1996 – Vice-Chairman
- 1997 – Chairman
- 1998 – Chairman
- 2005 – Chairman
- 2006 – Chairman
- 2007 – Chairman

We wish to thank Bo for his many years of unselfish service on the Commission, and hope that he does not become a stranger. Bo, the door is always open.



COMMISSION STAFF

Anthony J. Duplechin, Director
Shawn O. Scallan, Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jake Causey, Chairman
John Hashagen, Vice-Chairman
James Rills, Treasurer

Dale Aucoin
Melvin Argrave, III
John Adams
Dennis McGehee
John P. Cadenhead
Brian Chustz

Joey Hebert
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