

BLUEBONNET GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 20, 2002
6:30pm

MINUTES

The following persons were in attendance at the meeting: Directors Milton Beckendorff, Sharon Brandes, Glenn Huebner, Jared Patout, Tommy Oates, Jim Ward, Paul Isham, James Morrison, Bill Thomas, David Minze, Wayne Mauldin, Frank Tressie, William Harris, Glenn Schroeter, Shannon Theeck, Michael Blezinger, and Larry Winkelmann; Others: Lois Kolkhurst, State Representative HD 13; Gary Smith, Arcadis; Tom Wilkinson, BVCOG; Robert Gresham, BVCOG; Lloyd Behm, BVCOG; Tom Clark, Teresa Clark and Cathy Dominguez-Cuevas, Brazos River Authority and Frances Behm, Town and County Consulting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Chairman Patout.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

3. APPROVE MINUTES

Jim Ward moved, David Minze 2nd, minutes are approved as presented.

4. EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION GARY SMITH OF ARCADIS

Mr. Smith distributed information detailing what a groundwater district needs to know to perform the duties set out by House bill 3655. The law is currently not clear about the management of the groundwater distribution. Each of the groundwater districts is basically empowered to establish the rules for water use and transportation within its district. Most of the larger cities within the state, with the exception of San Antonio, use surface water. There are groundwater districts in operation now.

Arcadis puts the plan together for the groundwater district and acts as a resource service.

Brazos River Authority has the authority to drill wells for conjunctive use. BRA is not exempt from any fees or permit requirements. Export fees would apply to any water removed from this district by BRA. BRA has 650 thousand acre feet of water available.

Six hundred thousand are under contract for sale.

5. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Board meeting recessed for committee meetings at 8:00p.m.

Committee meetings adjourned at 8:35p.m.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Public Relations committee - press release is being prepared, putting together a list of media outlets, extension boards, farm bureaus, etc. and a one page script for the board members to discuss the reasons for the groundwater conservation district's existence; who the board is, etc. The entire board will approve all information that is to be distributed. The Public Relations Committee feels August 1 is a realistic deadline for information. The Committee will have drafts of information for board by next meeting.

Technical - Pumping numbers need to be reviewed and municipalities, private water company, subdivisions, etc. separated out of the list. 4 million thousand gallon increments @ 2 ½ cents per thousand gallons income would be \$100,000 in the first year that would pay for the start up of the district. If the fees are a voluntary contribution to the groundwater district, as opposed to mandatory then the level could be higher. Concern was expressed that if the fees are voluntary as opposed to mandatory, there could be problems if a pumping entity needed to make repairs.

Legal/Legislative - Reviewed a plan for formulating regulations for the BGWCD established a time line to begin handing out a basic set of regulations for board review within two months, allowing a final draft to be approved by the BGWCD's attorney after the November election.

Financial - The attorney general has ruled that counties cannot provide financial assistance. BVCOG is covering the costs of operation at this time. This committee feels urgency in setting a fee schedule with a possibility of an agenda item next month. The Financial Committee made a rough draft of a budget totaling \$125,000 to cover expenses to date, publicity, and the election. Recommend a brief set of rules that would allow a letter to be sent to all users of more than ten million gallons, stating that the fees were being imposed.

Jim Ward moved that a resolution be written that states that producers with an annual production of 10million + gallons be notified that a fee of 3 ½ cents per 1,000 gallons will be assessed monthly beginning with March production figures, billed April 1, this list of producers could be limited to holders of public water supply identification number (PWSI). Tommy Oates Seconded - carried. This resolution will appear on the March Agenda.

Lloyd will contact attorney for proper language for notification of entities affected.

7. Invitation from Upper Gulf Coast Ground water district for workshop on 2/28/02 and consider calling a special workshop board meeting for attendance at this workshop meeting

Meeting will be held in Friendswood. Meeting will be from 9:30am to 3:30pm Thursday, February 28. Several Directors indicated they would attempt to attend this meeting and President Patout designated the meeting as a called workshop meeting for the Board.

8. REPORT FROM BVCOG STAFF

The BVCOG report is in the packet mailed to the Directors. Directors were asked to please initial next to name on attendance sheet to signify attendance at meeting. Travel vouchers are available.

9. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned 9:37p.m

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BLUEBONNET GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2002 WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THAT BOARD ON MARCH 20, 2002.

Jared Patout, President

ATTEST:

Glenn Schroeter, Secretary