

**Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District
Public Hearing and Board Meeting Minutes
State Capitol - House Committee Room 4
April 22, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

I. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Dawson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Gary Beard, Executive Director, called the roll. The following members were present: Ken Dawson, Matt Reonas, Jonathan Leo, Karen Gautreaux, Cyril Vetter, Patrick Engemann, Barry Huggins, Patrick Hobbins, Rachel Lambert, Thomas Seagraves, Camille Manning-Broome, Scott Bergeron. Absent members included: William Daniel, Paul Davidson, Angela Machen, Jesse Means and Alvin Broussard.

III. Establishment of a Quorum

Vice Chairman Dawson declared the presence of a quorum with 12 members present.

IV. Invocation

Gary Beard – Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District (CAGCD) Executive Director

V. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Dawson leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

VI. Recognition of Guests

Vice Chairman Dawson asked for guests to introduce themselves. Present were David Jacobs, Billy Newman, Ryan Clark, David Treppendahl, Brett Furr, Pat Kerr, Michael Legnon, Jody and Jake Bebee and Vance “Joey” Normand.

VII. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2022

Vice Chairman Dawson asked if there were any changes to the January 13, 2022, minutes. Jonathan Leo asked that his name be corrected from John Leo to Jonathan Leo. Mr. Huggins abstained from the vote because he was not present at the January 13, 2022, meeting. Motion by Camille Manning-Broome and second by Tom Seagraves to approve the minutes with the correction as noted. Motion passed.

VIII. Amendments to the Agenda

Vice Chairman Dawson asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Mr. Bergeron asked to move things around in Item No. X on the agenda. Gary Beard objected and asked for agenda to remain as is. Ms. Broome made a motion for the agenda items to stay as is, seconded by Ms. Gautreaux. Agenda items remained in the order as written.

IX. Public Hearing – New Rate Structure – Ken Dawson, Vice Chairman

a. Presentation by CAGCD

Vice Chairman Dawson called on Gary Beard, Executive Director, to open the hearing with his testimony. Mr. Beard was put under oath by Celia Cangelosi, attorney. Mr. Beard presented data as required in L.R.S. 38:3079, e.g.:

- operators self-reported volumes pumped each quarter totaling 51 billion gallons during last fiscal year (July 2020-June 2021);
- the volume of groundwater is expected to be the same for the coming fiscal year;
- at the board meeting held December 10, 2021, the Board utilized a two-year projected budget (out of a five-year projection) of \$3.3 million dollars in the evaluation of the new rate structure. Gary Beard addressed questions raised by the Board on the budget.

Mr. Beard discussed the budget for the FY 2022-2023 (July, 2022 thru June, 2023) and discussed all the anticipated costs for the fiscal year which would be paid by the new rate of \$65 per million gallons. Mr. Beard also provided the amount of the new rate which would be spent on the metering program for three quarters of the fiscal year. Mr. Beard explained that a vote on the new rate structure and the needed resolution would be in conjunction with the proposed budget so that the Board would know how the income from the new rates would be expended. The new budget proposed the following: Category A: 575,757; Category B: 214,500; and Category C: \$2,601,063 for a total budget of 3,391,320. He explained that the approval of the budget expenditures and the new rate was required by the Board by vote and resolution. If the new rate was approved, the revenues would be expended in accordance with the proposed budget.

Mr. Joey Normand interrupted the meeting demanding to be heard immediately on many topics beyond the topic of the hearing and for more than the allotted time, three minutes. Vice Chairman Dawson advised Mr. Normand that time would be given for comments on the rate increase prior to the close of the hearing. After more arguing, Mr. Normand relented, and decorum was restored. The House Sergeant-at-Arms was called into the meeting to maintain decorum.

Mr. Beard informed the Board of written comments received by Exxon and Patrick Kerr with the Baton Rouge Water Company (B.R. Water Co.). Neither party had requested to present testimony; therefore, no testimony was given. Exxon's comments were in support of the District, and B.R. Water Co. was opposed.

- b. Presentations by Well Owners – none requested
- c. Public Comments

Vice Chairman Dawson opened the floor for public comments calling on Mr. Joey Normand. Mr. Normand proceeded and read aloud a letter he had written regarding his comments. He provided a signed copy of his letter. Mr. Normand was allowed to read his written comments even though many of his comments were unrelated to the subject of the hearing, the usage rate. He then urged the Board to reject the rate increase until unresolved issues are handled.

Vice Chairman Dawson then called on Brett Furr, General Counsel for B.R. Water Co. Mr. Furr stated the SP contract does not conform with LA Law, and the contract is illegal. He stated his belief that this whole process should be put on hold.

Vice Chairman Dawson called on Pat Kerr with B.R. Water Co. who requested to comment. Mr. Kerr started his comments stating there is no danger of running out of water here. He expressed his gratitude for the work performed by the Commission. Mr. Kerr reported that over the last 12 years the per customer consumption in Baton Rouge is down 25 percent. Therefore, although B.R. Water Co. has more clients, they are producing 16 percent less water now than 12 years ago due to conservation education efforts. Mr. Kerr said back when he was on the Commission, the Board had to have a budget. He claims the Commission is generating revenue as opposed to money for operating expenses, and therefore, the money is a tax. He believes the information could be gathered by auditing. Mr. Kerr said the B.R. Water Co. has a dynamic SCADA system, and they are willing to share their data, to allow the Commission to piggy-back off of their system. His research indicates ultrasonic metering does not work and will not work on his system. Lastly, he asked the Board to explore other funding options, to defer the vote; calling the rate increase an illegal tax.

Vice Chairman Dawson asked if there were any more public comments. There were no more comments; therefore, Vice Chairman Dawson concluded the public hearing portion of the meeting asking Mr. Beard to give a summation.

d. Summation by Executive Director

Mr. Beard told everyone he appreciated their input and thanked the Commissioners for their hard work.

X. Executive Director's Report – Gary Beard - CAGCD Executive Director

a. Response to public hearing (action required)

and

b. Rate Structure (action required)

Mr. Beard commented on two issues. First, there was action taken at the December 10, 2021, meeting followed by a public hearing in March regarding a change in the rules concerning the usage from certain strata, implementation of a metering program, and changing the usage rate. The public hearing held today (April 22, 2022) was only about the rate structure as required by law.

Motion by Jonathan Leo and second by Tom Seagraves to set the annual pumpage rate for each user in the District at \$65.00 per million to be paid quarterly.

Substitute motion by Barry Huggins and second by Patrick Engemann to defer action and sort out the issues with the SP contract.

Vice Chairman Dawson then opened the floor for discussion.

- Camille Manning-Broome commented on the lack of transparency of the data being collected and the fact that the Commission decided to implement the contract with SP for the data. She asked for the reason for this substitute motion which would retract decisions and investments that were already made.
- Mr. Huggins commented there are no minutes posted on the website for the technical committee meetings. He said he is trying to see what the committee had recommended. He asked what recommendations were made, who was the chair and

when was this meeting. Tom Seagraves stated he is the chairman now and Scott Bergeron was chairman back in 2021. Mr. Seagraves said the committee did meet and diligence was done.

- Mr. Beard commented that only Board-approved minutes are posted on the website. He will provide copies to anyone needs copies. He offered the following.
 - The SP contract was discussed in multiple committee and board meetings and subsequently approved by the Board.
 - The SP contract was vetted by in-house council and an outside attorney.
 - The contract was signed by the Executive Director and the Chairman of the Board at the direction of the Board.
 - Contracts and construction are active.
 - Equipment has been ordered.
 - There is a debt associated with the contract approved by the Board.
 - Anticipated costs have been outlined as approved by the Board in December [2021].
 - To defer this action would cause the Commission to be in debt without a mechanism for paying that debt.
 - He urged the Board to move forward with the rate increase and not defer the motion.
- Mr. Vetter stated that everyone in the room has the same objective and wondered how to align the interests of the District with B.R. Water Co.
- Mr. Beard agreed with Mr. Vetter and said he would be glad to meet again with BR Water Co. and their technical people. Pat Kerr indicated he wanted to comment but Vice Chairman Dawson informed him this time during the meeting is only for Board members to discuss the topic.
- Ms. Lambert stated to Ms. Broome she was on the technical committee. She indicated the project was discussed at length and could be done for half of the contract cost. Ms. Lambert commented on the lack of necessity for a full SCADA system. She stated that she, as a professional engineer with extensive experience with such projects, had performed a cost analysis herself. She indicated there exists a multitude of ways to validate pumpage information and that B.R. Water Co. and a multitude of other industries have the data already, which they currently report this to the federal government. She said LSU cannot support even hourly data. She proposes data logging as an alternative.
- Mr. Reonas addressed Mr. Vetter's comment. He commented on the relationship between the CAGCD and B.R. Water Co. calling the CAGCD, the regulator, and B.R. Water Co., the regulated entity. He also said, several employees of BR Water Co. have served on the Board for many times over the 50-year existence. Mr. Reonas would like to move forward and stop revisiting the same issues over and over. He said, several years ago, Mr. Huggins was chairman and had to subpoena BR Water Co. to get information regarding water going to Ascension Parish. This was a first for the Commission. Mr. Reonas relayed a remembrance of a meeting where Mr. Dennis McGehee, a B.R. Water Co. employee, informed the Commission that they could not release their raw production information because it was an issue with Homeland Security. He indicated that he would reject the substitute motion.
- Mr. Huggins shared his intentions to be responsible with the public fisc. He suggested using the subpoena power of the commission to subpoena the data the

Water Institute requested from industry surveys to assist with development of the projections they are working on for the CAGCD. He suggested using this subpoena power to acquire the requisite data required by LSU for modeling. He mentioned the agenda was lacking the committee reports.

- Mr. Engemann asked for the amount paid out to SP to date and how many meters were ordered. Mr. Beard said nothing has been paid to SP and approximately 200 meters have been ordered.
- Mr. Engemann wants to understand how the Commission can continue with the project while being sued by B.R. Water Co.
- Ms. Janet Boles interrupted to inform the Board that the lawsuit filed by B.R. Water Co. concerns the emergency rule having nothing to do with the SP contract or the proposed pumping fee. She also informed the Board that Ms. Celia Cangelosi was hired by the Board for her expertise in rule making. She reminded the Board that the metering proposal was approved in June 2021 and the contract was approved in December 2021, during the respective Board meetings.
- Mr. Engemann asked why there was an emergency declaration and why it was not brought to the Board. Mr. Beard replied stating the process was enacted at the advice of counsel, who determined it to be the best way to move forward through the rule making process.
- Mr. Jonathan Leo informed the Board of his 40 years of experience practicing environmental law in California, and his experience as an environmental consultant for both industry and the regulators. He said for the sake of the integrity of the administrative rule-making process, there should be a wall between the regulated industries and the regulators. He went on to say:
 - the regulatory agency must act in the public interest no matter how cooperative the industry;
 - the regulated industry and the regulating agency should operate collaboratively and cooperatively, but there must be a separation to protect the integrity of the regulators and the industry;
 - the legislative audit brought this lack of separation to light; and
 - this agency [CAGCD] is on the verge of becoming the regulatory agency it is supposed to be.
- Mr. Scott Bergeron responded to Mr. Reonas and Ms. Manning-Broome. He said this whole process has been clunky. He said he received no information on the emergency rule being filed. He said the contract started as 10 pages and ended up being a 40-page contract. He indicated many questions were asked, but many still remain. He indicated that the last Technical Committee meeting with a quorum was April 2021. He believes that more time is needed to make sure the Board “gets this right.” He wants Gary Beard to meet with B.R. Water Co. and to wait and see if anything fruitful comes from that meeting to forgo the lawsuit and save the legal fees. He asks for the project to be put on hold.
- Mr. Reonas called the question.
- Ms. Boles pointed out that the Board voted to move forward with the rule changes. The emergency rule was filed to carry through until the permanent rule was promulgated. She apologized for not bringing the emergency rule filing to the Board; however, the emergency rule was the same language as the permanent rule that the Board had voted to move forward.

- Mr. Normand interrupted to ask if public comments would be taken before the vote. Vice Chairman Dawson responded to Mr. Normand that there were no more public comments at this time. [Mr. Normand had already provided public comment on the new rate.] The House Sergeant-at-Arms intervened and chastised Mr. Normand asking him to have some respect for himself and the kids in the room because of his crass language.
- Vice Chairman Dawson called on Mr. Beard to conduct a roll-call vote on the substitute motion proposed by Mr. Huggins to defer the vote on the rate increase. A *Yes* vote is to defer, and a *No* vote is to continue with the original motion [vote on the rate increase].
 - Dawson – No, Reonas – No, Leo – No, Gautreaux – No, Vetter – No, Hobbins – No, Seagraves – No, Engemann – Yes, Huggins – Yes, Manning- Broome – No, Bergeron – Yes, Lambert – Yes. Motion to defer failed, 8-4. The Board will continue with the original motion to set the rate to \$65 per million gallons.
- Vice Chairman Dawson asked Mr. Beard to conduct a roll-call vote on the original motion [by Jonathan Leo and second by Tom Seagraves] to set the rate at \$65 per million for all users in the District to be paid quarterly.
 - Dawson – Yes, Reonas – Yes, Leo – Yes, Gautreaux – Yes, Vetter – Yes, Hobbins – Yes, Seagraves – Yes, Engemann – No, Huggins – No, Manning-Broome – Yes, Bergeron – No, Lambert – No. Motion passes to raise the rate, 8-4.
- Motion by Mr. Leo and second by Mr. Reonas to ratify pumpage fee set on December 10, 2021, at the Board meeting and ratify proposed rule changes in 56:V.1107.
- Vice Chairman Dawson called on Ms. Lambert who sought to understand why the CAGCD would incur debt if the contract is cancelled now. Her understanding was the CAGCD would cancel the contract at any time. Mr. Beard responded that the contract could be cancelled at any time for cause without incurring any debt; however, to terminate without cause would incur debt. Ms. Lambert ask for the definition of *cause*. Ms. Boles said she will send Ms. Lambert this information.
- Vice Chairman Dawson called on Mr. Beard to conduct a roll-call vote on the motion to ratify the rate increase.
 - Dawson – Yes, Reonas – Yes, Leo – Yes, Vetter – Yes, Hobbins – Yes, Seagraves – Yes, Engemann – No, Huggins – No, Manning-Broome – Yes, Bergeron – No, Lambert – No, Gautreaux – Yes. Motion passed 8-4.
- Mr. Beard asked the Board for a motion to accept the resolution for rate increase set by rule and statute. Motion by Mr. Seagraves and second by Mr. Leo to approve the resolution. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Beard asked the Board for a motion to accept the resolution for submission of responses to public comments for the proposed rule changes. Public comments were received prior to the March 28, 2022, hearing and at the hearing. Responses were written to those who offered comments. This resolution is to accept these responses for distribution to the commentators and to send them along with the public comments to the legislative committees as part of the rule making process. Mr. Leo made a motion for passage of the resolutions, second by Mr. Reonas.
 - Mr. Leo asked to see the proof of publication in the *Louisiana Register*. Ms. Boles offered to provide the proof of publication to Mr. Leo.

- Motion passed unanimously.

c. New well permits - (action required)

Vice Chairman Dawson asked for a blanket motion to approve all the new well permits for West Feliciana, Alma Plantation, Water Works District No. 1 of Pointe Coupee, and City of Baker. USGS found no issues with the permits proposed.

Motion by Mr. Huggins and second by Mr. Engemann to approve the new well permits. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Reonas thanked the staff and USGS for the analysis. He mentioned the analysis was very helpful and a great improvement over the past processes.

d. Office space – lease (action required)

Mr. Beard informed the Board of the expansion of the CAGCD office space and potential other sites to lease or buy. He said the Whitney bank building on Sherwood Forest Blvd. is for sale for approximately 1.1 million. He offered \$700,000, and they negotiated \$800,000. The building is 3,876 square feet. He stated meetings are supposed to be at the domicile of the office. He would like to have space big enough for meetings and public hearings. He added there is a side property that could be sold to fund building a board room.

Mr. Reonas commented on the cramped CAGCD office space. He suggested deferring the vote and referring the issue to the administrative committee, who could come back to the Board with a recommendation.

Board members commented and made suggestions for other proposed office space.

- Mr. Seagraves asked how much space CAGCD currently has and if the new building would have space beyond CAGCD current needs. Mr. Beard responded affirmatively and commended the suggestion to go to the Administrative Committee for discussion and recommendation.
- Bergeron mentioned the proposals presented to the Board a year ago from RCL, and he asked about these three new ones. Mr. Beard explained the past proposals vs. new ones. Mr. Bergeron said he is opposed to a state agency buying property.
- Mr. Engemann asked several questions concerning the plans for the bank building and the current cost of the office space.
- Mr. Leo wanted to understand if purchasing the bank building would require the CAGCD to become a lessor. He and Mr. Beard agreed that there is no plan to do so.
- Mrs. Gautreaux is interested in looking at state buildings downtown for office space.
- Vice Chairman Dawson commented on the inadequacy of the current office and the need to move the office into a larger space. He also is interested in looking into state-owned buildings.
- Mr. Beard and Ms. Gautreaux will work together to set up an Administrative Committee meeting and a meeting agenda.

e. Update on Metering and Monitoring Wells

Mr. Beard informed the Board that meters have been ordered and will arrive in September. Ms. McNamara is keeping up with this information. Mr. Beard reported the offering by the

State of Louisiana for 1.2 million dollars for the monitoring system. LSU and the Water Institute of the Gulf have delivered an interim report on the proposed 23 monitoring wells installed along the fault line to monitor the flow and concentration of salt across the [Baton Rouge] fault line. The CAGCD will need to acquire property and have the designs performed by a third party. The State Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) was supplied to the Commissioners for review. The Board must accept the CEA to receive the money from the State. Mr. Beard will seek additional State funds. The original request was \$7.8 million. The next request will be for \$23 million of State dollars. Also, Mr. Beard is seeking federal money. He asked the Board if they would consider adding an action item to approve acceptance of the \$1.2 million.

Motion by Karen Gautreaux and second by Rachel Lambert to add to the agenda. A roll-call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners discussed the capital outlay.

- Mr. Leo asked if the capital outlay was money that CAGCD anticipated receiving. He asked if additional capital outlay dollars would be sought.
- Mr. Beard answered affirmatively and indicated if the Board accepts the \$1.2 million, he will come back to the Board with a proposal for how to spend it.
- Mr. Leo inquired as to if the capital outlay money would be necessary for the monitoring project to move forward. Mr. Beard answered affirmatively.
- Mr. Bergeron clarified that the capital outlay money would have to be spent on a new project.
- Mr. Huggins asked if a match from the CAGCD would be required. Mr. Beard answered that no match is required.
- Mr. Huggins also wanted to know if the \$1.2 million is not sufficient and/or the CAGCD is unable to use it, is there a penalty. Mr. Beard said the money simply goes back to the State.
- Ms. Lambert asked about the separation of the money. The “other” money is to come from CAGCD. Ms. Lambert confirmed that there is a buffer allowed of 10%.
- Mr. Reonas would like to stay under budget.
- Mr. Dawson and Mr. Beard discussed the moving of priorities, bond sales at the State’s discretion, etc.

Motion by Mr. Leo and second by Ms. Manning-Broome to accept the capital outlay funds as an action item. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Litigation (Executive Session)

Board made a decision not to go into Executive Session at this time.

g. CAGWCD staffing

Mr. Beard introduced Kellie McNamara, the new Deputy Director of the Capital Area Groundwater District and welcomed her.

Mr. Dawson extended a welcome as did Mr. Reonas. Mr. Reonas added he had worked with Ms. McNamara at LDNR and commented on her exceptional work ethic and attention detail. He said he has great respect for her and welcomed her on behalf of the Commission.

Ms. McNamara thanked everyone for welcoming her and commented on her excitement for the opportunity to work with Mr. Beard and the Commission.

h. Access to property (action required)

Mr. Beard opened discussion informing the Board of his meeting with Exxon and said they were good with the plan for monitoring and installation. He added so far there has been no push back from the well owners. He thanked the well owners for welcoming the CAGCD onto their sites to conduct the site evaluations. Mr. Beard informed the Commission of the one well owner that is refusing access to their property because of litigation. Mr. Beard asked the Board to allow the attorneys to respond to any well owner that is denying access. Ms. Boles commented the statute allows access to property, but she is seeking direction from the Board on how to proceed.

Discussion followed this introduction.

- Mr. Leo commented that he approves of the strategy and asked Ms. Boles to keep the Commission updated if there is any push back.
- Ms. Lambert wanted to clarify that we are asking for access. And that access and placing of equipment are different. Ms. Boles answered affirmatively.
- Mr. Bergeron didn't see any reason to move forward with action item.
- Mr. Beard asked for the Board to vote on giving permission to authorize seeking site access, not construction.
- Mr. Reonas commented that the authority already exists for the Executive Director to pursue access.
- Ms. Boles said as new council, she wanted to get the Board's approval. She said she intends to bring everything to the Board until the Board says differently.
- Mr. Huggins doesn't see the need for this action since the statute already gives authority. He asked if Mr. Kerr could make his comment. Mr. Reonas said public comment period would follow the Commissioners' discussion.
- Ms. Lambert commented that if the District is refused access, the District can take them to court. Ms. Lambert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Huggins, to delete this item from the agenda.
- Ms. Gautreaux commented, let the statute take over.
- Mr. Beard said the Board can just not take any action.
- Ms. Lambert modified her motion to take no action. Mr. Huggins seconded.
- Mr. Leo expressed confusion over this motion. He mentioned that the Board asked to be kept apprised.
- Mr. Reonas confirmed that the Board advised the Executive Director to enforce the statutes and keep the Board apprised.

Vice Chairman Dawson called on Pat Kerr with B.R. Water Co. to speak.

Mr. Kerr commented as follows:

- Agrees with Mr. Leo concerning relationship between the regulated and regulators.
- Has not been approached by the Commission but instead by a contractor who is not licensed in Louisiana. Therefore, the answer is "no."

- Wants to “get the problems fixed” stating problems exist with the whole process that are just wrong.
- Whether or not equipment can be put “on private property and stay on private property is a different question than whether you can come visit.”
- He mentioned that Gary makes promises he doesn’t keep offering that in December [2021], Gary said he would put the brakes on this project and investigate but continues to move forward.
- Uncertain whether a sit down with coffee will solve this.
- Stated that [B.R. Water Co. and the Commission] are not on opposite sides of this issue.
- Does not want to waste money putting something in place that won’t work.

i. Third-Quarter Financial Report

Mr. Beard informed the Board that the District is on track and under budget as he presented the third-quarter report.

Mr. Bergeron asked questions regarding reserves and consultants. Mr. Beard informed the Board that he is working with Civil Service at present regarding Ms. Manda’s position.

Mr. Engemann questioned attorney fees and asked if filing the emergency rules was worth the cost.

Mr. Leo commented this conversation should be in Executive Session.

Mr. Beard will keep the Board updated on any changes to the budget.

XI. Vice Chairman’s Report – Ken Dawson

Mr. Dawson commented that there are times when we don’t like the process or the results of the process, but once a decision is made, it is time to move forward.

XII. Member Agenda Items

None

XIII. Old Business

Mr. Reonas expressed a need to work on receiving more results from regulated industry of the Industrial Survey conducted. He asked Mr. Beard to address this issue.

Mr. Vetter wants to know how to resolve this issue with B.R. Water Co. and work together. Mr. Beard said he is willing to sit down and work this out. Mr. Vitter pointed out that Mr. [Kerr] said Mr. Beard has broken promises. Mr. Beard disagrees with Mr. Kerr’s characterization of past conversations but is willing to meet and discuss this further to resolve the issues. Mr. Kerr agreed to try when prompted by Mr. Vitter.

XIV. New Business

No new business.

XV. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Huggins asked Mr. Beard if he ask Rep. Paula Davis to file HB 975 for the purpose of taking Mr. Engemann off the Board. Mr. Beard said he did speak to Rep. Davis concerning this matter. Huggins expressed disappointment and questioned whether an employee of the CAGCD should try to affect the composition of the Board. Huggins said the sole purpose of the bill was to remove Mr. Engemann. Huggins claimed to be the target of a similar situation.

Mr. Engemann said he found this inappropriate and Mr. Beard could have discussed this with him, the Farm Bureau, and the Cattleman's Association first.

XVI. Announcements

No announcements.

XVII. Public Comments (Non-agenda items only)

Vice Chairman Dawson called on Joey Normand to speak.

Mr. Normand apologized for his outburst earlier in the meeting and said he did not know there was a child present. He requested Ms. Boles send him the citation within the contract regarding *cause* and *not for cause*. He expressed his displeasure with the legislative auditor's report. He mentioned being in favor of measuring the amount of water coming out of the ground. He said he has serious problems with the SP contract stating it is illegal and not prudent. He mentioned the reason that he is no longer on the Board is that he wasn't nominated because he didn't realize commissioners had to be nominated. He claimed to be the only Commissioner of three whose terms were expiring that did not receive a notification of the term expiration. He said he was nominated for a Board seat recently by Pointe Coupee Parish, but because he was the only nominee, the Governor's office requested additional nominations – a situation that has never been required in the history of the CAGCD. He believes the purpose was to prevent him from speaking at this meeting. He congratulated Mr. Beard for his dedication to the SP contract, not metering but the contract, for more than a year. He claims Mr. Beard is attempting to keep him off the Board. Mr. Normand said he is going to try and get back on the Board. Mr. Normand wants the Board to remember that he tried to tell them the contract is illegal when that ruling comes to pass.

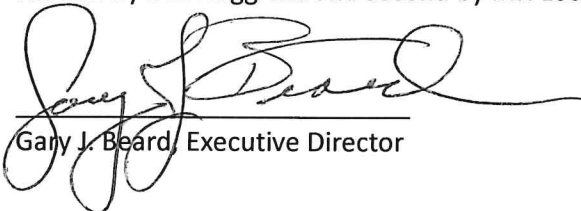
Ms. Tara Wicker let the Board know that the child in the room accepted the apology given by Mr. Normand and the cited one of the child's notes, "How do we save our water?"

Michael Legnon with Alma Plantation asked if the information in the packet is available to the public. Mr. Beard said it is and he can upload it to the website.

XVIII. Adjournment (action required)

Vice Chairman Ken Dawson requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Mr. Huggins and second by Mr. Leo to adjourn. Motion passed.



Gary J. Beard, Executive Director