



**Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District  
Meeting Minutes  
5:30 PM, January 13, 2016  
Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center  
706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, TX**

**Directors Present**

Director Tom Callan  
Director Lynn Wildman  
Director Ed Hegen  
Director Robert Walls

**Directors Absent**

Director John Alexander

**Staff Members Present**

Linda Garcia

**Elected Officials Present**

Commissioner Betty Stiles  
Commissioner Bubba Casterline  
Commissioner Jack Chaney

**Guests Present**

Brian Olsen  
James Dodson

Opening Agenda

1. **Call to order.**

With a quorum of Directors present, the 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of the Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District (ACGCD) was called to order by Chairman, Tom Callan at 5:30 PM on Wednesday January 13, 2016, at the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center, 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, TX.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

*On motion of Director Hegen and second by Director Wildman, Minutes of December 9, 2015 regular meeting were unanimously approved (Linda will correct one spelling error).*

There was a short discussion on the \$15,000 budget that the district has to work with. Director Hegen agreed to be Treasurer.

3. **Citizens to be Heard**

*At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any subject matter that is not on the agenda. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the ACGCD Board may not discuss or take action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.*

Commissioner Chaney mentioned that residents of his precinct were questioning the need for a water district. Commissioner Stiles informed the district that she was asked to attend the Democratic Party to discuss the district.

#### 4. **By-laws for the District**

There was review and discussion of proposed By-laws drafted and presented to the District. Some of the discussion included the fact that the proposed draft might contain water codes that may have changed and that where cited, the water code needed to be checked to see that it was correct. Also Item #2.8 regarding compensation for directors was discussed, and Commissioner Chaney suggested it be changed to “amount approved by law”.

The district also discussed the fact that although it was a stand-alone organization, it will continue to keep Commissioners’ Court up-to-date on status.

*On motion of Director Wildman and second by Director Walls, the proposed draft of the By-laws for the District were accepted subject to changes that may be necessary and appropriate with regard to code citations and authorization of payment for directors.*

#### 5. **Publication of Election Authorizing Creation of the District.**

There was much discussion on election protocol as well as timeline for public hearing and publication in newspaper of notice of same. Commissioner Stiles informed district that February 19<sup>th</sup> was deadline to put language on ballot for May 2 election. Once election held in May, no further action for authorization would be necessary.

Commissioner Chaney suggested the district ask the City for use of their council chambers for public hearing. After public hearing, district should compile public comments received. The Regional Area Plan will have to be made available to the public. Commissioner Stiles and Director Callan will be attending GMA 15 meeting and ask for access to the Area Plan. The public hearing should also be included on regular agenda.

Director Callan suggested using the printout “Questions about Groundwater Conservation Districts in Texas” to pick out and prioritize the most important questions that the public would want answered, especially “why a district” and what would need to be in place after the first day of election, for example permits, forms, budget, etc. so the public could be properly informed of correct procedures. Discussed possibility of getting 100 additional copies of the printout.

#### 6. **Briefing by James Dodson—ACGCD Duties, Responsibilities, Technical and Other Information Requirements Needed to Inform the Public.**

James Dodson was introduced and he discussed some of the responsibilities of the district. He started out by indicating that the GMA 15 meeting tomorrow would start the clock ticking for DFC’s.

#### 7. **Public Information Plan.**

Mr. Dodson continued discussion on the county’s management plan which will be unique. Commissioner Chaney indicated sources to use for the management plan would be Parks and Wildlife and the live oak tree committee. Director Callan discussed the need to develop information itself; get a plan of speaker rehearsal and presentation put together early in March as possible and compile a list of organizations and influential opinion leaders to talk with (Lions Club, City Council, Chamber Lunch, etc.), and might need to put together a small committee to organize it. Mr. Dodson suggested goals for the next meeting that be in two or three sentences from the public information plan.

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*The District entered into closed session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and review personnel matters and other issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074; and resumed Open Meeting at 6:40 p.m. with four directors present, and further proceedings were had and done to-wit:*

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8. *Motion was made by Director Wildman and seconded by Director Walls to hire James Dodson as an engineering consultant at the rate of \$75/hr. up to 120 hours.*

The RFQ's for an attorney consultant will be discussed at the next meeting.

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*No further business presenting, the District adjourned at 6:45 p.m. on a motion made by Director Wildman and a second by Director Walls.*

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Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda García*