

ORIGINAL



**Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes
5:30 PM, March 23, 2016
Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center
706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, TX**

Directors Present

Director Tom Callan
Director Ed Hegen
Director John Alexander
Director Robert Walls

Directors Absent

Director Lynn Wildman

Staff Members Present

Linda Garcia
James Dodson

Elected Officials Present

Commissioner Betty Stiles
Commissioner-Elect Pct. 3, Brian Olsen

Guests Present

Michael Hynes
M/M William Williams

Opening Agenda

1. **Call to order.**

With a quorum of Directors present, the public hearing of the Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District (ACGCD) was called to order by Chairman, Tom Callan at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center, 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, TX.

2. **Public Hearing/Citizens to Be Heard.**

Public comments were taken from the audience on Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District Formation Issues.

Mr. Michael Hynes asked about rules, regulations and standards. Director Alexander explained that another public hearing with two readings have to occur before the same become rules/ordinances and then have to be passed by the elected Board (directors will have staggered terms). Chairman Callan replied that it was too early to speculate on any regulations, but they should be fair to all with grandfathering to take into consideration and pros/cons of same. Mr. Hynes discussed/questioned water removed process for landowners, and Director Callan replied that most wells used 25,000 gallons or less and, therefore, would be exempt. There would be more concern with big users or those coming from outside county to sell water, or those too close to neighbors, and, of course, those wasting water. Those that are farming would be exempt. Director Alexander said it would be best if a good set of rules were set in place. Those with wells would not have to pay for meters placed on them. Chairman Callan said the district needed to know consumption but doesn't necessarily need to do anything about it. Director Hegen said our area is getting ready to develop a plan, and our values will be pulled together to determine DFCs. Mr. Hynes also talked about how much cheaper it would be to have a new well put in place rather than getting water pipes under the highway. Public guests were invited to visit the county's website under Groundwater Conservation District for further information and reference sites.

3. **Public Hearing/Citizens to Be Heard.**

Public comments were taken from the audience on Proposed Desired Future Conditions (PDFC's) for Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 15.

Commissioner Stiles asked about the Dunes Ridge Aquifer (covered in old dunes ridge sands) and its effect on trees in the Live Oak Peninsula. Mr. Dodson explained that it is shallow very fresh water which doesn't support large scale production and during drought will draw down. It is a dynamic fragile system and presents management challenges and really isn't part of the large aquifer system.

Mr. Dodson then explained that GMA 15 wants to put water levels in all aquifers over the next 50 years. We need to establish water levels in aquifers on the Gulf Coast.

On motion of Director Alexander and second by Director Hegen, the public hearing was adjourned and regular meeting convened at 6:00 pm.

4. **Citizens to Be Heard on Other Items.**

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.

There were none.

5. **Approval of Minutes.**

On motion of Director Alexander and second by Director Hegen, workshop minutes of January 27, 2016, were tabled, and minutes of regular meeting of March 9, 2016, were unanimously approved.

6. **Update Remaining Speaker Schedule as of March 23rd.**

Chairman Callan went over the Schedule and a few speaker scheduling changes were made.

7. **Feedback, if any, from Prior Talks with Organizations.**

Chairman Callan reported nothing but enthusiastic remarks from the presentations he made. Director Hegen said the approximate 60 people at Master Gardeners were also enthusiastic. Director Walls reported feedback of good presentations.

8. **Additional Information Which Might Be Required Prior to Election Day.**

Nothing extra required.

9. **Confirm Election Notices, etc., Have Been Properly Posted in Accordance with Election Law.**

Will need to copy any notices published.

10. **Begin Consideration of Proposed Budget Line Items and Forecast for the County Treasurer.**

Passed on this item at this time.

11. Deliberate Regarding Publication of Summary of Comments Received and Transmittal to GMA 15 by April 27, 2016.

Passed on this item till next meeting.

12. Discussion of Next Meeting Agenda Items.

- 1) Workshop Minutes of January 27 and Public Hearing/Regular Minutes of March 23
- 2) Update Speaker's Schedule as of April 13th
- 3) Review Feedback from Organization Presentations
- 4) Publish another newspaper article
- 5) Confirm election notices, etc., have been properly posted in accordance with election law
- 6) Deliberate regarding publication of summary of comments received both at the public hearing and afterwards for transmittal to GMA 15 by April 27, 2016
- 7) Recommend approval of Resolution regarding Proposed Desired Future Conditions for GMA 15
- 8) Discuss attendance at upcoming GMA 15 meetings
- 9) Discussion of next meeting agenda items

13. Adjourn.

On motion by Director Hegen and second by Director Walls, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Garcia

