# LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# **December 8, 2015**

# MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District ("District") held a "Special Meeting," open to the public, in the Lone Star GCD – James B. "Jim" Wesley Board Room located at 655 Conroe Park North Drive, Conroe, Texas, within the boundaries of the District on December 8, 2015.

President Tramm called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., announcing that it was now open to the public.

The roll was called of the members of the Board of Directors, to wit:

Sam Baker
John D. Bleyl, PE
Jace Houston
Roy McCoy, Jr.
Rick J. Moffatt
Jim Stinson, PE
Richard J. Tramm
M. Scott Weisinger, PG
W. B. Wood

All members of the Board were present, with the exception of Director Baker, thus constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors. Also, in attendance at said meeting were Kathy Turner Jones, District General Manager; Brian L. Sledge, General Counsel; District staff; and members of the public. Copies of the public sign-in sheets are attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

After a proper and legally sufficient announcement to the public by Director Tramm, the Board of Directors went into a Closed Executive Session at 9:10 a.m. pursuant to Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071, to consult with the District's attorney regarding pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers, or on matters in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code.

Director Baker arrived at 9:48 a.m.

Following Executive Session, the Board reconvened in Open Session and President Tramm declared it open to the public at 10:10 a.m.

No action was taken on matters discussed in Executive Session and President Tramm adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS  $12^{th}$  DAY OF JANUARY, 2016.

Rick Moffatt, Board Secretary



# SIGN IN SHEET

December 8, 2015 Board Meeting

to speak on an agenda item?	NAME	CITY, STATE, ZIP	E-Mail
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PO Box 2467, Conroe, Texas 77305 Phone: (936) 494-3436 Metro: (936) 441 - 3437

# **Public Comment Registration**

Please complete and submit this form if you would like to speak or have a question for the speaker or Board.
Name: Man Jow Date: 2/08/15
Address: Am cyan lla
Who you are representing: Quadwat
Question:
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PO Box 2467, Conroe, Texas 77305 Phone: (936) 494-3436 Metro: (936) 441 - 3437
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Public Comment Registration
of Conservation
Please complete and submit this form if you would like to speak or have a question for the speaker or Board.
Name: Mike Thomhill Date: 12/8/15
Name: D Q 1 B
Address: Raw Rock TR
Who you are representing:
Question: DRP II



P. O. Box 2467, Conroe, TX 77305 Ph: (936) 494-3436 Metro: (936) 441-3437 www.lonestargcd.org

# **Speaker Request Form**

Those wanting to comment or register support for or against a specific agenda item are asked to fill out the Speaker Request Form.

Date of Meeting: $\frac{12/\sqrt{8/2015}}{2}$
Name: Manty Lone
Address: 701 S. Taylor Suite 500
City: Mani Vo State: Zip: 79/0/
Email: Menty jones @ Spranse/aw. com
IF SPEAKING FOR AN ORGANIZATION:
Name of Organization Quadrest
Speaker's Official Capacity A Horney
Agenda Item No.: Rule Amondments
☐ FOR (If applicable)
☐ AGAINST (If applicable)
Registering Position, NOT Testifying
To speak on an item not listed on the agenda, please indicate area of interest:
Please remember to step to the lectern as soon as you are recognized by the chair; state

your name before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present to the Board, PLEASE FURNISH AN EXTRA COPY FOR DISTRICT FILES.

The Board will appreciate each speaker limiting an address on any one item to three (3) minutes \* Thank you for your cooperation

\* Only three speakers will be recognized speaking for and three speakers speaking against any one issue.

# LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# **DECEMBER 8, 2015**

# MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The Board of Directors of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District ("District") met in regular session, open to the public, in the Lone Star GCD – Board Room located at 655 Conroe Park North Drive, Conroe, Texas, within the boundaries of the District on December 8, 2015.

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

President Tramm called to order the Public Hearing on Permit Applications at 11:02 a.m., announcing the meeting open to the public.

## **ROLL CALL:**

The roll was called of the members of the Board of Directors, to wit:

Sam W. Baker

John D. Bleyl, PE

Jace Houston

Roy McCoy, Jr.

Rick J. Moffatt

Jim Stinson, PE

Richard J. Tramm

M. Scott Weisinger, PG

W. B. Wood

All members of the Board were present, thus constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors. Also, in attendance at said meeting were Kathy Turner Jones, General Manager; Paul R. Nelson, Assistant General Manager; Brian L. Sledge, General Counsel; Mark Lowry, District Consultant; District staff; and members of the public. *Copies of the public sign-in sheets are attached hereto as Exhibit "A"*.

Permitting Director, Samantha Reiter instructed the Board to remove items #7 and #25, due to additional information being submitted. The permitting department requires more time to review the additional information received.

- Item #1, **Davis Family Realty** Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 50,000 gallons for 2015 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.
- Item #2, **HMW Special Utility District (Pleasant Forest)** Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 2,859,000 gallons for 2015 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.
- Item #3, **J. Beard Commercial V, LP** Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 50,000 gallons for **2015 only**. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.
- Item #4, Angela & Stephen Wetch Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 308,390 gallons for 2015 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.
- Item #5, Couroe ISD (ORHS9th) Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 3,000,000 gallons for 2015 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.
- Item #6, MSEC Enterprises (Montgomery Trace WS/Crown Oaks) Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 40,000,000 gallons for 2015 and annually thereafter. The San Jacinto River Authority GRP Administrator has been notified by email and has not submitted any comments on the request. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested for 2015 only. District Rules and Regulations require increases for LVGUs for 2016 and beyond to be done in conjunction with the GRP Sponsor.
- Item #7, **George Turek** This application was pulled from the agenda due to additional information received. No action was taken.
- Item #8, Cayce Causey & Cara Causey (CTI Oil Field Services LLC) Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 35,000 gallons for 2015 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.
- Item #9, City of Patton Village Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 999,999 gallons for 2015 and

annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #10, **Montgomery County MUD** #112 - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 10,000,000 gallons for 2015 only. The San Jacinto River Authority GRP Administrator has been notified by email and has not submitted any comments on the request. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #11, **Montgomery County MUD #105** - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 18,000,000 gallons for **2015 only**. The San Jacinto River Authority GRP Administrator has been notified by email and has not submitted any comments on the request. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #12, **Kingwood Medical Center -** Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 250,000 gallons for **2015 only**. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #13, C&R Water Supply Inc (Creekside Acres) - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 2,714,800 gallons for 2015 and 714,800 gallons for 2016 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to authorize conditional approval for that which is being requested for 2015 only. District Rules and Regulations require increases for LVGUs for 2016 and beyond to be done in conjunction with the GRP Sponsor. Additionally, approval of the requested permit allocation amendment is conditional upon receipt of a signed contract with a certified Joint GRP.

Item #14, **Quadvest, LP (Magnolia Reserve)** - Applicant is requesting registration of a new well and production authorization in the amount of 9,900,000 gallons for **2016** and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #15, Aqua Texas, Inc (West Lane) - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 7,000,000 gallons for 2015 and 500,000 gallons for 2016 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to authorize conditional approval for that which is being requested for 2015 only. District Rules and Regulations require increases for LVGUs for 2016 and beyond to be done in conjunction with the GRP Sponsor. Additionally, approval of the requested permit allocation amendment is conditional upon receipt of a signed contract with a certified Joint GRP.

Item #16, Aqua Texas, Inc (Woodlands Pkwy) - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 30,000,000 gallons for 2015 and 500,000 gallons for 2016 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to authorize conditional approval for that which is being requested for 2015 only. District Rules and Regulations require increases for LVGUs for 2016 and beyond to be done in conjunction with the GRP Sponsor. Additionally, approval of the requested permit allocation amendment is conditional upon receipt of a signed contract with a certified Joint GRP.

Item #17, Aqua Texas, Inc (Decker Woods) - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Historic Use Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 6,000,000 gallons for 2015 only. The San Jacinto River Authority GRP Administrator has been notified by email and has not submitted any comments on the request. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #18, Aqua Texas, Inc (Hidden Forest) - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 4,000,000 gallons for 2015 only. The San Jacinto River Authority GRP Administrator has been notified by email and has not submitted any comments on the request. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #19, Liberty Material - Applicant is requesting registration of a new well and production authorization in the amount of 1,000,000 gallons for **2016** and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #20, **Snappy Mart** - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 60,000 gallons for 2015 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #21, Aqua Texas, Inc (White Oak Ranch) - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 1,239,000 gallons for 2015 only. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #22, Midway Stores, Inc DBA Midway #6 - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 100,000 gallons for 2015 and 150,000 gallons for 2016 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #23, Carolyn Beal -Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 100,000 gallons for 2015 and

annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested.

Item #24, Monarch Utilities, Inc (Decker Hills/Park Place/Champions Glen) - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 15,000,000 gallons for 2015 and annually thereafter. The San Jacinto River Authority GRP Administrator has been notified by email and has not submitted any comments on the request. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to approve that which is being requested for 2015 only. District Rules and Regulations require increases for LVGUs for 2016 and beyond to be done in conjunction with the GRP Sponsor.

Item #25, Western Rim Property Services (Mansion on the Park) – This application was pulled from the agenda due to additional information received. No action was taken.

Item #26, **Western Rim Property Services (Towers Woodlands)** - Applicant is requesting an amendment to an Operating Permit for an increase in production authorization in the amount of 3,700,000 gallons for 2015 and annually thereafter. Based on technical review of the information supplied, it is the General Manager's recommendation to authorize a **reduced** recommendation of 2,844,727 gallons for 2015, 1,370,000 gallons for 2016, and 40,500 gallons for 2017 and annually thereafter.

A motion was made by Director Stinson, and seconded by Director Moffatt to approve items #1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 14, 19, 20, 22 and 23, as requested, and in accordance with the General Manager's recommendations. It was noted that items #14 and 19 are requesting new wells and permits with allocations beginning in 2016. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Director Stinson, and seconded by Director Wood to approve items #3, 10-12, 17, 18, and 21, as requested for 2015 authorization only, and in accordance with the General Manager's recommendations. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Director Stinson, and seconded by Director Moffatt to approve items #6, 13, 15, 16, and 24, in accordance with the General Manager's recommendations for 2015 authorization only. It was also noted that approval of the requests for items #13, 15, and 16 are conditional upon receipt of a signed GRP contract. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Lastly, a motion was made by Director Stinson, and seconded by Director Wood to approve item #26, in accordance with the General Manager's recommendation to authorize a reduced allocation. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

President Tramm adjourned the public hearing on permit applications at 11:06 a.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS  $12^{TH}$  DAY OF JANUARY, 2016.

Rick Moffatt, Board Secretary



# SIGN IN SHEET

December 8, 2015 Board Meeting

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PO Box 2467, Conroe, Texas 77305 Phone: (936) 494-3436 Metro: (936) 441 - 3437

# Public Comment Registration

Please complete and submit the a question for the speaker or E	his form if you would like to speak or have loard.
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# **Speaker Request Form**

Those wanting to comment or register support for or against a specific agenda item are asked to fill out the Speaker Request Form.

Date of Meeting:
Name: Man ty tona
Address: 701 S. Tany has Suite 500
City: Magni Vo State: 7 Zip: 79/01
Email: menty jones @ Spronselew. com
IF SPEAKING FOR AN ORGANIZATION:
Name of Organization Duchost
Speaker's Official Capacity A Horney
Agenda Item No.: Rule Amendo
☐ FOR (If applicable)
☐ AGAINST (If applicable)
Registering Position, NOT Testifying
To speak on an item not listed on the agenda, please indicate area of interest:

Please remember to step to the lectern as soon as you are recognized by the chair; state your name before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present to the Board, PLEASE FURNISH AN EXTRA COPY FOR DISTRICT FILES.

The Board will appreciate each speaker limiting an address on any one item to three (3) minutes \* Thank you for your cooperation

\* Only three speakers will be recognized speaking for and three speakers speaking against any one issue.

# LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# **December 8, 2015**

# MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO DISTRICT RULES AND DISTRICT REGULATORY PLAN

The Board of Directors of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District ("District") held a "Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to District Rules and District Regulatory Plan," open to the public, in the Lone Star GCD – James B. "Jim" Wesley Board Room located at 655 Conroe Park North Drive, Conroe, Texas, within the boundaries of the District on December 8, 2015.

President Tramm called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m., announcing that it was now open to the public.

The roll was called of the members of the Board of Directors, to wit:

Sam Baker
John D. Bleyl, PE
Jace Houston
Roy McCoy, Jr.
Rick J. Moffatt
Jim Stinson, PE
Richard J. Tramm
M. Scott Weisinger, PG
W. B. Wood

All members of the Board were present, thus constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors. Also, in attendance at said meeting were Kathy Turner Jones, District General Manager; Paul R. Nelson, Assistant General Manager, Brian L. Sledge, General Counsel; District staff; and members of the public. *Copies of the public sign-in sheets are attached hereto as Exhibit "A"*.

# PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DISTRICT RULES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION AMENDMENTS TO PHASE II(B) OF THE DISTRICT REGULATORY PLAN (DRP)

President Tramm stated the purpose of this hearing is to present and discuss the proposed amendments to the District Rules, including without limitation amendments to Phase II(B) of the District Regulatory Plan ("DRP"), include revisions regarding: (1) the creation of Temporary Permits for water wells used to supply water to construction projects or to supply water for the drilling of permanent wells and the establishment of requirements related to obtaining such

permits; (2) the elimination of certain provisions prohibiting the utilization of groundwater produced from the Gulf Coast Aquifer in counties immediately adjacent to Montgomery County as an Alternative Water Source; and (3) a petition process to allow a landowner to petition the District for additional production authorization over and above that allowed under the DRP. Board Workshop is a summary presentation of proposed amendments and/or revisions to District Rules related to the adoption of Phase II (B) of the District Regulatory Plan. President Tramm then turned the meeting over to Brian Sledge, District General Counsel.

Mr. Sledge first referenced the District Rules, page 40, Rule 3.17. This proposed rule amendment referred to the addition of a Temporary Permit for construction projects and drilling supply. The rule would allow the District to grant a Temporary Permit to drill and operate a water well for the purpose of either supplying water to a construction project or supplying water for the drilling process of a permanent well. The permit application would be one which the General Manager may rule on as she deems practical and necessary based on the circumstances, without further action by the Board. A Temporary Permit shall not exceed one year from the date of approval by the General Manager; is limited to a maximum production authorization of 5 million gallons; and is required to pay a flat fee of \$500 (to cover the water use fees and application fees). Additionally, the applicant will be required to put up a performance bond of \$50,000 payable to the District to insure closure of the well, which must be plugged no later than one year from the date of issuance of the Temporary Permit.

Mr. Sledge also noted minor conforming changes to Rule 3.1 - General Provisions Applicable to Permits and Registrations. The changes included clarification of the deadline dates for the "Notice and Application for Renewal" section. Specifically, "at least 90 days prior to the date of..." was changed to "October 1<sup>st</sup>" and "November 1<sup>st</sup>" was inserted in lieu of "...no later than 60 days prior to the date of..."

Next, Mr. Sledge discussed the changes to the District Regulatory Plan ("DRP"), beginning on page 19.

The first proposed amendment is the reinstatement of the Petition for Additional Production Authorization process (or the "petition process"), which was one of two options previously presented at multiple hearings held over the course of the last year. Mr. Sledge explained that the proposed rule on the petition process would allow an LVGU who successfully achieves their Initial Conversion Obligation ("ICO") or a new LVGU, to petition the District for a variance that would authorize the LVGU to produce groundwater in an amount greater than the amount otherwise authorized to produce pursuant to the requirements of this DRP Phase II(B), as long as the LVGU or new LVGU can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that the request for increased production will enable the LVGU or new LVGU to produce its fair share of the groundwater beneath its land while still achieving the relevant adopted Desired Future Conditions ("DFCs") for the aquifer or subdivision of the aquifer. Mr. Sledge explained that this process is for those land owners with large tracts of land. He further stated that there will be a number of conditions, including the size of land, proof of fair share amount, evidence that additional allocation would not be detrimental to the aquifer, etc....which will be reviewed by the Board prior to the variance being granted or denied.

Additionally, it was discussed that language be added which referenced that the District will review the entire Groundwater Availability Model ("GAM") run when deciding whether or not to grant a variance. Mr. Lowry, District Consultant agreed that this was important because groundwater levels can rise temporarily and the water may not be available long term. He reminded the Board that the GAM goes until 2070 and this would ensure that DFCs will not be effected long-term. Mr. Sledge stated that he would visit with District Consultant, Bill Mullican, to ensure the language reflected the Board's concerns.

The second proposed amendment to the DRP is regarding the "Alternative Water Source" definition. Mr. Sledge explained that this amendment would remove language which currently prohibits groundwater produced from the Gulf Coast Aquifer in an adjoining county from being brought into Montgomery County as an alternative water source. Ms. Jones clarified that the District has always allowed permittees to produce groundwater in another county for use in Montgomery County but that outside water could not be considered an alternative water source and this rule amendment would now allow for that.

# PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DISTRICT RULES AND DRP

Marty Jones with the Sprouse Shrader Smith Firm in Amarillo, and representative of Quadvest, argued that the rules were "too complex." Mr. Jones recommended a system where water use is based on a per-acre basis, rather than it being deemed "beneficial use" by the groundwater district as one example. *Copies of the comments are attached hereto as Exhibit "B"* 

Michael Thornhill, a geoscientist out of Round Rock also representing Quadvest, objected to the rules.

Mr. Weisinger, board director with the District, submitted written comment stating that in reviewing the document being submitted for Board approval, he has concern over the language used in the proposed rule changes in the redlined section titles "Petition for Additional Production Authorization" on pages 19 & 20. He stated he is uncertain as to how to satisfy approval or denial in regard to a permit application. The proposed rule changes are ambiguous because they do not provide definite standards for approval. Copies of Director Weisinger's comments are attached hereto as Exhibit "C".

Mr. Sledge disagreed with both Mr. Thornhill and Mr. Jones, saying the District has the right to determine groundwater use using the criteria set forth in the new rule because of the Day case. Mr. Sledge stated that he clearly thinks the District has the clear legal authority to (create the variance process). Sledge states, "we also don't pretend to know every situation out there in the county with this much population and circumstances. There may be people out there that need to be heard. When it comes to groundwater management, you're the place that gets to hear that. We want to create a way for us to hear it. We just put what the Supreme Court said."

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE DISTRICT RULES AND PHASE II(B) OF THE DISTRICT REGULATORY PLAN

Motion was made by Director Stinson to approve the amendment and addition of Temporary Permits for water wells used to supply water to construction projects or to supply water for the drilling of permanent wells and the establishment of requirements related to obtaining such permits, and Director Houston seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Motion was made by Director Stinson to approve the amendment eliminating certain provisions prohibiting the utilization of groundwater produced from the Gulf Coast Aquifer in counties immediately adjacent to Montgomery County as an Alternative Water Source, and Director Wood seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The third motion was made by Director Stinson to approve the amendment to include a petition process to allow a landowner to petition the District for additional production authorization over and above that allowed under the DRP, and Director Moffatt seconded. Directors Weisinger, McCoy, and Bleyl all opposed. The motion passed.

### **ADJOURN**

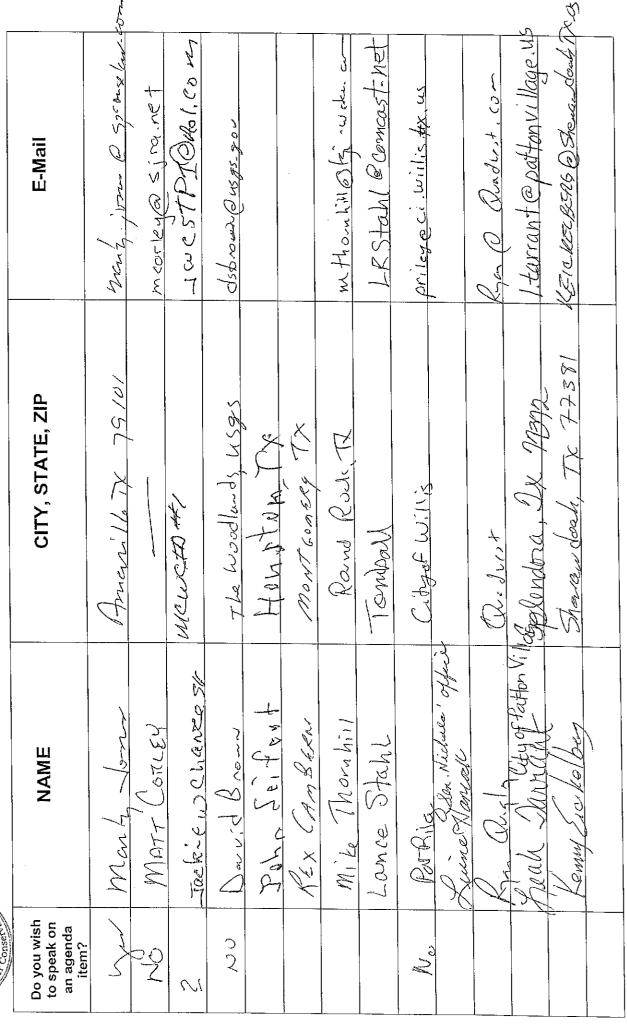
No further action was taken, and President Tramm adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF JANUARY, 2016.

Rick J. Moffatt, Board Secretary

# SIGN IN SHELT

December 8, 2015 Board Meeting







PO Box 2467, Conroe, Texas 77305 Phone: (936) 494-3436 Metro: (936) 441 - 3437

# Public Comment Registration

Please complete and submit t a question for the speaker or E	his form if you would like to speak or have Board.
Name: May to Son	Date: 12/18/15
Address: 1tm gn 1/2	
Who you are representing:	Dua Liverest
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# **Speaker Request Form**

Those wanting to comment or register support for or against a specific agenda item are asked to fill out the Speaker Request Form.

Date of Meeting: 12/08/2015
Name: Manty Jone
Address: 701 S. Taylor Suite 500
City: Amoni Vv State: 7 Zip: 75/01
Email: menty jones O Spranselaw. com
IF SPEAKING FOR AN ORGANIZATION:
Name of Organization
Speaker's Official Capacity A Horeney
Agenda Item No.: Rule Amondonales
☐ FOR (If applicable)
☐ AGAINST (If applicable)
Registering Position, NOT Testifying
To speak on an item not listed on the agenda, please indicate area of interest:

Please remember to step to the lectern as soon as you are recognized by the chair; state your name before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present to the Board, PLEASE FURNISH AN EXTRA COPY FOR DISTRICT FILES.

The Board will appreciate each speaker limiting an address on any one item to three (3) minutes \* Thank you for your cooperation

\* Only three speakers will be recognized speaking for and three speakers speaking against any one issue.



# SPROUSE SHRADER SMITH PLLD

MARTIN W. ICHTES Bertage

December 3, 2015

Via Pax - (936)494-3438

Mr. Richard J. Tramm, President Beard of Directors Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District 655 Course Park North Drive Comes, Texas 77303

Rs. Proposed Amendments to the Habitiet's Regulatory Plan Phase II(B)

Dear Mr. Tramm:

We are writing on behalf of Quadvest, L.P. and Woodland Oaks Diffity, L.P. to offer comments in response to Lone Star Groundwater Consequation District's ('District') proposed adoption of yet more changes to District Regulatory Plan Phase IIB ('DRP'). We reserve the right to make additional written comments as appropriate, and to present comments at any public bearing regarding these proposed rules changes.

As a preliminary matter, we object to Jace Houston either participating in discussions related to these rule changes or voting on any such changes. We believe Mr. Houston has a conflict of interest as defined by Texas Water Code Section 16.058 and Local Government Code Chapter 171. Mr. Houston's compensation from San Justino River Authority ("SJRA") exceeds 10% of his gross income for the previous year, and SJRA's interests are intrinsically tied to the proposed anyond differits of the sules of Lone Star Changly and Conservation Displiet ("LSGCIP").

Further, Mr. Houston has not insintained impartially in the execution of his office, as is reflected by his comments in an email to Van Kelley dated September 17, 2015, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 1. Exhibit I relates to the Powerpoint presentation of Interna to ISGCD, and is one of a series of emails in which Mr. Houston actively solicited various povernmental estitues to become "sponsors" of the presentation. That presentation was designed to address comments made to I.SGCD by Hob Harden regarding the desired future conditions proposed by LEGCD for Mongomery County. Mr. Houston's solicitation of "sponsors" for this presentation, and his comment in Exhibit 1, demonstrate that he has abandoned any pretense of impartiality to become an advocate against those who question I.SGCD's rules and DFCs.

Acceptingly, we respectfully object to Mr. Houston's participation as a Distoic hoard member in any decisions regarding the District's rules or the DRP, and request that he recuse himself from all such decisions and discussions.

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Comment I: The proposed section envitled. Polition for Additional Production Authorization's creates or peopetuates a regulatory scheme that deprises groundwater rights owners of their property.

The proposed rule purports to allow a groundwater rights owner in the District to petition the District for increased production of groundwater. The groundwater rights owner must demonstrate to the District that the request will enable the awner to "produce it is fair share of the groundwater beingth his land..." First, the District is attempting to allocate water to groundwater hights owners rather than regulating the production of such water. Because groundwater bolongs to the landowner, the landowner has an absolute right to access and utilize that fescauses. This is not a situation similar to that with surface water, where the state owns the water.

Second, and more importantly, the proposed rule does not define "fair share," which is a concept clearly defined by Texas case law relating to oil and gas. The concept is not related to a resource "beneath" a particular partial of land, it relates to an inherent correlative right, promised in cavacratisp; to produce from a common and defined field or aquifer. An owner should not be saddled with the burden of proving that his production does not exceed an undefined "fair share," instead, the rules should explicitly state the nighted that any graindwater rights owner can employ to use his property.

This leads to a shird problem not only with the proposed amendment but with the entire concept behind the District's regulatory scheme; the District whelly falls to regulate based on the relative quantities of groundwater rights owned, or service area in the case of a public utility. An owner with I serve of groundwater rights is able to produce the same amount of groundwater as the owner with I 1000 heres, and as such, the rules do not correlate to ownership. This scheme deprives larger groundwater rights owners of a fair opportunity to produce, and amounts to a taking of property without compensation.

Fourth, the proposed amendments impose a duly on the groundwater rights owner to implore the District for the right to produce his fair share exists independently of the District or its rules or regulations, and a graundwater rights owner should not be put in the position of bacing to ask the District to racognize that right. An aware should not be required, as part of a singular permit application, to demonstrate that his production of his fair share of the resource will not affect the District's adopted Desired Puture Condition ("DFC"). The impacts of withdrawal of groundwater are far too complex to permit madeling on a parcel by parcel basis. Achieving a DFC is the result of all production from the owners exercising their fair share right. This is the necessity of assigning the DFC for a common aquifer or against subdivision, and not on a parcel by parcel basis.

Finally, the proposed potential to the DRP falls to articulate an objective standard by which a groundwater rights owner may be "allowed" to produce additional groundwater instead, the proposed amendment allows the District to defermine an application for additional

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Lone Slar Groundwater Conservation District Describer I., 2015 Page I

production based on factors that are wholly subjective. This is particularly true with respect to factors such as "future needs, the relative importance of various trees, and concerns annelated to use..." A groundwater rights owner should be allowed the fair appointmity to produce the same amount of proundwater on a program basis as any other groundwater rights owner in the District. The only limitation should be whether the water is being used for a beneficial use as defined by the Texas Water Code and is not being wasted, as also defined by statute. A factor such as "the relative importance of various uses" allows the District to impose an undefined and subjective value system on the use of water. This is not sociology class, the District does not get to decide that using water for a gulf course is more important than using water for raise spinach. The proposed amendment puts the District in the position of picking winners and losers simong people-who have equal rights as owners of real property.

Comment 2: The proposed amondment to DRP Phase U(B) explicitly relies upon an historic use scheme that discriminates against groundwater rights owners who have no historic use of groundwater.

The proposed amendment to DRI Phase II(B) allows the District to consider "historic use" as one of the factors in determining whether to "allow" a groundwater rights owner to produce more groundwater. Historic use schemes are inherently unconstitutional. This is true because groundwater is owned by the landowner in place. This means that each groundwater rights owner is allowed a this opportunity to produce from an aquifer. Any regulation based on historic use explicitly says that produces A may be able to produce twice as much groundwater as his designion B just because A historically produced twice as much. Such a scheme allows A to appropriate groundwater from B with the District rules preventing It his right to offset that production and produce his fair share. Where the effect of regulation of production is to allow one's neighbor to capture his property without a right of offset, a regulatory taking has occurred.

Comment 3: The proposed enventment to DRP Phase II(B) imposes ill-defined and nebulous standards on the production of groundwater that will create uncertainty and therefore stynic development.

The rules of the District and the DRP have essentially curtailed production of groundwater in Monthomery County without any reasonable basis from a scientific and regulatory standpoint. The proposed amendments take this a step forther: the considerations for allowing a groundwater rights owner to produce additional groundwater are ill-defined and nebolous, based on completely subjective factors. This means that a developer scoking a reliable source of water is deprived of the type of certainty required to support a financial commitment for infinativication and for the developments themselves. This type of uncertainty will stymic economic development within Montgomery County.

Comment 4: DRP Phase II(b) is a whate appears to be overly complex and convoluted without any legitimate regulatory purposes the proposed amendments do nothing to alleviate the imagenessary harder imprised on graindscape rights owners.

Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District December 5, 2015 Page 4

DRP Phase H(B) is overly complex and convoluted. The proposed amendments exactrinte rather than alleviate the unnecessary burden imposed an groundwater rights owners by the District's regulatory scheme. This District should resign the rates of those districts willizing correlative rights systems, and should seek to simplify its rules in such a way as to allow all groundwater rights owners a fair opportunity to produce a resource that belongs to them. Further, the District should not change its rules annually, much less every six months. Changing the rates by which groundwater is regulated reads to create uncertainty and leave groundwater sights owners in a position of not being able to make long-term plans.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposed regulations, and we look forward to continued discussions regarding how the Elistrict may legally entry out its regulatory oversight while evolding muccessary burdens on property owners and the unwanted consequences of taking property without compensation.

Sincerely,

Marvin Whomes

ce Sinson Sequeira - via email Mike Stocket -- via email Mike Yowell -- via email Bob Harden -- via email Mike Thombill -- via email

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# Jodi Chaney

From:

discolations con-

Senti

Thursday, September 17, 2015 7,09 AM

To:

Van Kelley

CO

MTurco@subridence.org: Wade Oliver

Subject:

Retises yall tomorrow

Attachments:

image001.png

Actually, I'll be in Austin all day today. Yull give them hell, lace

On Sep 16: 2015, at 9:37 PM, Van Kelley STARRAGEN STARRAGEN Wrote:

Van Kelley, PC Ditera incorposed (272) 414-2047 offici (273) 509-3649 cin Marciferation This colleges



<sept 17 V03 Kelley/pgtx>

EXHIBIT 1



2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2200 Dallas, TX 75201 Telephone: 214-740-8000 Fax: 214-740-8800 www.lockelord.com

Michael V. Powell Direct Telephone: 214-740-8520 Direct Fax: 214-756-8520 mpowell@lockelord.com

December 4, 2015

Mr. Richard J. Tramm, President Board of Directors Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District 655 Conroe Park North Drive Conroe, Texas 77303

Re:

Comments on Proposed Amendment to District Regulatory Plan Phase

II(B) to add "Petition for Additional Production Authorization"

Dear Mr. Tramm:

On behalf of this firm's client, the City of Conroe, Texas ("Conroe"), we submit the following public comments on the District's proposed amendment to the District's Regulatory Plan Phase II(B) ("DRP Phase II(B)"). From information available on the District's website, that proposed amendment would add the following to the DRP Phase II(B):

# Petition for Additional Production Authorization

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, an LVGU who successfully achieves the Initial Conversion Obligation or a New LVGU may petition the District for approval of a permit application or permit application amendment that would authorize the LVGU or New LVGU to produce groundwater in an amount greater than the amount otherwise authorized pursuant to the requirements of this DRP Phase II(B) if the LVGU or New LVGU can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board of directors of the District that the request for increased production will enable the LVGU or New LVGU to produce its fair share of the groundwater beneath its land while nonetheless achieving the relevant adopted desired future conditions for the aquifer or subdivision of the aquifer. In determining whether an LVGU or New LVGU may be entitled to produce more groundwater, the board of directors may consider factors including, but not limited to, the size of the surface area of land owned by the LVGU or New LVGU, historic use, future needs, the relative importance of various uses, and concerns unrelated to use, such as the nature and conditions of the aquifer underlying the land, environmental impacts, and subsidence.

Mr. Richard J. Tramm, President Board of Directors December 4, 2015 Page 2

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To quote Will Rogers, the First Rule of Holes is "when you're in one, stop digging." This District, with its already unlawful and far-too-complex DRP Phase II(B), is already in a hole. With this proposed amendment, the District just continues to dig.

It appears the proposed amendment is some kind of patch the District has decided to stick on DRP Phase II(B), which is already formed around per-user production regulations the District has no authority to enact or enforce. It also is obviously based on this District's legally-incorrect view that the District owns the groundwater in Montgomery County, and enjoys power to dole out that groundwater as, to whom, and when it sees fit. As Conroe has commented before, this District should scrap its DRP Phase II(B) and replace it with forms of regulation the District is authorized to adopt by Texas Water Code § 36.116.

By any fair reading, the proposed amendment tells many LVGUs, such as Conroe, that after they have already mandatorily reduced production of their own groundwater for no real reason other than the District is forcing them to buy surface water from SJRA so SJRA can pay its massive debt, they may come to the District and "petition" for a permit to produce more of their own groundwater. When LVGUs apply for such a permit, the proposed amendment says the District might or might not grant it, depending on the whims of this or future boards of directors.

There are severe legal problems with the proposed amendment. In summary form:

1. The proposed amendment would create a new application for a permit to produce water. The District's sole authority to adopt rules governing applications for such permits is set forth in Texas Water Code § 36.113. Nothing in that section authorizes districts to require owners of groundwater seeking a permit to prove vague, ill-defined "conditions" such as that (a) "the increased production will enable the LVGU to produce its fair share of the groundwater beneath its land," or (b) "while nonetheless achieving the relevant adopted desired future conditions for the aquifer or subdivision of the aquifer."

Furthermore, the "fair share" concept in Texas law applies to an owner's fair share of the water in an aquifer, not to a "fair share" of the "groundwater beneath [a landowner's] land." Consequently, the requirement in (a) above, is legally wrong. As to requirement (b), there is no scientific, or even objective method for a landowner to establish that production from one tract of land will "achieve the required future conditions for the aquifer or subdivision of the aquifer." The entire concept of "desired future conditions" applies to aquifers, not inter-dependent granular pieces of an aquifer.

2. The proposed amendment would create an entirely standard-less process. Not only are the purported "requirements" in 1. (a) and (b), above, vague and legally and scientifically wrong, an LVGU applicant's success in satisfying the requirements is based on the "satisfaction of the board of directors of the District." For regulations of private property to be legally valid, a landowner must be able to know and understand what the objective requirements

Mr. Richard J. Tramm, President Board of Directors December 4, 2015 Page 3

are, so that if the landowner meets those requirements, he, she or it will be entitled to receive a permit. By a long shot, that is not what this proposed amendment would do. This proposed amendment purports to enable the District to grant or deny a permit based on only whether its board of directors is "satisfied" after considering factors that may include, but are not limited to, a collection of nebulous notions such as "the relative importance of various uses." This would be government by men, not by law, and antithetical to the American concept of government.

Adopting a standard of "to the satisfaction of the board of directors" would also impermissibly defeat any meaningful judicial review of the board's "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" decision on any permit application. How is a court to know, for example, whether a majority of board members should have been "satisfied" or not? Such a test also enables—indeed even encourages—uneven, ad hoc, applications, as well as such evils in government as favoritism, cronyism, conflicts of interest, and carrying out of individual grudges or agendas.

Conroe is not opposed to this District's increasing the volumes of groundwater LVGU's may obtain permits to produce. But the proposed amendment now before the Board should not be adopted.

Conroe has received and read the letter to you dated December 3, 2015, submitted by Mr. Marvin W. Jones on behalf of Quadvest, L.P. and Woodlands Oaks Utility, L.P., and it agrees with those comments. Conroe also joins in the objection in that letter to Mr. Houston's participation in the Board's deliberations or decision on this proposed amendment.

We ask you to provide copies of Conroe comments to all of the District's directors and to include them in the official record of the District's consideration of the proposed amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Powell

# December 8, 2015

Mr. Richard Tramm Chairman/Rules Development and Bylaws Committee President of the Board LONESTAR GROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 655 Conroe Park North Dr Conroe, Texas 77303

RE: DRP Phase (IIB) proposed amendments

## Dear Mr Tramm:

In reviewing the document being submitted for Board approval, I must voice my concern over the language used in the proposed rule changes in the redlined section titles "Petition for Additional Production Authorization" on pages 19 & 20.

As a board member, I am uncertain as to how to satisfy approval or denial in regard s to a permit application. The proposed rule changes are ambiguous because they do not provide definite standards for approval. As written, these rules could allow arbitrary decision making by the LSGCD Board during the permitting process.

Mr. Scott Weisinger

Member, Board of Directors

LONE STAR GROUNDWATER

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# December 8, 2015

# AMENDED MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District ("District") met in regular session, open to the public, in the Lone Star GCD - James B. "Jim" Wesley Board Room located at 655 Conroe Park North Drive, Conroe, Texas, within the boundaries of the District on December 8, 2015.

## CALL TO ORDER:

President Tramm called to order the regular Board of Directors meeting at 11:06 a.m. announcing that it was open to the public.

### ROLL CALL:

The roll was called of the members of the Board of Directors, to wit:

Sam Baker

John D. Bleyl, PE

Jace Houston

Roy McCoy, Jr.

Rick J. Moffatt

Jim Stinson, PE

Richard J. Tramm

M. Scott Weisinger, PG

W. B. Wood

All members of the Board were present, constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors. Also, in attendance at said meeting were Kathy Turner Jones, General Manager; Paul R. Nelson, Assistant General Manager; Brian Sledge, General Counsel; Mark Lowry, P.E., District Engineer; District staff; and members of the public. Copies of the public sign-in sheets are attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

# **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no public comments to report.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

President Tramm stated the Board would consider all meeting minutes listed as one item. Ms. Jones noted that there was a correction made to the Board Work Session minutes (Item d) and revised copies were distributed to the board members. Upon review of the following, a motion was made by Director Stinson; seconded by Director Bleyl; and unanimously carried, to approve the meeting minutes listed below.

- a) November 10, 2015, Special Board Meeting
- b) November 10, 2015, Public Hearing on Permit Applications
- c) November 10, 2015, Regular Board of Directors Meeting
- d) November 23, 2015, LSGCD Board Work Session

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

# A. Executive Committee - Richard J. Tramm, President

- 1) Brief the Board on the Committee's activities since the last regular Board meeting There has been nothing new to report.
- 2) <u>Defense of the following lawsuit:</u> <u>City of Conroe et al. v. Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (and the District's directors and general manager in their official capacities)</u> President Tramm stated that Judge Lamar McCorkle has been assigned to the case.
- 3) <u>Discuss</u>, consider, and take action as necessary regarding path forward regarding the Strategic Planning Study Mr. Sledge requests the Board approve the recommendation to resume with the Strategic Planning Study. Director Stinson made motion; Director Wood seconded; Director Weisinger abstained. The motion passed.

# B. Water Awareness and Conservation Committee - Billy Wood, Chair

- 1) Brief the Board on the Committee's activities since the last regular Board meeting Director Wood stated that there was nothing new to report.
- 2) Update on water efficiency, conservation efforts and public outreach Paul R. Nelson: Mr. Nelson stated that he attended the Woodlands Recycle event where there was a booth distributing water conservation yard signs, in return of signing a form that people will not water lawns between November and April. There was a Water Efficiency Network meeting held on November 19, with Katie Anderson as speaker. Mr. Nelson also stated that the District will be working with others to hold a workshop on SWIFT funding, January 7<sup>th</sup>, that will be held at the United Way building.
- 3) <u>Update on redevelopment of onsite detention project Paul R. Nelson:</u>

Mr. Nelson states that it is the goal to make this a public demonstration. The deadline to respond to the RFQs is Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at which point an evaluation will be made in how to move forward with the design and planning process.

# C. Rules Development and Bylaws Committee - Richard J. Tramm - Chair

1) <u>Brief the Board on the Committee's activities since the last regular Board meeting</u> – President Tramm stated the meeting this past month led to the Rules Hearing.

# D. Policy and Personnel Development Committee - Sam W. Baker, Chair

- 1) Brief the Board on the Committee's activities since the last regular Board meeting: Director Baker stated that the last meeting was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Discuss, consider, and possible action regarding approval of Resolution #15-010 adopting amendments to the District's Personnel Policies and Procedures for the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District. Jo Miller: A committee meeting was held December 1<sup>st</sup> to finalize review and amendments to the Personnel Policy last updated 2011. Ms. Miller explained that although the revisions were benign, they did include updates to the following: Affordable Care Act; Family Medical Leave Act; Arbitration and Remediation Policy; At Will Policy. Additions include an Anti-Retaliation Policy. Director Baker made a motion to approve the changes and additions to the District's Personnel Policies and Procedures; Director Stinson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of Resolution #15-010 is attached hereto as "Exhibit B".
- 3) Report on committee recommendations regarding 2016 compensation packages

   Sam W. Baker: Director Baker states that recommended increases to employee 2016 compensation packages overall average is just under three percent and is within cost of living guidelines, this includes the General Manager. A copy of the summary report is available to each board member for review upon request.
- 4) Report Evaluation and Review of General Manager Sam W. Baker:

  The Policy and Personnel Committee has met numerous times regarding the evaluation and review of the District's General Manager and to consider comments received regarding the General Manager. The Committee has determined that Kathy Jones is doing a good job for the District as General Manager. Recommendations: the General Manager and District staff be mindful to use extra diligence in mainting communications with the board of directors on very contentious or high-profile issues. Ms. Miller stated that although a board member may request to view the final report, they will have to sign it out and remind each of them that the final report is confidential and

falls under client/attorney privilege. A copy of the Comments on the Evaluation is attached hereto as Exhibit "C".

# E. Findings and Review Committee - Richard J. Tramm, Chair

- 1) <u>Brief the Board on the Committee's activities since the last regular Board meeting Richard J. Tramm</u>: The committee did meet this month and the topics discussed are below.
- 2) Discuss, consider, and take action as necessary concerning of approval of joint funding agreement with USGS for groundwater data collection, subsidence monitoring, and mapping activities to be conducted during the period of 01.01.16 through 12.31.16. - David Brown, USGS: Mr. Brown distributed a summary PowerPoint presentation of the USGS proposed Joint Funding Agreement for project(s) and data. This included information on approach and methods; hydrogeology of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System; description of the network; annual water-level change; long-term water-level change by aquifer; cumulative compaction measured by the borehole extensometers, and Catahoula Water Chemistry Network. The Catahoula network addresses the need for a more complete picture of the chemical signature, as well as the source of the water coming from the Catahoula Sandstone being used for public supply. To date, 8 wells have been sampled for the full suite. Several of these have been resampled for minimum constituents (field parameters, TDS, major ions, etc...) at least once. New sampling sites to be included in 2015: City of Conroe 24, Corinthian Point MUD, and Point Aquarius MUD. A copy of the presentation is attached hereto as Exhibit "D".

Director Wood asked if work proposed in the funding agreement is not completed or done would USGS deduct that amount from the contract cost. Mr. Brown confirmed that the cost would be adjusted at year-end for any projects not done.

Director Baker made a motion to approve the General Manager to authorize entering in the joint-funding agreement not to exceed \$251,375 (FY2016) with the USGS for groundwater data collection, subsidence monitoring, and mapping activities to be conducted during the period of 01/01/16 through 12/31/16. Director Houston seconded; Director Wood abstained. The motion passed.

3) Discuss, consider, and take action as necessary proposed scope of work authorizing LBG Guyton to preform work to identify/develop potential locations for shallow observation wells within Montgomery County. John Seifert, LBG Guyton: Proposed scope is to develop general areas where it might be possible to construct shallow observation wells, whether screening sands of the Chicot, Evangeline or Jasper aquifers. The requested budget not to exceed \$10,700 without additional review and approval of the District. Proposed tasks to be performed are:

- Collect data from water well drilling contractors that have substantial experience in drilling water wells within Montgomery County. The objective will be to obtain information on the shallow lithology where wells have been constructed and on the locations of the wells to help outline areas where shallow observation wells could be constructed. An objective would be to find subsurface sections that are principally sand from land surface to a depth of 60 to 100 feet.
- Collect data from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation database for wells that have been drilled in the county that have driller's log data indicating the composition of the subsurface formations to a depth of at least about 60 to 100 feet. The emphasis of the effort will be for the Jasper and Evangeline aquifers with less emphasis on the Chicot Aquifer, as the Jasper and Evangeline aquifers are the primary groundwater sources of supply in the county.
- Perform a general overview of county soils maps to evaluate if the soil mapping correlates with potential areas for shallow observation wells.
- Develop maps providing outlines of potential areas where shallow observation wells could be constructed. Also provide data in a table form as appropriate.

Director Bleyl made a motion approve the General Manager to enter into agreement with LBG Guyton to preform work to identify/develop potential locations for shallow observation wells within Montgomery County as described in the proposed scope of work as present; Director Moffatt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Groundwater Management Area 14 – Update the board on the status of the current desired future conditions development process in GMA 14 – Kathy Turner Jones: Ms. Jones stated the consultants for GMA 14 are working on the draft explanatory report and should be available in the near future. Ms. Jones stated that it is expected that a GMA 14 meeting will be scheduled in late January following receipt of the draft report. Once a date is set, Ms. Jones will notify the board and the public

# F. Budget and Finance Development Committee - Jim Stinson, Chair

- 1) <u>Brief the Board on the Committee's Activities</u> Mr. Stinson stated that a meeting of the Committee was held on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) Review of Monthly Financial Reports Director Stinson reported that the financial statement indicated an actual income of \$2.076 million compared to year to date budget of \$2.144 million, and actual expenses are at \$1.76 million, compared to year to date budget of \$2.1 million.

3) <u>Discuss</u>, consider, and possible action to approve adoption of the 2016 Operating <u>Budget following January 2016</u> – A Committee meeting was held on December 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss budget requirements for fiscal year 2016. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup> to finalize a draft to present to the board at a workshop to be scheduled early January. Director Stinson motioned to present the budget after January 1<sup>st</sup>, with the understanding that the current operating budget will remain in place until the 2016 budget is presented; Director Moffatt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

# G. Professional Services Review Committee - Rick Moffatt, Chair

1) <u>Brief the Board on the Committee's activities</u> - Director Moffatt stated that there was nothing new to report at this time though he anticipated scheduling a meeting in the near future.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPLICATION FOR EARLY CONVERSION CREDITS PURSUANT TO THE EARLY CONVERSION INCENTIVE AS DESCRIBED IN ADDENDUM D OF THE LSGCD RULES – PRODUCTION OF ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE (AWS) FROM THE CATAHOULA RESTRICTED AQUIFER PROJECT, CORINTHIAN POINT MUD – Kathy Turner Jones

Ms. Jones said the Corinthian Point MUD submitted an application for early conversion credits for an alternative water source well drilled into the Catahoula formation. It is her recommendation to approve the application. The approval does not award any specific amount number of gallons; it does not constitute any final determination. The award of credits will come after the applicant provides accurate proper records and documentation to the district. Ms. Jones added that the motion, if approved, indicates the District agrees that what the Corinthian MUD plans on doing to earn the credits meets the guidelines set forth in the rules.

The well drilled by the Corinthian MUD was completed in November 2014, the entity will have to submit meter readings on their alternative use and then show that they were able to offset some of the groundwater through the Gulf Coast well.

Director Moffatt made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation; Director Stinson seconded; Director Bleyl abstained. The motion passed.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPLICATION FOR EARLY CONVERSION CREDITS PURSUANT TO THE EARLY CONVERSION INCENTIVE AS DESCRIBED IN ADDENDUM D OF THE LSGCD RULES – DIRECT REUSE OF WASTEWATER EFFLUENT FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR IRRIGATION PROJECT, BENTWATER YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB, LTD. – Kathy Turner Jones

Ms. Jones said the Bentwater Yacht & Country Club. Ltd., submitted an application for early conversion credits for water which will be supplied by applicant's direct reuse of wastewater effluent from the wastewater treatment plant project for irrigation and lake replenishment purposes. It is her recommendation to approve the application. The approval does not award any specific amount number of gallons; it does not constitute any final determination. The award of credits will come after the applicant provides accurate proper records and documentation to the district.

Ms. Jones added that the motion, if approved, indicates the District agrees that what the Bentwater Yacht & Country Club, Ltd., plans on doing to earn the credits meets the guidelines set forth in the rules.

The project was completed in September 2015, the entity will have to submit meter readings on their alternative use and then show that they were able to offset some of the groundwater through an alternative source.

Director Stinson made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation; Director Baker seconded; Director Bleyl abstained. The motion passed.

CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPLICATION FOR EARLY CONVERSION CREDITS PURSUANT TO THE EARLY CONVERSION INCENTIVE AS DESCRIBED IN ADDENDUM D OF THE LSGCD RULES – DIRECT REUSE OF WASTEWATER EFFLUENT FROM THE WASTEWATRE TREATMENT PLANT FOR IRRIGATION PROJECT, CC PANTHER OAKS, LLC (PANTHER TRAILS) – Kathy Turner Jones

Ms. Jones said the CC Panther Oaks, LLC (Panther Trails), submitted an application for early conversion credits for water which will be supplied by applicant's direct reuse of wastewater effluent from the wastewater treatment plant project for irrigation and lake replenishment purposes. It is her recommendation to recognize CC Panther Oaks, LLC's (Panther Trails) long term commitment to preserving aquifer levels by implementing reuse of wastewater effluent from the wastewater treatment plant for irrigation and support a "modified" 1 to 1 ratio for early conversion credit for reuse water metered beginning November 11, 2008. The approval does not award any specific amount number of gallons; it does not constitute any final determination. The award of credits will come after the applicant provides accurate proper records and documentation to the District.

Ms. Jones added that the motion, if approved, indicates the District agrees that what the CC Panther Oaks, LLC (Panther Trails) plans on doing to earn the credits meets the guidelines set forth in the rules.

The project is an existing project, completed prior to November 2008. A meter was installed January 2006, the entity will have to submit meter readings on their alternative use and then show that they were able to offset some of the groundwater through an alternative source.

Director Stinson made a motion to approve the General Manager's recommendation; Director Bleyl seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS, CONSIDER, AND TAKE ACTION AS NECESSARY TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #15-011 APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVE TO GRP CONTRACT REVIEW COMMITTEE - Director Wood made a motion to appoint Richard Wagner, C & R Water Supply Inc., to the GRP Contract Review Committee for the San Jacinto River Authority; Director Stinson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of Resolution #15-011 is attached hereto as "Exhibit E"

### **ENGINEERING REPORT:**

Mark Lowry stated a copy of his report is included in the Board's packet.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Jones stated that there is nothing new to report.

### GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT:

Mr. Sledge states that he has been busy working on the ongoing litigation and the Rules Hearing.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

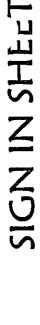
### **NEW BUSINESS:**

There is no new business to report.

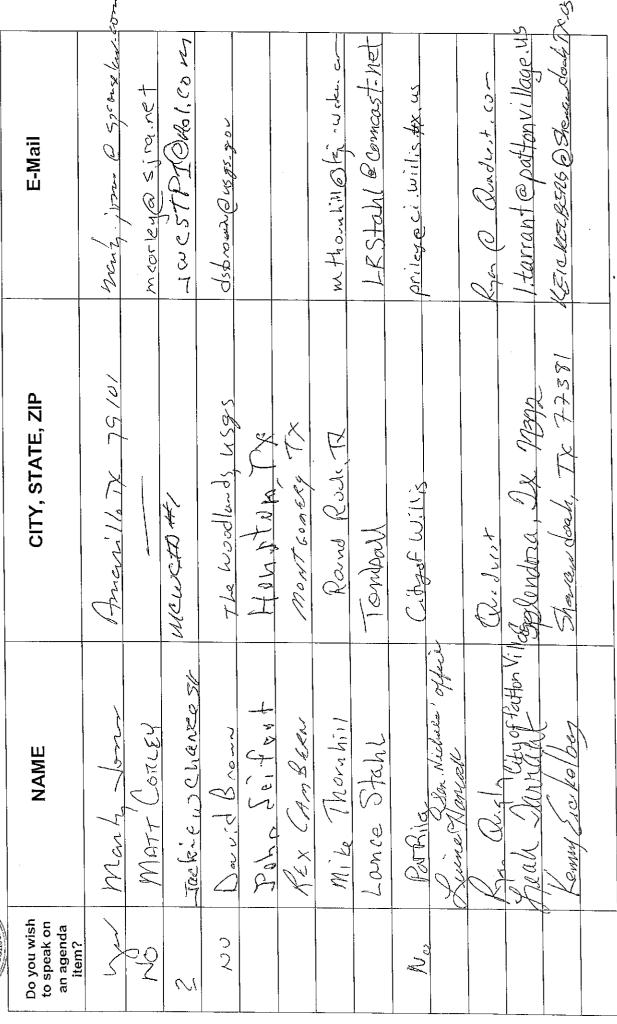
There being no further business, Director Stinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting Director Bleyl seconded, and therefore the meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF JANUARY, 2016.

Rick Moffatt, Board Secretary











PO Box 2467, Conroe, Texas 77305 Phone: (936) 494-3436 Metro: (936) 441 - 3437

### Public Comment Registration

Name: Maata S	four Date: 12/18/15
Address: 1 + m cm	
Who you are representin	ig: Duc drest
Question:	
••	·
Conservator	PO Box 2467, Conroe, Texas 77305 Phone: (936) 494-3436 Metro: (936) 441 - 3437  Public Comment Registration
. Jarranan val mià abadua	omit this form if you would like to speak or have
Name: Mike	Thomhill Date: 12/8/15
Address: 120	in Rock TR
	g: Dvadust
Who you are representing	6(NO 40! VZ)
Who you are representing	MP II
Who you are representing	
Who you are representing	



P. O. Box 2467, Conroe, TX 77305 Ph: (936) 494-3436 Metro: (936) 441-3437 www.lonestargcd.org

### **Speaker Request Form**

Those wanting to comment or register support for or against a specific agenda item are asked to fill out the Speaker Request Form.

Date of Meeting: 14/08/2015
Name: Monty fore
Address: 701 S. Taylor Suite 500
City: Amori Vo State: 7 Zip: 75/01
Email: menty. jones O Spranselaw. com
IF SPEAKING FOR AN ORGANIZATION:
Name of Organization Quadrost
Speaker's Official Capacity Affrence
Agenda Item No.: Rule Amondonets
☐ FOR (If applicable)
☐ AGAINST (If applicable)
Registering Position, NOT Testifying
To speak on an item not listed on the agenda, please indicate area of in terest:

Please remember to step to the lectern as soon as you are recognized by the chair; state your name before beginning your presentation. If you have written notes you wish to present to the Board, PLEASE FURNISH AN EXTRA COPY FOR DISTRICT FILES.

The Board will appreciate each speaker limiting an address on any one item to three (3) minutes \* Thank you for your cooperation

\* Only three speakers will be recognized speaking for and three speakers speaking against any one issue.

### **RESOLUTION #15-010**

### A RESOLUTION REVIEWING AND ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE DISTRICT'S PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

THE STATE OF TEXAS

Ş

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

§

WHEREAS, § 36.056 and 36.057 of the Texas Water Code, proved for the employment of a general manager and persons necessary for the proper handling of the business operations of the District.

WHEREAS, Resolution No 11-001, passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011, incorporated and adopted amended personnel policies of the District;

WHEREAS, State and Federal laws affecting personnel matters have changed; and.

WHEREAS, Said policies have been reviewed by the Policy and Personnel Committee and certain changes thereto have been recommended.

### NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District "Personnel Policy and Procedures" dated December 8, 2015, attached hereto and incorporated herein in full, is hereby adopted as the Personnel Policy of the District.
- 2. That such Personnel Policies supersede any and all policies previously adopted by the Board of Directors.
- 3. That the Personnel Policies shall govern the relationship between the District and the employees of the District until amended, repealed or replaced.
- 4. The General Manager of the District is authorized and directed to implement said policies.

5. That the General Manager of the District is further authorized to take any and all action necessary to implement this resolution.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 8th day of December, 2015.

### LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By:

Richard J. Tramm, Board President

ATTEST:

Rick Moffatt, Secretary

505 North Main St.
The Parsonage
Conroe, TX 77301
Tel: (936) 539-4400
Fax: (936) 539-4409



December 1, 2015 ·

Kathy Turner Jones General Manager LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 655 Conroe Park N. Dr. Conroe, Texas 77303

Re: Summary of Revisions to Employee Handbook for January 1, 2016

Ms. Jones:

Of course, we changed the format to make it more user friendly. Below is a summary of the revisions made to the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District's Employee Handbook.

Revision Made	Policy Number
Added "At Will" Policy as separate statement	01.02.0
Changed the right to amend Economic Benefits to require notice	
Added Open Door Policy which includes no retaliation acknowledgment	01.03.0
Strengthened Non-Discrimination and Anti- Harassment Policy	02.01.0
Expanded EEO classes to include: age, disability, national origin, race/ethnicity, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and childbirth), sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws	02.02.0
Added Anti-Retaliation policy	02.04.0

Added USERRA Compliance statement	02.05.0
Added invitation to self-identify gender, national origin, and veteran status	02.07.0
Employee categories amended to comply with the Affordable Care Act	03.02.0
Exempt status to be evaluated regularly	
Added Job Description and Status	05,02.0
Removed language forbidding discussion of salary	·
Added termination remedy for violation of confidentiality	09.02.0
Added termination of sick leave on last day of active employment	07.03.0
Adjusted Flexible Account limit and extended eligibility to 30 hours per week to comply with Affordable Care Act	06.03.0
Strengthened Family and Medical Leave Act policy to more fully explain statute and comply with amendments	07.04.0

Should you have any questions, please contact our office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

∕Jo Miller

### LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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### Comments for Board Meeting Report on Evaluation and Review of General Manager

- The Policy and Personnel Committee has met numerous times regarding the evaluation and review of the District's General Manager.
- The committee carefully considered each of the comments received regarding the General Manager, and has determined the Kathy Jones is doing a good job for the District as General Manager.
- The only recommendation to the General Manager and the other District staff from the Policy and Personnel Committee after this review is that they be mindful to use extra diligence in maintaining communications with the board of directors on very contentious or high-profile issues.

Sam Baker

Chair, Policy and Personnel

Committee



### LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

USGS proposed 2016 Joint Funding Agreement for Projects and Data Collection

December 8, 2015

## Regional Collaboration

Brazoria County Groundwater Conservation District Subsidence District, Fort Bend Subsidence District, and Program Coordinated with City of Houston, Harris-Galveston

and Subsidence Program Part of a Larger Regional USGS Groundwater Data Collection

Provides Regional Data and Avoids Duplication of Effort

the WEB, and publishing Scientific Investigations Maps Primary deliverables are data collection, data availability via

### Compaction of Fine-Grained Sediments by Borehole Groundwater-Level Changes in Wells and Measured Extensometers in the Gulf Coast Aquifer System

CONTACT:

2015 Scientific Investigations Map Report (SIM) by Mark C. Kasmarek, Jason K. Ramage, (39th Consecutive Year)

Natalie A. Houston, Michaela R. Johnson, and Tiffany S. Schmidt

**USGS Texas Water Science Center** Gulf Coast Program Office Shenendoah, Texas http://tx.usgs.gov Ph: 936-271-5300









Prepared in cooperation with the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, Fort Bend Subsidence District, City of Houston, Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District, and the Brazoria Commentation

Download 2015 SIM: http://pubs.usgs.gov/sim/3337// Download 2014 SIM: <u>http://pubs.usgs.gov/sim/3308/</u>

### **Table of Contents**

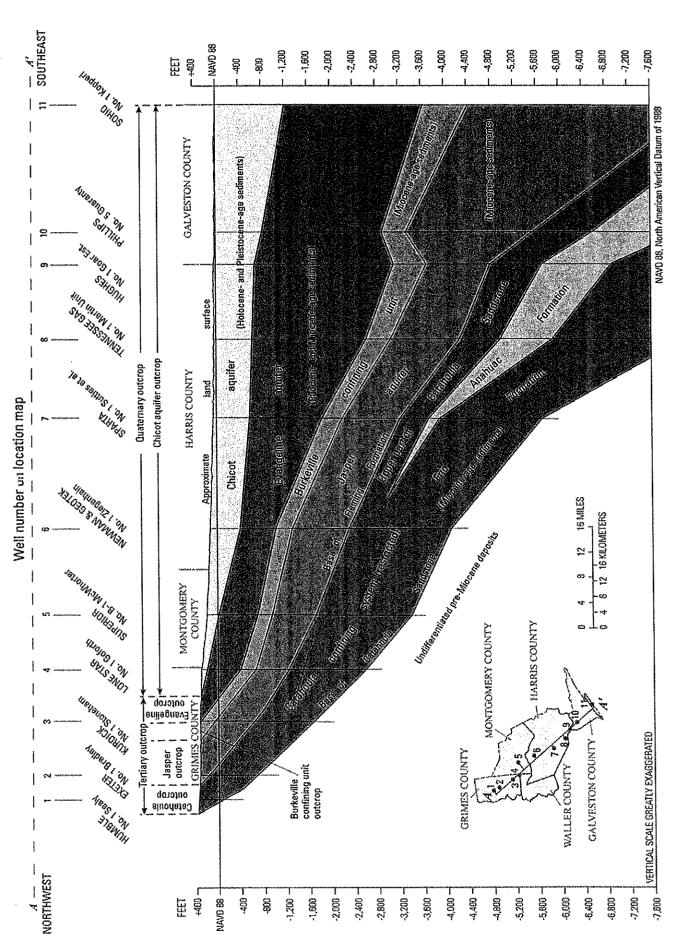
- Approach and Methods
- Hydrogeology of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System
- Description of Network
- Annual Water-Level Change
- Long-Term Water-Level Change by Aquifer
- Cumulative Compaction Measured by Borehole Extensometers
- Summary

### Approach and Methods

- The USGS monitors water levels in public supply, irrigation, industrial, and observation wells.
- Static water levels are measured annually between December and March using a calibrated steel tape following documented USGS field procedures.
- All data and interpretations are quality assured and peer reviewed by the USGS prior to the public comment period.
- All data, interpretations, depictions, and documents are published and made available to the public via the internet.

### Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District District District Conservation Conservation District Annual Standard Standar

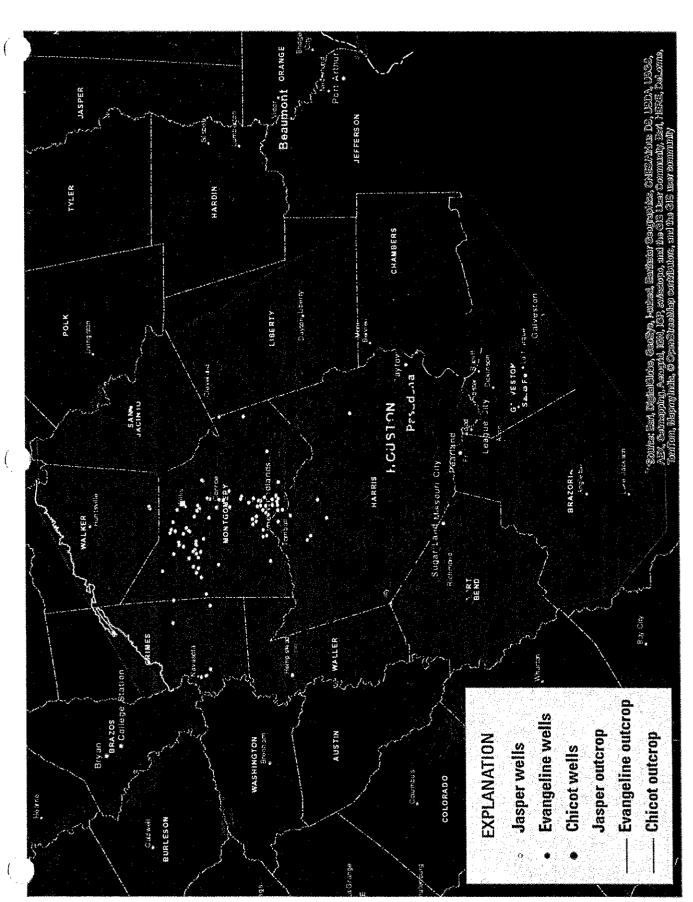
### SIM Study Area



Hydrogeology of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System<sup>7</sup>

### **Network Description**

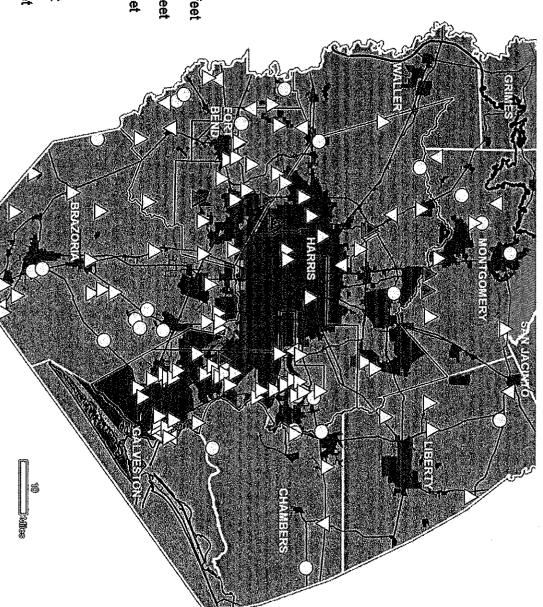
- municipalities, and other entities. requires strong collaboration with local well owners, The water-level observation network for this project
- screened solely within one of the four units alternative water source, each network well must be Because the Gulf Coast Aquifer System consists of three primary water bearing units and one developing
- this long-term groundwater project. Therefore, no cross-formational wells are included in
- contining system (8). 2015 SIM consist of wells screened in the Chicot (166), Currently the number of wells used to construct the Evangeline (328), Jasper (101) aquifers, and Catahoula



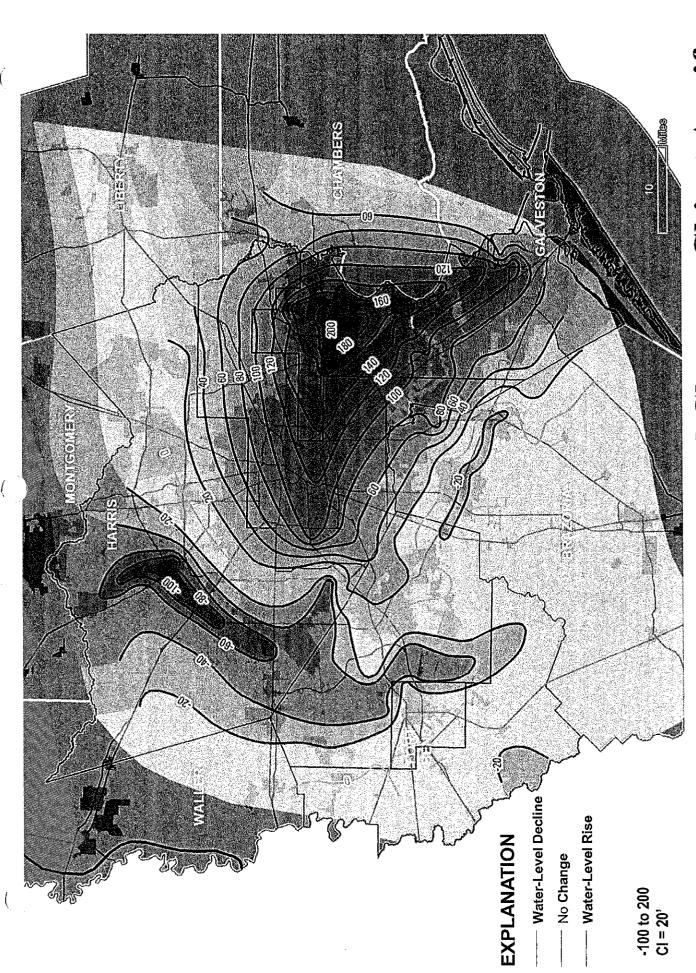
2015 Water-Level-Monitoring Network

### **EXPLANATION**

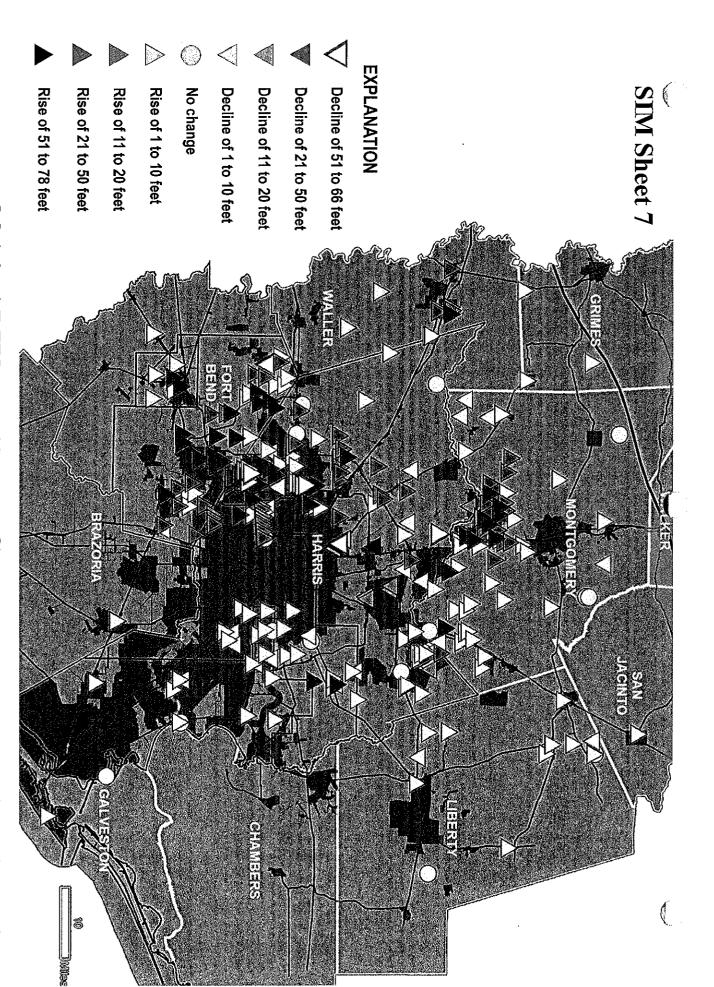
- Decline of 21 to 24 feet
- Decline of 1 to 10 feet Decline of 11 to 20 feet
- No change
- Rise of 1 to 10 feet
- Rise of 11 to 20 feet
- Rise of 21 to 31 feet



2014-15 Water-Level Change - Chicot Aquifer®



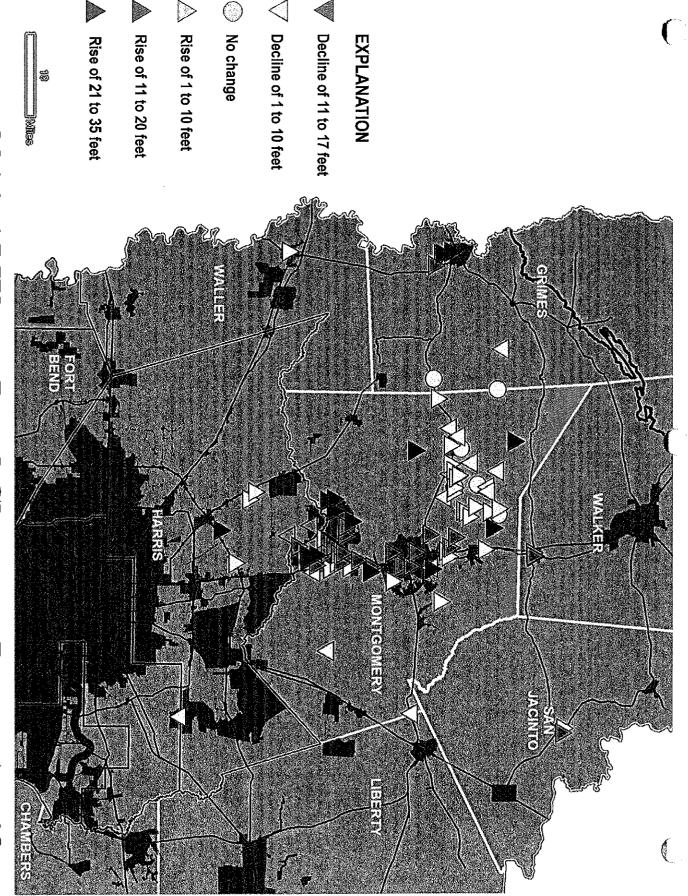
1977-2015 Water-Level Change - Chicot Aquifer



2014-15 Water-Level Change - Evangeline Aquifer<sup>2</sup>



1977–2015 Water-Level Change – Evangeline Aquifer



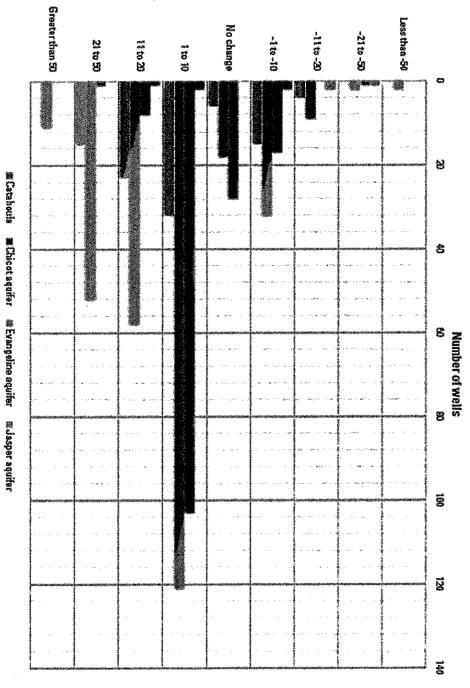
No change

2014–15 Water-Level Change – Jasper Aquifer 14



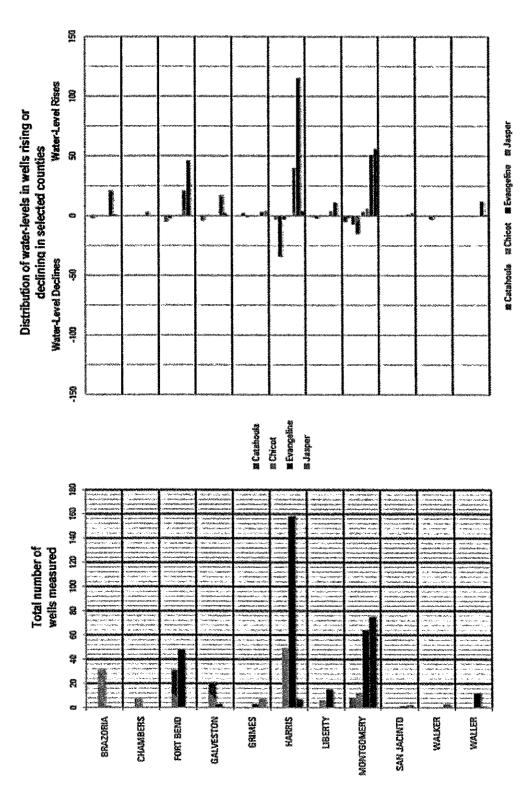
2000–15 Water-Level Change – Jasper Aquifer<sup>5</sup>

### Water-level changes, 2014-15

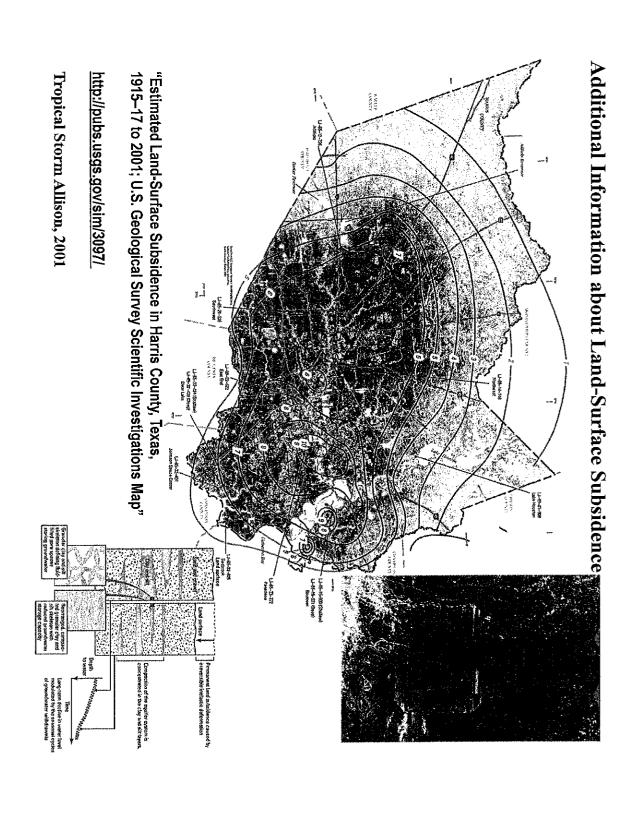


Water-level change, in feet

# 2014–15 Water-Level-Change Summary



2014–15 Water-Level-Change Summary



# 1915-17 to 2001 Land-Surface Subsidence

## Existing Program

Inventory new large capacity wells (record/archive discontinued sites)

Prepare/store water-level and water-quality data in USGS NWIS in Montgomery County O&M continuous water-level gages (~9-10 piezometer sentinel sites) in Montgomery County (redevelop wells as needed); Lake Creek site collapsed – replacement well to be adjacent to old well Install/add one new continuous water-level gage in Montgomery County (site mutually determined)

Measure nested pair Jasper and Catahoula wells monthly to develop baseline data as new wells go into service.

## Existing Program

the winter (Montgomery County ~183 wells) Measure static ground-water levels in active Gulf Coast aquifer wells during

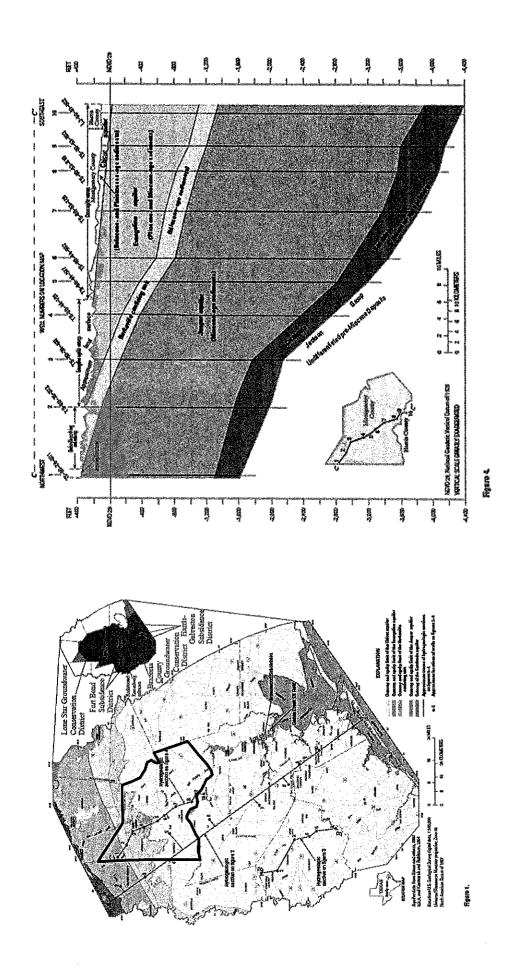
Coast aquifer System for current water year. Prepare report of water-level altitudes and altitude changes in the Gulf

the summer (Montgomery County ~80 wells) Measure pumping ground-water levels in active Gulf Coast aquifer during

subsidence in Montgomery County. field surveys (field trips) as related to groundwater resources and Provide Technical Assistance in the form of meetings, presentations, and

Provide information and technical explanation to stakeholders as needed.

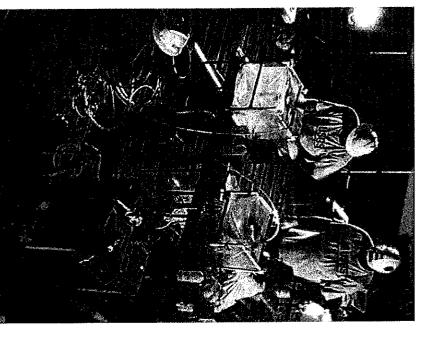
# Catahoula Sandstone in Montgomery County, TX

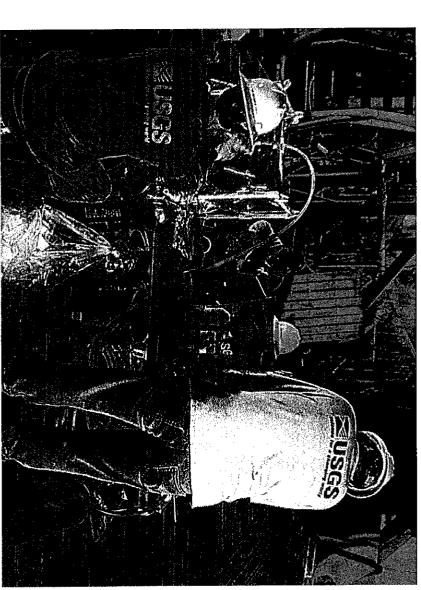


# Catahoula Water Chemistry Network

with USGS policy Samples are collected, preserved, stored, and shipped in accordance Samples are collected at the well head prior to any treatment

Equipment blanks and sequential replicates are collected





This project addresses the need for a more complete picture of the chemical signature, as well as the source of the water coming from the Catahoula Sandstone being used for public supply.

Overall quality of the water will be determined by field parameters, major ions, trace metals, nutrients, total dissolved solids, and dissolved organic compounds.

better understood through isotopes, dissolved gasses, and Geochemical fingerprint, age, and potential source may be noble gasses.

Club 3, Bentwater 18, Browning MUD 8, City of Willis 6 Pin Oak, City of Willis 7, City of Montgomery 4). New sampling site is City of Conroe 24 and potentially Corinthian Point MUD 2 and Point Aquarius MUD. Several wells have been sampled twice using a (Stanley Lake MUD 4, City of Panorama, April Sounds Country To date, 8 wells have been sampled for a full suite of analytes reduced suite of constituents.

### LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Resolution No. 15-011

### RESOLUTION APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVE TO GRP CONTRACT REVIEW COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the San Jacinto River Authority (the "Authority") has heretofore entered into a Contract for Groundwater Reduction Planning, Alternative Water Supply, and Related Goods and Services ("GRP Contract") with each of approximately eighty Large Volume Groundwater Users; and

WHEREAS, the GRP Contract provides that the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (the "District") has the right to appoint one person to the Review Committee to be constituted under the terms and conditions of Article II thereof; and

WHEREAS, such person shall be appointed by the District to represent Large Volume Groundwater Users that are water supply corporations, investor owned utilities, or other private entities; and

WHEREAS, the District deems it appropriate at this time to exercise its right to so appoint a person to the Review Committee; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

- 1. That the facts and recitations set forth in the preamble of this resolution are hereby, adopted, ratified, and confirmed.
- 2. That, as of the date hereof, **Richard Wagner**, whose address is **10242 HOLLY GROVE LANE**, **Conroe**, **Texas 77304**, is qualified to be appointed to the Review Committee by the District under the terms and provisions of the GRP Contract.
  - 3. That **RICHARD WAGNER** is hereby appointed to the Review Committee by the District.
- 4. That the General Manager of the District is hereby authorized and directed to deliver or cause to be delivered a certified copy of this resolution to the Authority.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 8th day of December, 2015.

LONE STAR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By:

Richard J. Tramm, Board President

ATTEST:

Rick Moffatt, Board Secretary

### Resolution No. 15-011

My name is Richard Wagner. I was born in Baytown, TX and attended Sam Houston State University. I have lived in Montgomery County for over 30 years. I am married and have 4 grown children. I was the water and wastewater superintendent for the City of LaPorte and the public works director for the City of Tomball. I hold a class A water license. I have owned water systems in Montgomery County for 30 years.