

Item 6c | Legislative Update | February 2020

The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) has formed three committees to work on issues identified following the 86th Legislative Session. These committees will work during the Interim to produce white papers addressing the following topics:

- Joint Planning
- Brackish Groundwater
- Produced Water

The General Manager was assigned to the Joint Planning Committee. The committee has had an organizational conference call asking for detailed follow up information to be submitted by March 11, 2020.

The General Manager remains on the TAGD Legislative Subcommittee for the remainder of 2020.

Senate Interim Charges have been published. Joint Charge for Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee and Water and Rural Affairs Committee affecting groundwater is:

Groundwater Regulatory Framework: Study the state's groundwater regulatory framework and make recommendations to improve groundwater regulation, management, and permitting.

The Senate Committee on Water & Rural Affairs met jointly with the Senate Natural Resources Committee to hear invited testimony on produced water and the above stated charge. The vast majority of the meeting dealt with produced water. Leah Martinsson, Executive Director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, gave invited testimony regarding contested cases, GCD litigation, and the issuing of permits.

Speaker Bonnen recently released the House Interim Charges. The charges related to the House Natural Resources Committee are in a separate folder within the File Browser for your review.

FY20 Legislative Subcommittee Designations

This document was created by TAGD's Vice President Amber Blount, President Zach Holland and Executive Director Leah Martinsson to define TAGD's FY20 initial legislative subcommittee structures. This document is intended for use by TAGD's Legislative Committee, and defines each subcommittee's scope and objective. Each subcommittee will be asked to propose a timeline to complete subcommittee work.

Subcommittee One

Title: Joint Planning

Scope: GMA joint planning process and DFC achievement by GCDs

Objectives: (1) To consider the functioning of the GMA joint planning process, identify opportunities improve the joint planning process, and prepare a brief white paper that summarizes the overall functioning of the GMA joint planning process and makes recommendations for possible improvements; (2) to review what GCDs are doing to monitor achievement of DFCs.

Interim Charge Reference:

- House Committee on Natural Resources - Charge 3
- Senate Water and Rural Affairs (joint with Natural Resources and Economic Development)– Groundwater Regulatory Framework

Subcommittee Two

Title: Produced Water

Scope: Recycling and reuse strategies for produced water as it relates to groundwater management

Objective: (1) To identify parameters that would allow for a TAGD statement of support, or other appropriate means of supporting, the development of produced water as a potential future water supply; and (2) to monitor discussions on the potential use of produced water for potential implications on groundwater management by GCDs.

Interim Charges:

- House Ways and Means Charge 4 (Joint with House Committee on Energy Resources)
- Senate Water and Rural Affairs (joint with Natural Resources and Economic Development)– Future Water Supply

Subcommittee Three

Title: Brackish Groundwater

Scope: Brackish groundwater development and Brackish Groundwater Production Zone-specific rules

Objective: (1) to investigate and prepare a report on the status of brackish groundwater development within BGPZs and the adoption of BGPZ-specific rules by GCDs under HB 722;



and (2) to consider development of model brackish groundwater rules that meet the requirements of HB 722 for use as a resource by GCDs.

Interim Charge:

- House Natural Resources – Charge 1 (HB 722)
- Senate Water and Rural Affairs (joint with Natural Resources and Economic Development) – Future Water Supply