

### **Item 5 – Update of Legislative Efforts**

Within the last week, the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) has formed five legislative subcommittees to address the Interim charges for the House Natural Resources Committee (HNRC) and the Senate Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs Committee (SAWRC). TAGD members who signed up to be members of the full Legislative Committee were asked to be a member of any or all of the following subcommittees:

- Similar Rules
- Permitting
- Attorney's Fees
- Water Markets
- Water Data & Science

I was assigned and will serve as a voting member of the following two committees:

- Permitting
- Attorney's Fees

I will serve as an interested party on the other three committees monitoring and participating in those conference calls

TAGD President, Dirk Aaron, and Legislative Committee Chair, Amy Blount, asked me to serve as the Chair of the Permitting Subcommittee. I agreed to do so. The subcommittee will be addressing a wide variety of permitting issues including:

- Permit issuance in an efficient and timely manner
- Export permits
- Moratoriums on permit issuance
- Use of CCN by public water utilities during the permitting process

The subcommittees are charged with creating white papers addressing the assigned topics for presentation to the entire Legislative Committee. Work has begun well ahead of any upcoming Interim committee meetings.

I sent Heather Harward several copies of the BVGCD 2017 Annual Report for distribution at the Capitol. Heather left copies in Rep. Kacal, Rep. Raney, and Chairman Larson offices. She was able to talk to Kacal's Chief of Staff and confirmed that Rep. Kacal and his legislative aide will be attending the "Rethinking Texas Water" conference in College Station, Texas in April.

Copies of the Annual Report were also left with the staff in Sen. Schwertner and Chairman Perry offices. Rusty Smith, Chairman Perry's Committee director, indicated bills filed concerning water during the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session that failed to pass will be filed in the 86<sup>th</sup> Session. This would include several topics addressing permits and attorney's fees.