

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
November 13, 2006 in Belton, TX

Minutes

The Groundwater Management Area 8 consisting of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District (GCD), Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (UWCD), Fox Crossing Water District (WD), Middle Trinity GCD, Post Oak Savannah GCD, and Saratoga UWCD held a meeting on Monday, November 13, 2006 in Belton, TX at the Central Texas Council of Governments Building, located at 2180 N. Main Street, Belton, Texas.

Groundwater District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Absent

Clearwater UWCD: Horace Grace

Fox Crossing WD: Sam Beaumont

Middle Trinity GCD: Joe B. Cooper

Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook

Saratoga UWCD: Bob Wright

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Horace Grace, Board President of Clearwater UWCD who acted as chairperson for the meeting.

1. *Welcome and introductions.*

Mr. Grace welcomed all in attendance and called for introductions. Gary Westbrook gave an overview of the GMA 8 planning process. Mr. Westbrook also led the group in a prayer.

2. *Public Comments.*

No public comments were made.

3. *Approve minutes of the September 20, 2006 GMA meeting.*

Joe Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2006 GMA 8 meeting, seconded by Bob Wright. The Committee approved the motion, 5-0. Central Texas GCD was absent.

4. *Discuss and take appropriate action on proposed interlocal agreement.*

Mr. Grace discussed briefly the reason that GMA 8 may want to adopt an interlocal agreement. He called for comments on the document. Mr. Cooper said that the proposed agreement received legal scrutiny from several GCDs. Mr. Beaumont asked for clarification on what would happen if a District is not able to fund additional GMA studies or costs beyond the previously discussed amount. Randy Williams, TCB Inc., said that the proposed study and costs would enable the GMA to meet the statutory requirements. Discussion also occurred on what would happen if a new GCD was formed in the next legislative session. Mr. Westbrook stated that the GMA 8 must readopt or edit the desired future conditions every five years. If a new GCD were established, they would be welcomed into the process and the interlocal agreement could be amended.

Bob Wright read a letter addressed to the member Districts of GMA 8. The letter stated that the Saratoga UWCD did not see a need for an interlocal agreement and that based on legal advisement the District would not sign an interlocal agreement. The letter also said that Saratoga will continue to participate in the GMA process and that they would continue to finance at the previously agreed upon amount. Member GCDs discussed the interlocal agreement. Mr. Westbrook encouraged Saratoga to look at the interlocal agreement and see if there was a way to make it acceptable to their Board and he reminded the District that the agreement would expire after 10 months.

Lee Hoffpaur, a Director for Saratoga, asked if there would be additional administrative costs for each district. Mr. Grace said that the billing for each district would only be approximately \$2,600 with no additional administrative charge. The contractor, TCB, may propose additional studies that the GMA can decide to fund in the future.

Mr. Westbrook made a motion to table the proposed interlocal agreement to give Saratoga UWCD a chance to find changes that would be acceptable for their District, seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion carried 4-1; Mr. Beaumont opposed the motion.

5. *Discuss and take appropriate action regarding the appointment of an administrator for GMA 8.*

Cheryl Maxwell, General Manager for Clearwater UWCD, explained that in order to have a contract for technical services with TCB, GMA 8 needed to make a decision regarding administration of the contract. Mrs. Maxwell said that a single district could be appointed as administrator or all districts could execute the contract. Discussion occurred on appointing an administrator.

Mr. Beaumont made a motion to authorize Clearwater UWCD to select a person(s) to act as an administrator for GMA 8, seconded by Mr. Cooper.

Discussion occurred on the motion and whether or not the word “contract” should be added before the word administrator. Andrew Donnelly, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), suggested that the word “facilitator” also be used to define the administrator.

Mr. Beaumont restated his motion to authorize Clearwater UWCD to select a person(s) to act as a contract administrator at the direction of the GMA 8 Board. Mr. Cooper continued to second the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

6. *Discuss and take appropriate action on issues relating to the development of Desired Future Conditions (DFC) for the major and minor aquifers within the GMA 8 boundary to include the following:*

- a. Update from TCB on progress of study and revised schedule of work;

Randy Williams, TCB, stated that the initial assignments for gathering the data for determining the desired future conditions were sent out to the districts. He gave some follow up instructions for how to query the TWDB Groundwater Database for Task 3. The instructions included a pictorial step by step guide on how to use the database. After the steps in the guide have been completed, TCB will arrange a conference call to give further direction for those who are working on this assignment.

- b. Update on status of district participation;

The Board was advised that all six districts had agreed to participate in the study.

c. GMA 8 web site;

Karl Hamson, a computer analyst hired by Clearwater UWCD, gave an overview of the GMA 8 website which he developed. Mr. Hamson showed how to log into www.gma8.org and how to load and download files. Each district has been given a category (folder) in the file exchange to upload documents. Mr. Hamson proposed a message board for the website; however, the Board members explained that a message board should not be developed because it could violate the Texas Open Meetings Act. A public forum for the public to submit comments to GMA 8 could be developed without violating the Texas Open Meetings Act as long as Board members do not discuss the comments outside of a published meeting. GMA 8 members can be contacted through the "contact us." Board members can also submit stories or articles to the website to publish for the public. Task assignments were briefly discussed. TCB will replace the Task 1 database on the website.

d. Billing issues;

Cheryl Maxwell explained that Clearwater UWCD as the fiscal agent for GMA 8 will send out an invoice for each district's equal share in the GMA 8 study. Clearwater UWCD will then pay TCB once billing is received.

e. Contract with TCB;

Randy Williams said that a contract will be prepared for the study with Clearwater UWCD serving as the fiscal agent and administrator.

7. *Discuss agenda items for next meeting.*

The following agenda items for the next meeting were suggested: an estimate of the administrative cost that Clearwater UWCD will incur as administrator; the proposed interlocal agreement; and update on desired future conditions development for major or minor aquifers.

8. *Set date, time and place of next meeting.*

Discussion on the location and date of the next meeting occurred. It was decided that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at 10 am in Stephenville, TX hosted by Middle Trinity GCD.

9. *Closing Comments.*

An individual from Lamar County wanted information on forming a new GCD. Mr. Donnelly, TWDB, recommended getting the DFCs to TWDB as early as possible for the GAM (groundwater availability model) runs.

10. *Adjourn.*

Mr. Grace adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

(A tape recording of this meeting is available upon request.)

The GMA 8 Board unanimously approved the minutes on this _____ day of _____, 2007.