

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
March 16, 2009 in Bellmead, TX

Minutes

The Groundwater Management Area 8 consisting of the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District, Fox Crossing Water District, McLennan County Groundwater Conservation District, Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Northern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District, Saratoga Underground Water Conservation District, Tablerock Groundwater Conservation District, and Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District held a meeting on Monday, March 16, 2009 in the City of Bellmead City Council Room, located at 3015 Bellmead Drive, Bellmead, Texas.

Groundwater District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Clyde Waters
Clearwater UWCD: Horace Grace
Fox Crossing WD: Sam Beaumont
McLennan Co. GCD: Rodney Kroll
Middle Trinity GCD: Joe Cooper

Northern Trinity GCD: **Absent**
Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook
Saratoga UWCD: Randy McGuire
Tablerock GCD: David Freeman
Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey

1. Invocation

Gary Westbrook gave the invocation

2. Call meeting to order and establish quorum.

The Groundwater Management Area 8 (GMA 8) meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. at the City Council Room in Bellmead, TX. Horace Grace called roll and established that a quorum was present. Nine Districts were present at the time of roll call.

3. Welcome and introductions.

Horace Grace asked members of the audience to introduce themselves. Joe Cooper gave a brief summary of the GMA creation through Senate Bill 1763, the GMA process, the development of desired future conditions (DFC) utilization to develop managed available groundwater (MAG) figures. Gary Westbrook reported on a meeting he had with Senator Averitt. Horace Grace noted that the GMA 8 process is ongoing and adjustments can be made at any time.

4. Public Comments.

There was no public comment.

5. Approve minutes of September 17, 2008 GMA 8 meeting.

Joe Cooper moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2008 GMA 8 meeting, seconded by Mike Massey. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0.

6. *Texas Water Development Board presentation on joint planning process and petition process.*

Robert Bradley distributed a handout and gave a presentation on the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) joint planning and petition process. He opened the presentation with a brief history of the TWDB in relation to Regional Water Plans (RWP) and GMAs and DFCs. He continued that once the groundwater conservation districts (GCD) within a GMA adopt a DFC for an aquifer and submit the DFC to the TWDB, the TWDB calculates estimates of managed available groundwater (MAG) for each GCD within the GMA.

Mr. David Nabors inquired how an area would be able to regulate groundwater use in a county without a GCD and the significance, if any, of the RWP for that same county. Robert Bradley, Horace Grace, and Gary Westbrook responded jointly that there were no direct regulations, however, TWDB funding for projects in areas without a recommended water management strategy would be considered as not consistent with the approved regional water plan, the GCD is the regulatory manager for the county's groundwater resources, and the GCD is the only mechanism by which to implement the MAGs.

7. *Summary of GMA8 progress and status of pending Managed Available Groundwater figures.*

Horace Grace commented that most of this information had already been covered in previous items. He asked Randy Williams to use this time to give a brief explanation of an aquifer's saturated thickness. Randy Williams, AECOM, explained that the saturated thickness is the measurement by distance between the water table and bottom of the aquifer. Mr. Williams also explained various geographical characteristics of an aquifer such as the confined and unconfined portion of an aquifer and how those characteristics affect the potential drawdown of the saturated thickness.

Mr. Nabors inquired on what to do once the DFC is exceeded within the District. Horace Grace responded that the District must limit production and discontinue issuing new permits until the aquifer has recharged above the DFC. Mr. Nabors asked about how to provide for the water needs of the District if they exceed what is permissible by the DFC. Gary Westbrook noted that the enabling legislation for the District should contain direction for responding to such a situation. He also noted that there might be a potential for interlocal agreements between GCDs and then reiterated Mr. Grace's comments on promoting conservation within the District. Joe Cooper added that depending on the geographic location of the GCD, the DFCs look very different. He illustrated that some GCDs find themselves more in the position of managed depletion rather than preservation.

8. *Discussion and possible action to rescind desired future conditions for the Blossom and Nacatoch aquifers adopted at the December 17, 2007 GMA8 meeting.*

Randy Williams explained that the MAG figures from TWDB have come back considerably different than what GMA8 projected when setting the DFCs for the Blossom and Nacatoch aquifers. He stated he has conferred with members of TWDB and proposes rescinding the DFCs for these two aquifers. The proposed revised DFCs would more closely reflect what is currently published in the Regional Water Plan (RWP).

9. *Presentation of revised desired future conditions for the Blossom and Nacatoch aquifers.*

Randy Williams presented the proposed revised DFCs for the Blossom and Nacatoch aquifers to the Board. He noted that the DFCs would need to be defined by the confined and unconfined portions of each aquifer.

10. Public hearing and possible action to adopt revised desired future conditions for the Blossom and Nacatoch aquifers.

Horace Grace clarified that the Board had entered a public hearing at 12:08 p.m. and explained the purpose of the public hearing.

Mr. David Nabors expressed that Delta County is considering the creation of a GCD and questioned whether the creation of a GCD would help them in the planning process. He stated that Delta County is trying to understand the DFC but would also like to protect its residents in the process of protecting its resources.

Joe Cooper responded that Mr. Nabors and others in Delta County may want to study Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code and the provisions for historic use and "Grandfather" existing well use.

Mr. Wendel Davis, Red River Water Supply Corporation, commented that they are currently utilizing more groundwater resources than is represented in the Regional Water Plan and have not seen the drawdown as projected by the TWDB.

Gary Westbrook asked if the Red River Water Supply Corporation would be willing to share the water level readings they take on their wells with GMA 8 and or TWDB to compare information and utilize the actual reading to refine the GAM model. Mr. Davis responded that Red River Water Supply Corporation would be glad to share that information.

Gary Westbrook reassured Mr. Davis that these DFCs may be adjusted by GMA8 at any time and are required to be reviewed every five years. He noted that due to current time constraints GMA8 would prefer to rescind these DFCs but expressed direct interest to utilize any further information that could be provided to help refine these figures to meet actual planning needs.

Horace Grace closed the public hearing at 12:25 p.m.

Item # 8.

Sam Beaumont moved to rescind the desired future conditions for the Blossom and Nacatoch aquifers, seconded by David Freeman. The motion carried, 9-0.

Item # 10.

Joe Cooper moved to adopt the revised desired future conditions for the Blossom and Nacatoch aquifers and submit these to the Texas Water Development Board, seconded by Gary Westbrook. The motion carried, 9-0.

11. Discussion and possible action on results of the Texas Water Development Board Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) simulation requests 08-64 and 08-66 for the Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifers.

Mike Massey moved to table this item until the next board meeting, seconded by Gary Westbrook. The motion carried, 9-0.

12. Discussion of funding needed to continue and support joint planning process.

Cheryl Maxwell, Clearwater UWCD, informed the Committee that \$3,251.03 is needed to cover current outstanding invoices from TCB/AECOM.

Mike Massey inquired of the status of the previous commitment from Northern Trinity GCD of \$3,000. Cheryl Maxwell responded that no funding had been received to date. Rodney Kroll, McLennan County GCD, noted that if they survive the possible dissolution of their District, they may be able to contribute another \$500. Gary Westbrook, Joe Cooper, and Horace Grace committed to contribute an additional \$1,000 from each of their respective districts. Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD, commented that he would consult with his Board about making an additional contribution of \$750.

Fox Crossing, Saratoga, and Tablerock GCDs all responded that with no revenue stream available to them, no contributions could be committed by their districts.

Clyde Waters, Central Texas GCD Representative, commented that he would speak with Richard Bowers, General Manager, about a \$1,000 contribution.

13. *Committee member comments.*

No comments were made.

14. *Discuss agenda items for next meeting*

No future agenda items were determined at this time.

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

Next meeting to be determined.

16. *Closing comments.*

Gary Westbrook extended his gratitude to the City of Bellmead for hosting the GMA 8 meeting and thanked the public for their interest and involvement.

Joe Cooper thanked Cheryl Maxwell for all of her diligence in functioning as the Administrative Officer for GMA 8.

Horace Grace thanked Cheryl Maxwell and Randy Williams for all of their support and hard work for GMA 8.

Cheryl Maxwell announced that there was an upcoming Region G Meeting on April 15, 2009.

17. *Adjourn.*

Meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

The GMA 8 Committee unanimously approved the minutes on this _____ day of February, 2010..