

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
On February 21, 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 Tuesday, February 21, 2006 in Belton, TX at the Clearwater UWCD Conference Room, Building A of the Bell County Courthouse Annex, located at 550 E. 2nd Avenue.

Groundwater Districts:

Central Texas GCD: John Simmons

Fox Crossing WD: Sam Beaumont, Jerry Priddy

Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook

Middle Trinity GCD: Joe B. Cooper

Saratoga GCD: T. P. Wingo, R.A. Wright, Lee Hoffpauir

Clearwater UWCD: Horace Grace, Wallace Biskup,
Judy Parker, Leland Gersbach, Cheryl Maxwell,
and Chris Ramser

Others Present:

Robert Bradley, Texas Water Development
Board (TWDB)

Randy Williams, Turner Collie & Braden,
Inc.(TCB)

Tom Madden, Schwertner Farms

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Horace Grace, Board President of Clearwater UWCD. Mr. Grace gave an invocation.

1. Welcome and introductions.

Mr. Grace welcomed all in attendance and called for introductions. Mr. Grace gave a brief explanation of how joint groundwater planning was approved in the 79th legislative session. He said that the Groundwater Management Area 8 would be responsible for establishing the desired future conditions of all aquifers within the region. Robert Bradley, TWDB, elaborated on the GMA process. Several comments were made about the difficulty the GMA will have in adopting desired future conditions for an area of 46 counties with just six confirmed Groundwater Districts. The group also talked about conservation of water resources and increased water demand.

2. Public Comments.

No public comments were made.

3. Establish voting members for each District in GMA 8.

Mr. Grace asked whether the Groundwater Districts had formally established voting members for the GMA 8 Board. The voting members of the Districts were recorded as follows: Saratoga UWCD, Lee Hoffpauir; Middle Trinity GCD, Joe Cooper; Post Oak Savannah GCD, Gary Westbrook; Central Texas GCD, John Simmons; Fox Crossing Water District, Sam Beaumont; and Clearwater UWCD, Horace Grace. Districts were encouraged to establish alternates and to ensure the voting members are recorded by board resolution or by motion in the minutes of their District board meeting.

4. *Approve minutes of the November 15, 2005 GMA meeting.*

The minutes of the last meeting were distributed to the Groundwater Districts. Two corrections were requested that pertained to the date of this meeting. Under Items 6 and 7, the minutes should have read February 1 and 21, 2006 rather than 2005.

Joe Copper made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2005 GMA meeting with the stated corrections, seconded by Gary Westbrook. The Board unanimously approved the motion, 6-0.

5. *Elect Board officers.*

Mr. Westbrook made a suggestion to follow the example of GMA 12 by having the host District responsible for the administrative duties and minutes of that meeting. The host would also preside over the meeting. The task of hosting the meeting would be rotated among the Districts that are able to handle it. Mr. Bradley gave an update on how other GMAs are handling the process. Some have begun working on interlocal agreements, but this task has bogged some of them down. No GMA has elected officers. The representatives of GMA 8 favored following the approach of rotating the chair, host, and secretary duties among the Districts, rather than electing officers.

6. *Designate administrative agent for the GMA 8 board.*

It was determined that the host District would be responsible for compiling the minutes, agendas, and other documents for each meeting and circulating it among the Districts for comment. Each District should keep copies of minutes, agendas, etc. for their own records. Mr. Westbrook explained that each District would still have to post the agenda of each meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. It was suggested that a generic posting of the meeting with the heading of Groundwater Management Area 8 should be posted, rather than a heading of the individual Groundwater District. The signature on the bottom of the agenda should be changed to the appropriate person of the individual District.

7. *Review and discuss options for establishing procedural rules and take appropriate action.*

The GMA representatives discussed interlocal agreements and concurred that one was not needed at this point in time. Procedural rules for conducting meetings and voting on regular agenda items were discussed. The statute requires a quorum of 2/3 of all Groundwater Districts and an affirmative vote of 2/3 of those present to set the desired future conditions.

Mr. Westbrook made a motion for the GMA 8 to follow a 2/3 majority vote on all action items and to set a quorum of 2/3 of all Groundwater Districts to conduct business and to otherwise follow Robert's Rules of Order and appropriate statutes to conduct business, seconded by Mr. Cooper. The board unanimously approved the motion, 6-0.

8. *Discuss methods for determining desired future conditions for the major and minor aquifers within the GMA 8 boundary.*

Robert Bradley explained that the desired future conditions (DFC) must be determined by year 2010. The DFC is a quantifiable condition of groundwater resources, such as water levels, water quality, spring or volumes at a specified time or times in the future or into perpetuity. The conditions must be physically possible. This must be determined for each aquifer, subdivision of an aquifer, geologic

strata or geographic area. After the GMA determines the DFC, the TWDB will calculate or verify the managed available groundwater figure based on the DFC statement.

Mr. Grace suggested having a no-bid proposal for an engineering firm to make suggestions for pulling data together from the Regional Water Plans to help generate the DFC statements. Some concerns were voiced over adopting DFC's for counties that do not have a Groundwater District. The managed available groundwater figure must be put into future Regional Water Plans, but there would be no enforcement action by the committee. Randy Williams gave some advice for putting out a Request for Qualification or Proposal. Mr. Grace suggested putting out a generalized scope of work and having presentations at the next GMA meeting. The generalized scope of work could include the option of hiring a firm or just suggesting how the GMA could calculate the DFC based on the TWDB Groundwater Availability Model runs. Mr. Westbrook suggested the Districts think about how they want to express the DFCs. Mr. Cooper stated that he would support a no-cost RFP for a method to determine the DFC.

John Simmons expressed some concern over his Board having to pay for part of a study that encompasses 46 counties when only 8 of the counties will be asked to pay the costs. The RFP would only give suggestions on how the GMA could generate the DFC and not be a bidding contract for work. The Districts also agreed to think about and generate a philosophy for managing the aquifers in their boundary.

9. *Discuss agenda items for next meeting.*

The following were suggested as agenda items for the next GMA meeting: a presentation on the transmissivity and migration of water moving underground between counties by Randy Williams; responses to a generalized scope of work or RFP; and hear statements or philosophies on how each District would like to manage the aquifers within their District. Mr. Simmons recommended inviting county judges or commissioners of the counties without a groundwater district. The group agreed to send out a no-bid scope of work on how to generate the DFC. Clearwater UWCD will develop a scope of work/RFP and circulate it among the GMA 8 board members for comment.

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

Mr. Cooper offered to have Middle Trinity GCD host the next GMA meeting in Stephenville, TX. The location will be determined later. The date will be May 23, 2006 and the time was set at 10 am.

11. *Closing Comments*

Mr. Cooper thanked Clearwater UWCD for hosting the first two meetings.

12. *Adjourn*

Horace Grace adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

The GMA 8 Board unanimously approved the minutes on this ____ day of _____, 2006.

(A compact disc of this meeting is available upon request.)