

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
April 12, 2007 in Lampasas, 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 Thursday, April 12, 2007 in the Lampasas County Annex Conference Room, located at 409 S. Pecan Street, Lampasas, TX.

Groundwater District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Richard Bowers

Middle Trinity GCD: Joe B. Cooper

Clearwater UWCD: Horace Grace

Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook

Fox Crossing WD: Jerry Priddy

Saratoga UWCD: Dave Hamilton

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Dave Hamilton, Chairman of the Saratoga UWCD who presided over the meeting.

1. *Welcome and introductions.*

Mr. Hamilton welcomed all in attendance and led the group in the pledge of allegiance. Gary Westbrook led the group in prayer. Attendance was taken and introductions were made.

2. *Public Comments.*

No public comments were made.

3. *Approve minutes of the February 8, 2007 GMA meeting.*

Richard Bowers made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2007 GMA 8 meeting, seconded by Horace Grace. The Committee approved the motion, 6-0.

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

The Committee discussed the proposed interlocal agreement and noted a possible discrepancy in Sections 3.04 and 4.05 with regard to voting, whether it be by majority vote or 2/3 vote. Previous action the Committee took in February 2006 with regard to voting was also discussed. Mr. Hamilton voiced concerns that the Saratoga UWCD previously expressed regarding the interlocal agreement relating to their limited budget and reaffirmed that they felt such an agreement was not necessary. Mr. Grace stated that each of the member districts had provided the agreed upon funds to contract with TCB, Inc. to develop the desired future conditions and that if additional funds were needed it would have to be approved by each of the member boards. No changes were recommended to the proposed interlocal agreement.

Mr. Grace made a motion to approve the interlocal agreement, seconded by Mr. Westbrook. The motion carried 5-1; Mr. Hamilton opposed the motion.

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

- a. Discussion and possible action on the submittal of a Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) simulation request pursuant to the development of a DFC for the Northern Edwards aquifer.

Randy Williams, TCB, Inc. referred to a handout for the Northern Edwards aquifer GAM simulation request to TWDB. This handout summarized issues for the Committee to consider in determining what pumping values to use for the Northern Edwards aquifer in Travis and Williamson Counties. Mr. Williams explained that these two counties, along with Bell County, are the only counties in GMA 8 that have a portion of the Edwards aquifer. Of these, only Bell County has a GCD—Clearwater. Mr. Williams explained that Clearwater has done extensive studies to determine availability in the Edwards. He summarized pumping assumptions that were made in Clearwater’s GAM runs for Williamson and Travis Counties and explained that the pumping assumptions that were made are higher than the Regional Water Planning Group data. He stated that these pumping assumptions are closer to the TWDB Groundwater Use Estimates than the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) values. Mr. Williams explained that if different assumptions are now made, i.e. use the RWPG data, it will affect Clearwater’s availability figures and will not be as accurate. Mr. Williams explained he needed direction from the Committee as to which figures to use for Travis and Williamson Counties in the GAM submittal to TWDB. The Committee discussed the importance of using the most accurate data that was available.

Mr. Westbrook made a motion directing TCB to use the most accurate and recent data for Travis and Williamson Counties in the Edwards GAM simulation request, seconded by Mr. Cooper. The motion carried 6-0.

The Committee took a brief recess at 10:42 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

- b. Briefing from TCB, Inc. regarding the TWDB report on the potential for groundwater use by the oil and gas industry in the Barnett Shale development and use of the report information in the GAM simulation request for the Northern Trinity aquifer submitted to TWDB.

Randy Williams explained he was following up on discussions held at the previous GMA 8 meeting in February when issues regarding the use of Trinity water for fracturing the Barnett Shale for natural gas production were brought up. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation highlighting specifics of the TWDB report on the use of groundwater in the Trinity aquifer due to urban growth and Barnett Shale development. Mr. Williams also distributed the Executive Summary from this report.

Mr. Williams distributed a summary of the specifications that were submitted to the TWDB for the GAM run for the Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifer. He explained that for the unprotected counties, the policy to use the RWPG availability data was used; for the unprotected counties affected by the Barnett Shale development, medium expansion of the Barnett Shale was assumed with production simulated at the higher predictive demand identified in the TWDB report. This included the following counties: Bosque, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Somervell, and Wise.

It was pointed out that Tarrant County was not included in this group and that some of the figures submitted for these counties were not reflecting the higher predictive demand identified in the TWDB

report regarding the Barnett Shale. Mr. Williams noted these errors and stated he would correct these and amend the GAM request to the TWDB. He explained that for the counties represented by a GCD, only Milam County was using the RWPG data; the other counties with a GCD (Bell, Burnet, Comanche, Erath, Lampasas, and Mills) were requesting specific values that were different from the RWPG data. The need for public hearings, public participation, and requirements for public posting of meetings were also discussed.

- c. Briefing on the updated timeline and process outline of action items required for development of the DFCs of the aquifers in GMA 8.

Mr. Williams distributed a revised project schedule. He stated that he would follow up on the Trinity/Woodbine submittal and amend it as discussed—a June 15th completion date is still anticipated. Once the GAM results are received from TWDB, the Committee will need to determine if additional simulations are needed. He stated he would collect information to submit the GAM specifications for the Northern Edwards GAM run as well. Mr. Williams stated that submittal of the minor aquifer DFCs for consideration and verification by TWDB had been delayed to allow CTGCD to confirm the proposed methodology. Confirmation has been received so this is ready for submittal to TWDB. A two to three month turnaround from TWDB is anticipated.

Mr. Williams stated that procedurally, once the Committee is satisfied with the GAM results for the Northern Trinity/Woodbine and the Northern Edwards and no additional simulations are needed, he will prepare the DFCs for submittal to the TWDB to prepare the MAGs. Upon receipt of the MAGs, the Committee may wish to consider holding public hearings. Mr. Williams stated the timeline proposes to complete everything by November for final submittal to TWDB in December.

6. *Discuss agenda items for next meeting.*

The following items are proposed for the next meeting agenda: results of GAM run for the Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifer; results of GAM run for the Northern Edwards aquifer; TWDB MAG determination for the minor aquifers. It was determined that a public hearing would not be held at the next meeting, but at the following meeting. McLennan County representatives (Scooter Radcliffe/City of Bellmead and Dennis Woodard/City of Hewitt) offered to host the public hearing. Mr. Westbrook suggested posting all information on the GMA 8 website to make it easily available to the public.

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

The next meeting was set for Thursday, June 28, 2007 at 10 a.m. in Goldthwaite, TX hosted by Fox Crossing WD.

8. *Closing Comments.*

No comments were made.

9. *Adjourn.*

Mr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

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

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

Sign-In Sheet for April 12, 2007 GMA 8 Meeting

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Group/Organization</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dave Hamilton | Saratoga UWCD |
| T. P. Wingo | Saratoga UWCD |
| R. A. Wright | Saratoga UWCD |
| Lee Hoffpauer | Saratoga UWCD |
| Jerry Priddy | Fox Crossing WD |
| Sam Beaumont | Fox Crossing WD |
| Horace Grace | Clearwater UWCD |
| Judy Parker | Clearwater UWCD |
| Cheryl Maxwell | Clearwater UWCD |
| Richard Bowers | Central Texas GCD |
| John Simmons | Central Texas GCD |
| Gary Westbrook | Post Oak Savannah GCD |
| Joe B. Cooper | Middle Trinity GCD |
| Scooter Radcliffe | City of Bellmead |
| Dennis Woodard | City of Hewitt |
| David Nabors | Region D WPG/Lamar County |
| Hughbert Collier | Collier Consulting |
| Randy Williams | TCB, Inc. |
| Robert Bradley | TWDB |