

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
January 21, 2014 in Cleburne, TX

Minutes

The Groundwater Management Area 8 district representatives (referred to herein collectively as “the Committee” for easy reference), which consists of representatives from the Central Texas Groundwater Conservation District, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District, Fox Crossing Water District, Middle Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, North Texas Groundwater Conservation District, Northern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District, Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District, Red River Groundwater Conservation District, Saratoga Underground Water Conservation District, Southern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, and Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (GCD), held a *Joint Planning meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 21, 2014*, in the Cleburne Conference Center in Cleburne, Texas.

Groundwater District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Charles Shell
Clearwater UWCD: Judy Parker
Fox Crossing WD: None
Middle Trinity GCD: Joe Cooper
North Texas GCD: Eddy Daniel
Northern Trinity GCD: Craig Schkade

Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook
Prairielands GCD: Charles Beseda
Red River GCD: David Gattis
Saratoga UWCD: None
Southern Trinity GCD: Scooter Radcliff
Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey

1. Invocation

Eddy Daniel, North Texas GCD presided over the meeting and provided the invocation.

2. Call meeting to order and establish quorum.

The Groundwater Management Area 8 (GMA 8) meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM at the Cleburne Conference Center in Cleburne, TX. Mr. Daniel welcomed the new members, took roll and established that a quorum was present. 9 Districts were present at the time of roll call, with Fox Crossing WD, Red River GCD and Saratoga UWCD absent.

3. Welcome and introductions.

The members present introduced themselves. Mr. Daniel introduced Mr. Jerry Chapman, Mr. Drew Satterwhite and Mrs. Carmen Catterson who work with the North Texas GCD and Red River GCD. Mr. Daniel also introduced representatives from Lloyd Gosselink, Sledge Fancher, PLLC, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and the USGS. Mr. Daniel thanked all visitors for attending the meeting.

4. Public Comments.

No public comments were received.

5. Approve minutes of September 24, 2013 GMA 8 meeting.

The minutes were provided for review. No changes were proposed.

Charles Beseda, Prairielands GCD moved to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2013 GMA 8, seconded by Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD. The motion carried unanimously, 10-0.

6. Additional information/clarification on regional draw down concerns presented by MTGCD at the September 24, 2013 GMA 8 meeting

Joe Cooper, Middle Trinity GCD explained that at the previous meeting he provided information on Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) and felt recommending any changes was very premature. Mr. Cooper explained that he would like to comment on DFCs that are causing conflict. Mr. Cooper explained that the information provided were not McLennan County studies, but were predictive studies. He apologized if it caused any conflict due to his mislabeling the slides.

7. Southern Trinity GCD – Conservation Efforts, Scientific Investigations, and Modeling of Aquifer Conditions

Scooter Radcliff, Southern Trinity GCD explained that they have an all-volunteer Board and operates without taxes. Dr. Al Blair, the engineer for Southern Trinity GCD provided a presentation on their permitting and enforcement procedures.

8. Update and possible action on the Northern Trinity/Woodbine Aquifer GAM Overhaul Project and the development of proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs)

Bill Mullican provided an update on the GAM overhaul project. The project is currently on time and in budget. He explained that the project is being overseen by representatives from the four funding groundwater districts, as well as the TWDB. Last June the draft conceptual model was released for review and comment. A review of the comments was conducted after the previous GMA 8 meeting. The model has now largely been constructed and a calibrated simulation has been conducted. The model is now being refined with a historical pumping package and because of the size of the model some of the modeling scripts are being refined to be as efficient as possible. The draft model will be delivered on April 30th and the next meeting of Technical Advisory Group should be held immediately thereafter. The TWDB review of the model should occur by August 2014. Hopefully their approval will be secured.

Mr. Mullican also explained that the GAM overhaul contract was formed with the possibility of two predictive scenarios to help the GMA 8 understand how the DFCs will be revised. For this to happen, information must be provided to the contract management team by April 30th. Mr. Daniel clarified that the first scenario will be based on the existing Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) numbers.

David Gattis, Red River GCD arrived at 10:56 AM.

Mr. Mullican recommended that each District would be provided within the next month or so a list of data requested for consultants to review and provide as much information as is possible by April 30th to utilize in the one or two predictive scenarios. The first item provided would be historical information on a county by county basis. A second item for consideration is the total water use in the 2011 regional water plan and the ratio of surface to groundwater. Mr. Mullican recommended that each district take advantage of the opportunity being provided. Any further scenarios would need to be paid for by the requesting district.

Mr. Daniel explained that the project committee will put together a letter requesting specific information. The estimated date of delivery of the letter should be by mid-February.

The model will not differentiate between exempt and non-exempt use. The model will include all available groundwater, which will be separated by the districts. Mr. Daniel recommended that the districts provide a reasonable estimate of exempt use to make sure that the use is included in the model. Each district must determine their own amount of exempt use. The committee discussed different methodology for determining exempt use.

9. Update and possible action regarding the process for the development of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) including the consideration and possible approval of consulting services

Mr. Daniel explained that this item was included after discussion at the previous meeting of the process of developing new DFCs. The timeline was the result of meetings being scheduled on a quarterly basis. Mr. Mullican has provided an estimated cost of providing consulting services. The scope and cost estimate was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Daniel expressed that he did not see how the GMA 8 could handle the process without a consultant working for all of GMA 8. Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD asked how Mr. Mullican expected to receive payment for the process. Mr. Mullican replied that he could send out bills twice a year or annually. The total cost would be approximately \$96,000. The cost per district would be approximately \$3,500 per year. Mr. Massey requested that each member provide an expectation of participation. Upper Trinity GCD, Prairielands GCD, Northern Trinity GCD, North Texas GCD, Clearwater UWCD, Central Texas GCD and Post Oak Savannah all stated that their boards would consider and most likely assist with the funding. The other districts all agreed to take the matter before their boards to consider funding the consultant.

Mr. Mullican stated that the amount of hours outlined in the scope is most likely low, but the fee would remain as is suggested. Bill Purcell, Red River GCD stated that he had already discussed leveraging technology with his Board. For example, hosting meetings virtually, which could potentially save money and time. Charles Shell, Central Texas GCD asked when the first installment would be due. Mr. Mullican explained that he would most likely invoice in the middle of 2014 for the first installment.

10. Receive update on groundwater related legislation and other matters.

Robert Bradley, TWDB explained that Doug Shaw is now the TWDB agricultural and rural project manager. He also commented that exempt use information is being collected and will be provided back to the groundwater districts. In the event there are any questions, they may be addressed to Robert.Bradley@twdb.texas.gov. Larry French, TWDB also commented that the latest report for aquifers with DFCs is available as of January 21st. The TWDB is also nearly ready to conduct a meeting to begin the Brazos River Alluvium model. Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD commented that his district is working with INTERA to develop information on the Paleozoic aquifers in his district in order to develop a GAM.

Kristen Fancher, Sledge Fancher, PLLC provided an update to the legislature. She explained the Lieutenant Governor entered some interim charges. These include use brackish water, regulation of water supply, environmental permitting delays, and implementation of legislation including HB 4. Mrs. Fancher also explained that the Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) Groundwater Committee has several representatives in the GMA 8 area and is meeting twice a month to deal with the issues. These committees are working to develop legislation for the TWCA to consider and hopefully adopt and file the next session. Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD) has created subcommittees and is working to review the same issues the TWCA is considering.

11. Set date, time, and place of next meeting and discuss agenda items.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 22, 2014 at 10:00 AM at the Cleburne Conference Center. Agenda items will include an update on the GAM, the consultant contract. Mr. Daniel requested that each district present the consulting contract to their boards and then provide an update on their desire to participate to the North Texas GCD. Craig Schkade, Northern Trinity GCD requested that a participation resolution be provided at the next GMA 8 meeting. Discussion of total estimated recoverable storage, which is a subset of Task 2C-3.

12. Closing comments.

Mr. Daniel requested all visitors and GMA 8 committee members to sign in confirming they attended the meeting.

13. Adjourn.

The Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 AM.

The GMA 8 Committee unanimously approved the minutes on this 22nd day of April, 2014.

Carmen Catterom
Recording Secretary

Edy W. Duml
Chairman