

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
February 22, 2011 in Woodway, TX

Minutes

The Groundwater Management Area 8 consisting of 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, February 22, 2011*, in the City of Woodway City Hall in Woodway, Texas.

Groundwater District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Richard Bowers	Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook
Clearwater UWCD: Judy Parker	Prairielands GCD: Charles Beseda
Fox Crossing WD: Jed Garren	Red River GCD: Butch Henderson
Middle Trinity GCD: Joe Cooper	Saratoga UWCD: Randy McGuire
North Texas GCD: Eddy Daniel	Southern Trinity GCD: Rodney Kroll
Northern Trinity GCD: Russell Laughlin	Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey

1. *Invocation*

Mr. Joe Cooper, Middle Trinity GCD, presided over the meeting. Mr. Gary Westbrook, Post Oak Savannah GCD, gave the invocation.

2. *Call meeting to order and establish quorum.*

The Groundwater Management Area 8 (GMA 8) meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Woodway City Hall in Woodway, TX. Mr. Cooper welcomed the new members, took roll and established that a quorum was present. All twelve Districts were present at the time of roll call.

3. *Welcome and introductions.*

Mr. Cooper asked members of the audience to introduce themselves.

4. *Public Comments.*

There were no public comments. Mr. Westbrook thanked Ms. Maxwell, Clearwater UWCD, for the outstanding job she has done providing administrative support for GMA 8.

5. *Approve minutes of March 10, 2010 GMA 8 meeting.*

Mr. Richard Bowers, Central Texas GCD, moved to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2010 GMA 8 meeting, seconded by Mr. Charles Beseda, Prairielands, GCD. The motion carried unanimously, 12-0.

6. Discussion and possible action on draft MAG (Managed Available Groundwater) for the Nacatoch aquifer.

Mr. Bill Hutchison, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), stated that the draft MAG report for the Nacatoch aquifer was published in early January as a follow-up to the previous GMA 8 meeting. He stated that the model was run under five scenarios and presented pumping numbers and drawdowns associated with each scenario. In summary, the DFCs previously adopted are somewhat different than those based on the new groundwater availability models. He asked for input from the Committee as to which scenario was preferred and whether they wanted to modify the DFC based on this new information.

The Committee discussed this issue and the upcoming re-adoption of the DFCs and decided to move to Agenda Item 10.

10. Discuss timing of improvements to the Texas Water Development Board GAM (Groundwater Availability Model) for the Northern Trinity Aquifer in relation to the 5 year review of desired future condition statements.

Mr. Cooper stated that the TWDB interpretation of the timing of DFC re-adoption is five years from the adoption date, as opposed to re-adoption every five years after the 2010 due date, which would be 2015, 2020, etc. This would mean the DFCs adopted by GMA8 would be coming up for re-adoption as early as 2012, since some were adopted in 2007. The Northern Trinity Aquifer GAM will be undergoing improvements during the same time frame and will likely not be completed in time for GMA8 to utilize. Mr. Cooper noted that the Committee could readopt the current DFCs and that a public hearing is not required to readopt them. However, he requested input as to whether Committee members would prefer to hold a public hearing. Discussion ensued between the Committee members regarding this issue. Mr. Brian Sledge, attorney with Lloyd Gosselink, stated that for re-adoption of the DFCs all that is required is a public meeting. He noted that the current meeting would satisfy that requirement.

11. Discussion and possible action to re-adopt the current desired future conditions for the major and minor aquifers within GMA 8 to include some or all of the following: Edwards BFZ, Trinity, Blossom, Brazos River Alluvium, Ellenburger-San Saba, Hickory, Marble Falls, Nacatoch, and Woodbine.

Mr. Butch Henderson, Red River GCD, moved that the Committee re-adopt the existing DFCs, seconded by Mr. Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD. Mr. Henderson amended the motion to include re-adoption by resolution; amended motion was seconded by Mr. Massey. Discussion ensued regarding the wording of the resolution. Mr. Russell Laughlin, Northern Trinity GCD expressed concern regarding reference to initial adoption since his district was not existing at that time. The Committee concurred that the wording was acceptable. Mr. Cooper asked for public comments; there being none, the motion carried 12-0.

The Committee moved back to Agenda Item 6 regarding the draft MAG for the Nacatoch aquifer.

6. Discussion and possible action on draft MAG (Managed Available Groundwater) for the Nacatoch aquifer.

Mr. Hutchison stated that Scenario 1 is closest to the existing state water plan numbers and the current DFC. Mr. Hutchison explained the five scenarios in further detail. Discussion ensued among the Committee members regarding the various scenarios.

Mr. Eddy Daniel, North Texas GCD, moved to adopt Scenario 4, seconded by Mr. Rodney Kroll, Southern Trinity GCD; the motion carried 12-0.

7. Discuss revised MAG reports showing exempt well use estimates for the following aquifers: Trinity, Woodbine, Edwards BFZ, Brazos River Alluvium, Blossom, Ellenburger-San Saba, Marble Falls, and Hickory; and GAM Run 10-066 Trinity Aquifer in Burnet County (Central Texas GCD).

Mr. Cooper summarized the confusion that has surrounded the MAG and what it really means....whether it includes exempt well use. Mr. Bill Hutchison discussed the issues and changes surrounding the MAG and how it relates to exempt use. He advised the Committee that the new MAG figures do not include exempt well use. He explained the exempt well use estimates and addressed questions from the Committee. He stated the GCDs may submit their own estimates for exempt well use.

8. Discuss results of Burnet County Study—Trinity Aquifer Characterization and Groundwater Availability Assessment Burnet County—and possible revision of desired future condition statements and Managed Available Groundwater for Burnet County.

Mr. Richard Bowers, Central Texas GCD, shared the details of various studies they had conducted in the past, as well as the results of the Burnet County Study. He advised the Committee that he has requested another GAM run from TWDB and based upon the results, Central Texas GCD may wish to revise their DFCs in the future. The GAM run is anticipated to be completed within two months.

9. Discuss revised MAG report, GTA Aquifer Assessment 09-07 MAG, for the Trinity Aquifer in Comanche and Erath Counties and possible revision to Managed Available Groundwater for Comanche and Erath Counties.

Mr. Cooper explained concerns his District had with the Trinity GAM in his area. Revisions were made to the model and the GAM was re-run with new MAG numbers produced. Mr. Hutchison explained that the results have been incorporated in the latest MAG figures. No action was required on this item.

The Board moved to Agenda Item 12.

12. Discussion on funding to continue and support joint planning.

Mr. Cooper noted that Clearwater UWCD has provided much support to the joint planning process without compensation for their work. There was discussion regarding the districts' need to budget and pay for this support work. Ms. Judy Parker, Clearwater UWCD Board Secretary, stated that Clearwater would not be able to continue the administrative support much longer as Ms. Maxwell, Clearwater's manager, will be taking another position soon. Discussion ensued among members about how to best provide the support work. Mr. Eddy Daniel, North Texas GCD, stated that they could take over the support work for a while.

Year to date expenditures were discussed and GMA8 currently has no outstanding debt.

13. Discuss agenda items for next meeting.

Items for discussion when the Committee meets again will include administrative support and related budget; consider making the Brazos River Alluvium in Milam County irrelevant; resolution revising DFCs for the Nacatoch aquifer based on Scenario 4; and discussion of the DFCs for Burnet County.

14. Set date, time, and place of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held in late April and the specific date will be determined later.

15. Closing comments.

Mr. Cooper thanked the TWDB for their input. Also, thanks were given to Clearwater for all the work they have done for the planning group.

16. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The GMA 8 Committee unanimously approved the minutes on this _____ day of _____, 2011.