

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
February 29, 2012 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 Wednesday, February 29, 2012*, in the Liberty Hotel 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: Russell Laughlin

Post Oak Savannah GCD: None
Prairielands GCD: Charles Beseda
Red River GCD: Butch Henderson
Saratoga UWCD: Asa Langford
Southern Trinity GCD: None
Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey

1. *Invocation*

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

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

The Groundwater Management Area 8 (GMA 8) meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM at the Liberty Hotel 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, Post Oak Savannah GCD and Southern Trinity GCD absent.

3. *Welcome and introductions.*

Mr. Daniel asked members of the Committee to introduce themselves.

4. *Public Comments.*

Mr. Daniel apologized for the confusion on the scheduling of the meeting and stated that he would work to correct that in the future.

5. *Approve minutes of January 11, 2012 GMA 8 meeting.*

Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD provided several typographical corrections to the minutes for revision.

Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD moved to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2012 GMA 8 as amended by Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD, seconded by Charles Beseda, Prairielands GCD. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0.

6. Discussion and possible action on Request for Proposals for the consideration of a revised regional groundwater availability model and aquifer characterization for the northern Trinity and Woodbine Aquifers

Mr. Daniel provided an update on the update to the groundwater availability model. The proposal was received from INTERA and it was made clear at the last meeting that all districts are not expected to participate. Several districts expressed an interest in funding the update and the financial commitment has been discussed with those districts. The plan is currently being pursued by the four northern districts. However, the four districts will be requesting information from all districts to make the model update GMA 8 wide. A request for information will be submitted to all districts by INTERA. This information is very important to make the model better and as accurate as possible. The four funding participants met with INTERA and began discussing the contract, timing and the cost. A contract has not been executed at this time, but is being discussed and negotiated. Once a contract is provided, the four districts will provide the information to their Boards for approval.

The four districts discussed removing Bill Mullican from the proposal and have him contract with the four districts independently. Mr. Mullican is currently slated to serve as a representative for the districts to ensure that the districts receive the product they are seeking. The participating districts have discussed forming a technical committee to coordinate with the participating districts and make sure that information is included in the update. The participating districts have discussed obtaining Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) support. A proposed resolution requesting assistance from the TWDB to assist on the technical review committee was provided in the agenda packet. This would prevent potential problems in the future. While this seems premature, it is preferred by the Boards of the participating districts. This provides a level of security for the districts that the TWDB would approve the updated model once it is complete.

The four participating districts are the North Texas GCD, the Upper Trinity GCD, the Prairielands GCD and the Northern Trinity GCD. Mr. Daniel asked if any districts had any concerns. Mr. Laughlin expressed his support of the update and the TWDB's participation. Ms. Sarah Backhouse of the TWDB stated that the TWDB is in support of the resolution and has no concerns or changes. Mr. Laughlin stated that the northern districts need the updated model as the current one does not take into account the special conditions in the northern part of the Trinity and Woodbine Aquifers. Ms. Backhouse stated that the TWDB is in support of participating on a technical committee, but does not expect any financial assistance to fund the development of the updated model.

Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD motioned to submit a Request for Proposals for the consideration of a revised regional groundwater availability model and aquifer characterization for the northern Trinity and Woodbine Aquifers, seconded by Butch Henderson, Red River GCD. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0.

Brian Sledge with the Lloyd Gosselink Firm noted that the request from INTERA includes the hydrostatigrapher, which is the key to the updated model. The hydrostatigrapher will review well logs and enter the data into the model. This will require approximately one year to complete. Mr. Sledge recommended the districts provide well logs through the next 90 to 120 days.

7. Receive, distribute, and discuss appropriate reimbursement for North Texas GCD for expenses incurred in 2011 on behalf of GMA 8.

Mr. Daniel provided information regarding the initial budget that was approved last year. The numbers on that budget were an estimate. The actual numbers were higher than expected. GMA 8 required more staff support than was anticipated due to the approving of Desired Future Conditions and extra meetings.

The expenses totaled \$7,497.34. Invoices have been prepared for consideration by the districts. Mr. Daniel stated that he understands that some districts may not be able to pay and the North Texas GCD understands. Mr. Laughlin asked what the estimate for 2012 is expected to be and Mr. Daniel responded that he expects the cost to be considerably less for 2012 than 2011.

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

A Supreme Court ruling was just issued, which may or may not have impact on groundwater conservation districts. Mr. Sledge reported that this is the EAA versus Day case was ruled by the Supreme Court and verified that water beneath property belongs to the property owner and can be regulated, but if the regulations are too stringent, the property owner can file against the groundwater district for the loss of property value. Mr. Sledge reviewed the decision, which looks to be beneficial to hydrogeologists and attorneys. Mr. Daniel stated that this ruling makes the update for the aquifer model even more important so that good data for the aquifer is available. This ruling is not being favorably viewed by production agriculture. They will now be required to share the available water with non-producing neighbors.

Interim charges released by the Lieutenant Governor include groundwater conservation districts and single county districts. He requested the Senate Natural Resources Committee to review statewide control and regional aquifer authorities. This will require groundwater districts and constituents to provide letters to the Senate favoring local control.

Ms. Backhouse reported that the Modeled Available Groundwater from the DFCs submitted last year will be provided to the groundwater conservation districts for review within the next few months.

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

Mr. Daniel recommended not setting a meeting date and coordinating at a later date to schedule a meeting when needed.

Ms. Parker asked the other districts the state of drought stages around the state. Mr. Daniel reported that the far north counties are considered out of drought level. The reservoir levels are still low, but the drought is technically finished. Ms. Parker reported that her district is still in an extreme drought.

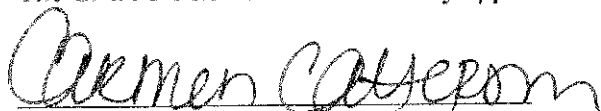
10. Closing comments.

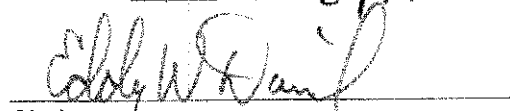
Mr. Massey thanked the North Texas GCD for providing administrative support and for carrying the costs to date. He also thanked Prairielands GCD for providing a meeting location. Mr. Daniel thanked the Committee for attending the meeting.

11. Adjourn.

Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Russell Laughlin, Northern Trinity GCD. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0 and the meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM.

The GMA 8 Committee unanimously approved the minutes on this 24th day of September, 2013.


Recording Secretary


Chairman