

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
March 10, 2010 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 Wednesday, March 10, 2010*, 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: Horace Grace	Prairielands GCD: Charles Beseda
Fox Crossing WD: Sam Beaumont	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: Absent	Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey

1. Invocation

Mr. Horace Grace opened the meeting and Mr. Gary Westbrook 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. Grace welcomed the new members, took roll and established that a quorum was present. Eleven Districts were present at the time of roll call.

3. Welcome and introductions.

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

4. Public Comments.

There were no public comments.

5. Approve minutes of March 16, 2009 GMA 8 meeting.

Mr. Westbrook moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2009 GMA 8 meeting, seconded by Mr. Sam Beaumont. The motion carried unanimously, 11-0.

6. Update on status of groundwater conservation districts created during the 2009 Texas legislative session.

Mr. Eddy Daniel, North Texas GCD, stated that they had their inaugural meeting in October 2009 and have been holding monthly meetings. They adopted bylaws and will meet next week to consider proposed rules. Mr. Charles Beseda, Prairielands GCD, noted that they had their inaugural meeting to elect officers on November 6, 2009 and began monthly meetings in January 2010. Currently, they are working on temporary bylaws and rules. Mr. Butch Henderson, Red River GCD, noted that they have met twice since being formed and will have another meeting next month. They are in the early stages of forming their district and currently meeting four times a year, rather than monthly.

7. Summary of GMA8 progress in the joint planning process, overview of methodology to develop Desired Future Condition statements, and status of Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) figures.

Mr. Joe Cooper, Middle Trinity GCD, provided an overview of the joint planning process stating that the reason for meeting today is House Bill 1763. It was passed in order to promote coordination among GCD's to create a regional method for managing the aquifers. All GCD's developed required Desired Future Condition (DFC) statements for their districts. Mr. Randy Williams, Bar-W, was employed to help define DFCs within the GMA. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) then took the DFC information and developed Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) figures. Mr. Cooper noted that this is an ongoing process and there are some issues surrounding the reservation of water for exempt well use.

Mr. Westbrook explained the process involved in developing DFC statements for those areas that did not have GCD's at that time. Mr. Williams added his insight regarding the process for developing DFCs, especially where local representation was not available. He also discussed the GAMs (Groundwater Availability Model) developed for aquifers and the 2D models that were created to support the development process. In summary, the approach taken was to equip the GCDs to understand what they were receiving and be able to know that they were meeting their criteria in the future.

8. Discussion and possible action on MAG for the Nacatoch aquifer.

Dr. Bill Hutchison, TWDB, shared that the DFCs for the Nacatoch were set some time ago. The GAM model came after the initial DFC statements were provided and the report is complete. A summary table from the report was shared with the GMA8 members. Dr. Hutchison stated that the MAG report would be mailed out next week for comments, revised if necessary, and then the TWDB would move forward with finalizing the MAG.

9. Comments and update from Committee members regarding the joint planning process.

Mr. Grace asked Dr. Hutchison about the status of the GCDs in the joint planning process. He responded that most GCDs appeared they would meet the September 2010 deadline. Dr. Hutchison commented that TWDB was pursuing research projects for the GMA8 area to include recharge and evaporation rates and aquifer test data. Also, a GAM was being developed that would address all aquifers within GMA8.

Representatives from the Regional Water Planning Groups C, D, and G provided comments followed by comments from the GMA8 Committee members. The majority of comments from the GMA8 Committee members was on the need for funding.

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

Mr. Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD, suggested the GMA8 Committee establish a budget so funds could be set aside and dispersed as needed. Regarding the more immediate issue of payment to Mr. Williams for his attendance and presentation at the meeting, nine Committee members agreed to contribute \$60 each from their Districts for a total of \$540. Mr. Beseda, representing Prairielands GCD and Mr. Henderson, representing Red River GCD, stated they were unable to contribute anything at this time. Northern Trinity GCD was not in attendance.

The Committee discussed establishing a budget for future expenses and asked Mr. Massey to chair a committee along with Mr. Westbrook to work with Cheryl Maxwell in developing a recommendation for a budget.

The Committee went back to Agenda Item No. 8 regarding the Nacatoch aquifer.

Concerns were expressed regarding the proposed MAG in two instances (Delta and Red River Counties) that resulted in a decrease of water availability from what was anticipated based on the figures in the Regional Water Plan. There is no groundwater district for these counties. After discussion, the Committee asked Dr. Hutchison to rerun the GAM so the MAGs for these two counties would coincide with the figures in the Regional Water Plan.

11. Discuss agenda items for next meeting.

Items for discussion when the Committee meets again will include the budget and the DFC/MAG for the Nacatoch aquifer.

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

This will be determined at a later date.

13. Closing comments.

No additional comments were made.

14. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.