

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
November 27, 2007 in Bellmead, 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), McLennan County GCD, Middle Trinity GCD, Northern Trinity GCD, Post Oak Savannah GCD, Saratoga UWCD, Tablerock GCD, and Upper Trinity GCD held a meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 in the City of Bellmead City Council Room, located at 3015 Bellmead Drive, Bellmead, Texas.

Groundwater District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Richard Bowers	Northern Trinity GCD: No designated representative
Clearwater UWCD: Horace Grace	Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook
Fox Crossing WD: Jerry Priddy	Saratoga UWCD: Dave Hamilton
McLennan Co. GCD: Scooter Radcliffe	Tablerock GCD: Wyllis Ament
Middle Trinity GCD: Joe Cooper	Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey

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

The Groundwater Management Area 8 (GMA 8) meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. at the City of Bellmead City Council Chambers. Gary Westbrook gave the invocation. Horace Grace called roll and established that a quorum was present. All Districts were represented except for Northern Trinity GCD.

2. *Welcome and introductions.*

Members of the audience were asked to introduce themselves.

3. *Public Comments.*

There were no public comments.

4. *Approve minutes of September 5, 2007 GMA 8 meeting.*

Mr. Westbrook made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2007 GMA 8 meeting, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. The motion passed unanimously.

Before moving forward, Mr. Grace asked each GCD to say a few words about their understanding of the GMA process and their District's status. After their reports, Mr. Grace stated that GMA 8 was working to complete the DFC process by January 1, 2008, and stated that the groundwater availability figures identified by the regional water planning groups would be used in the new regional and state plans if no new figures are submitted to TWDB by January 1, 2008. After this date, the region has the choice of using the new figures or their existing figures.

5. *Discuss results of the Texas Water Development Board Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) simulation request pursuant to the development of a desired future condition (DFC) for the Northern Edwards BFZ aquifer and the Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifer.*

Randy Williams, TCB, Inc. gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the results of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) GAM, beginning with the Northern Edwards BFZ aquifer. Two GAM runs were submitted with the difference being the amount of pumping applied to Williamson County. The general approach to developing the DFC for the Edwards has been to maintain spring flow during a repeat of the 1950's drought of record. Mr. Williams described various parameters considered in the GAM runs. Results from both runs were presented. The suggested DFC based on these runs is as follows:

Bell—minimum 100 ac-ft/month flow at Salado Springs during simulated drought of record.

This would equate to a pumping value of approximately 7,509 ac-ft/year.

Williamson—minimum 60 ac-ft/month aggregated stream/spring flow during simulated drought of record. The exact pumping value has not been determined but would equate to a pumping value of less than 18,331 ac-ft/year.

Travis—minimum 58 ac-ft/month aggregated stream/spring flow during simulated drought of record. This would equate to a pumping value of approximately 4,870 ac-ft/year.

In discussing this item, the Committee moved into Item No. 6 as shown below with discussion thereafter occurring under both items.

6. *Discussion and possible action to adopt proposed DFCs for the major and minor aquifers within GMA 8 to include the following: Edwards BFZ, Trinity, Blossom, Brazos River Alluvium, Ellenburger-San Saba, Hickory, Marble Falls, Nacatoch, and Woodbine.*

Mr. Grace suggested adopting the proposed DFCs for the Edwards BFZ aquifer and asked the Committee for their comments.

Mr. Cooper made a motion to adopt the proposed DFCs as stated above for the Edwards BFZ aquifer, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. The committee entered into discussion. One issue discussed was whether a public hearing should be held prior to adopting the DFCs.

Robert Bradley, TWDB, clarified that when the GMAs determine the DFC, even if it is past the January 1, 2008 deadline and is not included in the regional water plan, it will still override the region's availability figure.

After discussion the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Bowers moved to recommend the adoption of the proposed DFCs for the Northern Edwards BFZ aquifer after a public hearing to be held prior to December 31, 2007. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ament and passed unanimously.

Randy Williams continued with his presentation focusing on the Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifers. Two GAM runs were requested after the initial GAM request. The two subsequent runs were very similar with the difference being the amount of pumping applied to Comanche and Erath Counties.

Mr. Williams described the parameters considered in the initial GAM run commenting that information from the TWDB report on the Barnett Shale was included using the highest year of pumping for the affected 13 counties; counties with GCDs used their own pumping amounts where available; and the remaining counties used figures from the Regional Water Planning Groups.

The second run increased pumping for Comanche, Erath, and McLennan Counties, and applied uniform pumping distribution for Delta, Hunt, Kaufman and Lamar Counties. The third run further increased pumping for Comanche and Erath Counties.

Mr. Williams' presentation provided maps showing the change in water levels in the various Trinity aquifer layers associated with the different GAM runs. Proposed DFC statements based on the GAM run results were not prepared by Mr. Williams at this time.

The Committee discussed the results of the different GAM runs and answered questions from the audience. Several districts expressed concern that they were not happy with the regional water planning figures but they did not have the resources at this time to develop better figures. Mr. Cooper reiterated that the DFC process was an ongoing process and revisions would be occurring throughout the process.

Mr. Williams stated he could prepare the DFC statements and distribute them to the Committee the following week so they would have an opportunity for review in advance of the next meeting.

Mr. Cooper moved to recommend the adoption of the proposed DFCs for the Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifer as defined by Randy Williams (TCB, Inc.) based on the results of the initial GAM run to include the redistribution of pumping in Delta, Hunt, Kaufman and Lamar Counties and the increased pumping in McLennan County that were applied with the second GAM run, subject to ratification after a public hearing to be held prior to December 31, 2007. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ratcliffe and passed unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the DFCs for the minor aquifers that were adopted at a previous meeting in February. Mr. Bowers asked the Committee to wait on setting the DFCs for the Hickory, Marble Falls, and Ellenburger-San Saba aquifers until they have had a chance to look at them more closely. Mr. Hamilton questioned the reasoning of this since revisions would be occurring even if the DFCs were adopted. The Committee discussed this further.

Mr. Westbrook moved to reconsider the previously approved DFCs for the Hickory, Marble Falls, and Ellenburger-San Saba aquifers, seconded by Mr. Bowers. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion regarding rescheduling of the River Systems Institute workshop on tools for managing groundwater.

Mr. Bowers commented on workshops proposed by the River Systems Institute and questioned why one in GMA 8 had to be cancelled. Mr. Cooper explained the circumstances regarding the proposed workshop that was scheduled to be held in his district and was later cancelled. The Committee concurred that the workshops were of value and they recommended rescheduling after the new year.

8. Discussion and possible action on renewal of interlocal agreement.

The Committee discussed renewing the interlocal agreement at a future meeting. Judy Parker identified language in the interlocal agreement that stated a 30 day notice was necessary to approve proposed DFCs and that this may need to be changed. Mr. Westbrook asked if anyone had other comments regarding the interlocal agreement. The Committee concurred to change the 30 days to 10 days.

Mr. Grace commented that TCB, Inc. has done more work than what was in the original scope. He stated that the additional work done was somewhere around \$3,000 and asked if the Committee

members would be willing to compensate TCB, Inc. for this amount. Mr. Cooper asked for a show of hands as to who would be willing to consider contributing an additional \$500. It appeared that seven districts offered to consider contributing \$500. Mr. Westbrook asked Mr. Williams to provide them with an invoice and they would see what the pro-rata share would be for the seven districts.

Mr. Grace suggested that TCB, Inc. may want to provide a new scope of work to meet the ongoing needs of GMA 8 and that some districts may want to do some work on their own outside of the GMA 8 scope. Mr. Westbrook asked for confirmation from Mr. Williams that he would see GMA 8 through the next meeting and public hearing process and be available to answer questions from the public. Mr. Williams confirmed that he would do so.

9. *Discussion and possible action on appointing a new administrator for GMA 8.*

Mr. Grace stated that Clearwater has acted as administrator for two years and was inquiring if other districts were interested in taking this position. Mr. Westbrook asked if it would be helpful if other districts were able to assist Clearwater. Mr. Bowers asked if maybe some of the responsibilities could be dispersed among the other districts. The Committee asked Clearwater to consider remaining the administrator and see if some of the tasks could be shared by the other districts.

10. *Committee member comments.*

Mr. Westbrook stated how pleased he was with the facilities that McLennan County GCD was offering GMA 8. Mr. Ratcliffe stated he would be happy to host another meeting.

Mr. Cooper wanted to clarify that comments he made earlier regarding regional planning were not intended to be negative and that he appreciated regional planning and the state water plan and that they were valuable and enabled Texas to stay way ahead of other states in planning for water needs.

11. *Discuss agenda items for next meeting.*

Items to be discussed at the next meeting included the following: public hearing to adopt the DFCs for the major and minor aquifers; contract with TCB, Inc.; interlocal agreement; and administrator duties. Mr. Bowers offered to get in touch with the River Systems Institute to recommend they reschedule the workshops for the first of the year. Mr. Priddy asked if at a future meeting they could have someone explain the long-term effects of the results of the GAM runs.

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

Next meeting will be December 17, 2007 at the Bellmead City Council Chambers at 10:00 a.m.

13. *Closing comments.*

No closing comments.

14. *Adjourn.*

Meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m. (A digital recording of this meeting is available upon request.)

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