

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
May 19, 2008 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 Monday, May 19, 2008 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: Jim Oliver
Clearwater UWCD: Horace Grace	Post Oak Savannah GCD: Dwayne Jekel
Fox Crossing WD: Jerry Priddy	Saratoga UWCD: Dave Hamilton
McLennan Co. GWCD: Rodney Kroll	Tablerock GCD: Wyllis Ament
Middle Trinity GCD: Joe Cooper	Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey

1. *Invocation*

Mike Massey gave the invocation

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

The Groundwater Management Area 8 meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. at the City of Bellmead City Council Chambers. Horace Grace called roll and established that a quorum was present. All districts were represented.

3. *Welcome and introductions.*

Horace Grace gave an overview of the GMA process to the members of the audience. Members of the audience were then asked to introduce themselves.

4. *Public Comments.*

There was no public comment.

Joe Cooper announced that he was proud of the progress GMA 8 has made toward moving ahead with reporting desired future conditions (DFC) to the Texas Water Development Board.

Mike Massey expressed gratitude to the GMA 8 board for the time that they have given for he and his board, along with the other newly established districts, to become educated on their respective district's water issues and needs.

5. *Approve minutes of December 17, 2007 GMA 8 meeting.*

Richard Bowers moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2007 GMA 8 meeting, seconded by Joe Cooper. The motion carried unanimously, 10-0.

6. *Update from the Texas Water Development Board on the GMA joint planning process.*

Robert Bradley with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) addressed the GMA 8 board and announced that GMA 10 was moving forward with establishing DFCs for their region including setting the public hearing date in June to adopt DFCs. He also noted that there were several GMAs waiting for GAM runs from TWDB. GMA 7 was reviewing runs; GMA 9 was establishing stakeholder groups at UT at Austin; GMA 12 has had to postpone meetings due to health issues; and GMA 11 districts were getting together to start work on developing DFCs.

Overall the TWDB reported that they currently had 50 groundwater availability models (GAM) to review.

7. *Presentation on proposed desired future conditions for the following minor aquifers within GMA 8: Ellenburger-San Saba, Hickory, and Marble Falls.*

Randy Williams addressed the committee and reported that in the past the committee has used the 2 dimensional (2-D) model to determine DFCs and this method has worked well in the GMA 8 area. However, it does not seem to be the case for the Paleozoic aquifers. He noted that in order for the 2-D model to be effective in determining the DFC it needs to be near or in the recharge zone.

In regards to the Mills and Brown Counties aquifers, there are tips or “slivers” that are not addressed in these 2-D models. Therefore, Mr. Williams developed four (4) options for the board to consider.

These options as presented were:

1. Declare those areas as downdip slivers.
2. Follow the DFCs set by another GMA that the aquifer is in. (Mr. Williams asked the board to consider that there was uncertainty about GMA 7 making the state deadline and at this point they do not know what the DFC would be.)
3. Follow or extend the DFC adopted for GMA 7 except for Burnet and Lampasas Counties (use the 2-D model based DFC previously developed by GMA 8).
4. Determine that the 2-D model-based DFCs previously developed by GMA 8 for the Ellenburger-San Saba aquifer in Burnet and Lampasas Counties and Burnet County in the Hickory aquifer would be used. The GMA could then specify a DFC for the remaining areas in the Ellenburger-San Saba and Hickory aquifers to be submitted to TWDB. TWDB would then determine the MAG using other methodology than the 2-D models.

Randy Williams recommended that the committee approve option 4.

The committee discussed options and moved forward to the public hearing item.

8. Public hearing on proposed desired future conditions for the minor aquifers described above.

Horace Grace clarified that the committee had entered a public hearing at 10:39 a.m. and explained the purpose of the public hearing.

No comments or questions were made by the public on this item.

Horace Grace closed the public hearing at 10:40 a.m.

9. *Discussion and possible action to adopt proposed desired future conditions for the minor aquifers described above.*

Dave Hamilton moved to adopt the DFCs for the Marble Falls, Ellenburger-San Saba and Hickory aquifers as previously stated, seconded by Richard Bowers. The motion carried, 10-0.

Dave Hamilton then moved to use option #4 to develop DFCs for those areas where the 2-D models could not be applied, with a goal of maintaining 90% of the available drawdown in these aquifers, seconded by Richard Bowers. The motion carried, 10-0.

10. *Discussion regarding status of desired future conditions for the Trinity aquifer.*

Joe Cooper commented that he would like to revise his numbers and redistribute pumping before making a decision on the Trinity DFC for his area.

(Joe Cooper left meeting at approximately 10:57 a.m.)

Mike Massey noted that Northern Trinity and Upper Trinity GCDs need to work on their numbers and have planned to meet on June 12th for that purpose.

Horace Grace pointed out that the numbers are not permanent and that the GAM runs are models, just tools, not actual data to aid in the DFC determination process.

Wyllis Ament said that he appreciated the workshop that was held with the surrounding counties to help out in his determination of DFCs for his area.

Mike Massey gave a brief explanation of the origin of their numbers.

Cindy Ridgeway, TWDB, commented that the GMA 8 committee's decision on the Trinity may affect the Woodbine due to intermingling.

Sam Beaumont, Fox Crossing WD, noted that all of the district that are involved with the GMA 8 process are developing the DFCs for the whole GMA 8 area and if there is a water shortfall then there are two options. Option one is that the districts will stop permitting within that aquifer and the second option is that the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) will have to find a solution and develop a strategy to resolve the shortfall.

Horace Grace reiterated that setting the DFC is the first stage of the planning process. Not getting everything exactly right on the first trial is okay. The GMA 8 committee will be required to review these figures in five years and can opt to review it sooner than that at any time if they so desire. He stated that it is the job of the committee to protect the recharge area of these aquifers.

11. *Update on managed available groundwater figures for the Edwards BFZ aquifer.*

Randy Williams, TCB Inc., reported that he would get these figures to Clearwater to review and then make available to GMA 8.

12. Discussion and possible action to amend contract to approve additional work previously conducted by TCB, Inc. to develop the desired future conditions for the aquifers in GMA 8.

Richard Bowers moved to amend the contract to approve additional work previously conducted by TCB, Inc. to develop the desired future conditions for the aquifers in GMA 8, seconded by Jim Oliver. The motion carried, 9-0.

13. Committee member comments.

Rodney Kroll reported that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has been holding meetings with counties in the proposed Central Texas Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA) and informing them that the plan is to form one or two multi-county districts within the PGMA and that they plan to create more PGMA's in the Metroplex area. Wyllis Ament commented that he certainly foresees having to join a multi-county district sooner rather than later.

Rodney Kroll noted that McLennan County GCD would not be holding a confirmation election due to the high election cost.

Wyllis Ament said that Tablerock GCD is still planning on moving forward with a confirmation election.

Richard Bowers commented that he attended the meetings in Waco and urges the McLennan County GCD to get confirmed. Wyllis Ament supported Mr. Bowers' comment and added that the confirmation would get the district out of the PGMA, therefore giving the district more options and allow them more control.

Mike Massey reported that Upper Trinity GCD formed due to PGMA designation and encouraged McLennan County GCD to confirm.

Jerry Priddy announced that this would be his last time to represent Fox Crossing WD on this committee.

Wyllis Ament commented on his appreciation for the committee's patience in allowing the new district to get a handle on some of their individual challenges.

14. Discuss agenda items for next meeting

Trinity figures for new GAM run.

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

Next meeting to be determined.

16. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

The GMA 8 Committee unanimously approved the minutes on this 17th day of September, 2008.