

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
January 11, 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, January 11, 2012*, in the Cleburne Conference Center in Cleburne, Texas.

Groundwater District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Mitchell Sodek	Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook
Clearwater UWCD: Judy Parker	Prairielands GCD: Charles Beseda
Fox Crossing WD: None	Red River GCD: Butch Henderson
Middle Trinity GCD: Joe Cooper	Saratoga UWCD: Asa Langford
North Texas GCD: Eddy Daniel	Southern Trinity GCD: Glen Thurman
Northern Trinity GCD: Fiona Allen	Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey

1. *Invocation*

Eddy Daniel, North Texas GCD presided over the meeting and 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 10:05 AM at the Cleburne Conference Center in Cleburne, TX. Mr. Daniel welcomed the new members, took roll and established that a quorum was present. 11 Districts were present at the time of roll call, with Fox Crossing WD absent.

3. *Welcome and introductions.*

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

4. *Public Comments.*

Alan Day, a Board member for the Middle Trinity GCD introduced himself and reported that he has been a cattle rancher for 26 years. Some of his wells have dropped 250 to 300 feet in 26 years. This is an unacceptable amount. The water is leaving at a higher rate than is desired. He expressed appreciation of all the representatives of GMA 8 and stated that groundwater planning is necessary. He stated that joint planning is necessary. Bosque County is experiencing an extreme amount of drawdown. All GMAs and groundwater districts need to address the legislation to begin discussing water planning to handle the drought and reallocate funds to assist with water planning and transferring from groundwater to surface water. A large part of this issue is educating the public. Mr. Day again expressed the need for a transfer to surface water and the potential ramifications of continuing to use groundwater.

5. *Approve minutes of November 16, 2011 GMA 8 meeting.*

The minutes were revised based on recommendations made by Rodney Kroll, Southern Trinity GCD by e-mail and by Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD. Mr. Massey provided several typographical corrections.

Butch Henderson, Red River GCD moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2011 GMA 8 meeting as amended by Mr. Kroll and Mr. Massey, seconded by Fiona Allen, Northern Trinity GCD. The motion carried unanimously, 11-0.

6. *Consideration and possible action regarding the designation of an Administrative District, a Chair and Vice-Chair for the GMA 8 in accordance with the adopted administrative procedures.*

At the last meeting, GMA 8 adopted a set of administrative procedures. Mr. Daniel requested this item be added since it was required per the administrative procedures. The first item is to approve an administrative district to serve as administrator of GMA 8 pursuant to the administrative procedures. Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD, moved to appoint the North Texas GCD as the GMA 8 administrative district. The motion was seconded by Judy Parker, Clearwater UWCD, and passed unanimously, 11-0. Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD, moved to nominate Eddy Daniel, North Texas GCD, as Chair under the administrative procedures for GMA 8, seconded by Joe Cooper, Middle Trinity GCD. Judy Parker, Clearwater UWCD, moved to cease nominations and elect Eddy Daniel by acclamation, seconded by Fiona Allen, Northern Trinity GCD, and passed unanimously, 11-0. Judy Parker, Clearwater UWCD nominated Joe Cooper, Middle Trinity GCD, as Vice-Chair under the administrative procedures for GMA 8, seconded by Butch Henderson, Red River GCD. Mike Massey, Upper Trinity GCD, moved to cease nominations and elect Joe Cooper by acclamation, seconded by Butch Henderson, Red River GCD, and passed unanimously 11-0.

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

A copy of the financial information was provided for review. Time, mileage, and supplies have been totaled for expenses. An estimate was made of \$4,300. The actual expense was \$6,192. Mr. Massey asked if these were estimated or actual and it was clarified that they were an estimate by the staff, but a final amount will be provided at the next meeting. Mr. Beseda commented that Prairielands GCD has been donating the meeting location. Mr. Thurman asked who the mileage was being paid to. Mr. Daniel stated that the mileage was for administrative staff travel, Jerry Chapman and Carmen Catterson. Ms. Allen asked if the final numbers would be audited and Mr. Daniel reported that the information would be audited in the North Texas GCD financials and could be provided after the audit occurs.

8. *Discussion and possible action on Request for Proposals for the construction of a revised regional groundwater availability model and aquifer characterization for the northern Trinity and Woodbine aquifers.*

GMA 8 discussed this at the previous meeting. Mr. Daniel stated that it may have been misinterpreted that all districts were expected to participate financially in the study. He then provided a brief history of the project. The desired future conditions (DFCs) were reapproved last year, which extended the time to develop new information by five years. The northern districts inherited the DFC numbers that were provided, as the vast majority of northern districts were not created or were barely created at the time the DFCs were developed. Because the current model is inaccurate, the northern districts expressed a desire to update the model to have a tool to provide more accurate information from planning and management. Because most of the southern districts have already conducted studies and worked with the current model to develop DFCs, the northern districts expected that the proposed construction of a new model would be primarily funded by the northern districts. So, any district that does not have the financial means or the desire to participate is not expected to contribute financially. However, the northern districts certainly wanted to extend the opportunity to participate in the construction of a new model to all GMA 8 districts. Furthermore, the project needs to be a joint project that all districts are comfortable with. It needs to ultimately be accepted by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and that is more likely to happen with the support of the entire GMA 8. If other districts want to participate financially, it would be

appreciated, but the cooperation and support is the most important aspect. Mr. Massey explained that participation can mean more than money. The modelers will need good data and some districts have very useful data that could be very beneficial to the model and GMA 8. The goal is to have a much more accurate model than the previous one that will enable the GMA 8 to work on developing desired future conditions that are more accurate.

GMA 8 will not enter into an agreement with a contractor, since GMA 8 is not an actual entity. The participating entities would enter into an agreement with the contractor. The data and the project will be considered public information. Mr. Cooper spoke with his Board and they felt that their district has the best data available in their area. However, if this study will generate better numbers and will provide new information, they would be interested. If not, his district will provide the information they have so that it can be incorporated into the model. Ms. Parker reported the same opinion from her Board. If new data could be obtained it would help her district, but if not it would not be beneficial. Her district is tax based and she has to justify her expenses to the tax payers. Mr. Beseda reported that he has to report and justify his actions to his users, but his district needs a revised model and this is the only way to establish desired future conditions that can be defended in the future. The North Texas GCD, Prairielands GCD, Upper Trinity GCD and Northern Trinity GCD have all indicated a desire to participate financially in the project.

Mr. Brian Sledge, a water attorney, assisted in developing the Request for Proposals for this project. Mr. Sledge stated that the timeline for establishing desired future conditions under the new law is slightly daunting, and that this project needs to be off the ground in the next two or three months to be timely. Communication between the GMA 8 members is necessary. If any district feels that they might be interested in participating financially, they simply need to express their desire to do, so that they can be included in the negotiations with the consultant. But, if a district does not wish to participate financially, it can nonetheless still participate by helping provide any technical data it may have for its area to the project consultants. The northern districts are starting from the beginning since they have not collected any data, and will also be doing detailed aquifer characterization studies for the aquifers in their areas as part of the project. The current model is good for planning at a regional scale, but not for localized management decisions. Ms. Parker stated that the older, more experienced districts will be happy to provide data for the aquifers in their areas to include in the model.

Mr. Sodek clarified that the revised model will be more accurate and detailed for the entire region. Mr. Daniel agreed, but specified that for participating districts the information will be very detailed and in depth. The model will be aquifer-wide, but more detail will be included for the districts that participate. Mr. Cooper asked how the contractor will locate and collect data and if new data will be collected or if it will be all existing data. Mr. Daniel explained that the participating districts will negotiate with the contractor for exactly what would be obtained and what information would be collected. Mr. Daniel does not expect new wells to be drilled, but a large number of well logs will be reviewed in detail by a hydrostratigrapher to determine the location and hydraulic properties of the aquifers and their various layers.

Mr. Cooper asked Mr. Robert Bradley of the TWDB how many of the well logs were used in the current model. Mr. Bradley reported that the well logs were mostly used, but that the values were then regionally averaged and constructed using a one-mile grid. Mr. Sledge stated that the new model will break the aquifer down by layer and will be on a smaller grid. Mr. Daniel stated that he is not expecting action, but acknowledged that the participants need to begin moving forward with the project. GMA 8 needs to be supportive of the project.

Mr. Massey reiterated the importance of this study. Ms. Allen asked if any district had any concerns about the study. Ms. Parker asked if the cost could be separated so that districts not affected by the Woodbine Aquifer would not have to pay for the study of the Woodbine. Mr. Daniel noted that even some of the financially participating northern districts were in this situation, but that they were nonetheless looking at splitting the entire study cost equally among the financially participating districts for a number of reasons. Mr. Henderson explained that the Red River GCD desperately needs this information, but the Board has said that no funds can be expended on the study. He cannot speak for himself at GMA 8 meetings; he has to represent the Red River GCD. Mr. Daniel agreed with the sentiment and stated that the Red River GCD might be able to piggyback onto the project and collect detailed information to include in the study, which would further improve the accuracy of the model.

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

Mr. Bradley explained that a Stakeholders meeting was held this week to discuss the Chapter 356 rulemaking procedures. Written comments can be submitted until the end of January and the TWDB will begin drafting the rules in February. A boundary change was requested by the Trinity-Glen Rose and Page Trinity Districts. They requested to be removed from GMA 10 and be put solely in GMA 9. No other boundary changes are being reviewed at this time. Mr. Cooper encouraged all the members of GMA 8 to discuss the rulemaking process to add beneficial sections or to remove sections as needed. Mr. Bradley also encouraged GMA 8 to review SB 660 and all of its requirements. Mr. Larry French has been appointed as the Groundwater Division Manager and Melanie Callahan was appointed as Executive Director. Mr. Sledge attended the rulemaking hearing and there were a great number of people present who are against groundwater conservation districts. They hope to accomplish through rulemaking what they could not through the legislation. Mr. Jerry Chapman recommended that districts send letters to the TWDB to encourage the rules to be made in accordance with the legislation that was approved.

Mr. Erinakes, a director from the Prairielands GCD, commented on the proposal submitted by INTERA. The proposal includes comments regarding the difference between the present model and the plan for the future model. He expressed a desire to receive a response from the authors providing a focused explanation on the differences and the limitations of the current model. He also stated that the proposal suggests that GMA 8 form a technical committee to communicate with the contractor and receive education on the technical aspect of the new model.

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

The Committee agreed to host the next meeting on February 29, 2012. The agenda will include an update on the proposed update to the groundwater availability model, financial information and an expense report,

Mr. Chapman reported that the website is still in development and it should be up and running very quickly. Mr. Cooper recommended establishing parameters and timelines on how frequently meetings are to be held.

Mr. Chapman reported that the Prairielands GCD has been hosting the meetings at their cost. They have recently moved to a new location that has a meeting space. He recommended moving the meetings to their new location to save them funds. GMA 8 discussed this recommendation and agreed to view the space.

10. Closing comments.

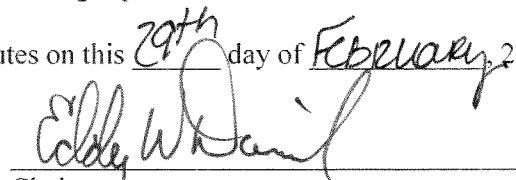
Mr. Daniel thanked the Committee for attending the meeting.

11. Adjourn.

Butch Henderson, Red River GCD motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Judy Parker, Clearwater UWCD. The motion carried unanimously, 11-0 and the meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.

The GMA 8 Committee unanimously approved the minutes on this 29th day of February, 2012.


Recording Secretary


Chairman