

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
August 9, 2007 in Goldthwaite, 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 Thursday, August 9, 2007 in the Mills County Community Room, located at 1101 Parker Street, Goldthwaite, TX.

Groundwater District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Richard Bowers	Northern Trinity GCD: (no appointee yet)
Clearwater UWCD: Horace Grace	Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook
Fox Crossing WD: Jerry Priddy	Saratoga UWCD: Dave Hamilton
McLennan County GCD: Rodney Kroll	Tablerock GCD: Wyllis Ament
Middle Trinity GCD: Joe B. Cooper	Upper Trinity GCD: (no appointee yet)

1. *Call meeting to order and establish quorum; recognize new voting members of GMA 8.*

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Horace Grace, President of the Clearwater UWCD who presided over the meeting. Mr. Grace called on the voting members present to establish that a quorum was present. Eight out of ten voting members were present; no one was present to represent the Upper Trinity GCD. Mr. Richard Sawey, one of the Board members of the Northern Trinity GCD, was in attendance but had not been sworn in or appointed as the GMA 8 representative. It was established that a quorum was present.

2. *Welcome and introductions.*

Jerry Priddy recognized the president of the Mills County State Bank and thanked him for the use of their facilities. He also recognized the owner/editor of the Goldthwaite Eagle and two Fox Crossing Board members that were in attendance. On behalf of the Fox Crossing Water District that was hosting the meeting, Mr. Priddy welcomed everyone.

3. *Public Comments.*

Dickie Clary, Hamilton Co. Commissioner, introduced himself and stated his county has no groundwater district at this time but he was here to learn about the process for setting desired future conditions and the impact it would have on his county. The audience introduced themselves.

4. *Approve minutes of the April 12, 2007 GMA 8 meeting.*

Richard Bowers made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2007 GMA 8 meeting, seconded by Joe Cooper. The Committee approved the motion, 8-0.

Before moving on, Horace Grace asked Gary Westbrook to summarize the GMA's role in groundwater management in the state. Mr. Westbrook provided a summary of the requirements of HB1763 that was passed by the state legislature in 2005. This bill requires GCDs in a groundwater management area to conduct joint planning of the groundwater resources and determine what we want these resources to look like in the future, i.e. desired future conditions (DFC). The DFCs are provided to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and they will determine how much water is available for permitting based on the DFCs. This figure is the managed available groundwater (MAG). This MAG figure will be used by the regional water planning groups in the regional water plans and in the state water plan. Joe Cooper followed up with a comment on the significance of the MAG figure and its potential impact on a community's economic growth.

5. *Discuss and take appropriate action on issues relating to the development of Desired Future Conditions (DFC) and Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) for the major and minor aquifers within the GMA 8 boundary to include the following:*

- a. Overview of State requirements;*
- b. TCB, Inc. contract and summary of methodology used by GMA 8 to determine the DFCs;*
- c. GMA 8 goals and status update.*

Randy Williams, TCB, Inc. gave a powerpoint presentation describing the 16 Regional Water Planning Groups, 16 Groundwater Management Areas, the state's major and minor aquifers, what a DFC is, the significance of the DFC process, ways to express a DFC, and deadlines.

Mr. Williams' presentation included the methodology used by GMA 8 to develop the DFCs. This included use of the TWDB groundwater availability model (GAM) where available. In GMA 8, there are two GAMs available—Edwards BFZ, and Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifers. GAM simulations were run to determine the projected effect that various levels of pumping would have on an aquifer. In general, the levels of pumping were based on estimated groundwater availability figures. The GCDs specified the amount of pumping to use in the model for their area. For the unprotected counties (counties without a GCD) groundwater availability figures were taken from the regional water plans with the exception of 11 counties that are affected by the production of Barnett Shale. For these counties, more recent availability figures published in a TWDB report were used. With the exception of the Woodbine aquifer, there is no GAM for the minor aquifers. Therefore, unless the GCD had specific figures, the regional water planning group figures were used to develop a 2-D spreadsheet model that included saturated thickness, groundwater availability from storage and groundwater availability from recharge.

Mr. Williams summarized the progress of GMA 8. GAM results for Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifer are in and ready for review and discussion. Two GAM runs for the Northern Edwards BFZ have been submitted and results are pending. The minor aquifer DFCs have been determined but have not been submitted to allow McLennan County GCD time to review and comment as needed, since there is a minor aquifer in their area (Brazos River Alluvium). The goal of GMA 8 is to submit the DFCs to the TWDB by December 1, 2007 so the resulting MAG figures may be included in the 2011 regional water plans and the 2012 state water plan.

Questions were asked regarding management strategies and potential conflicts with the resulting MAG figure; DFC determination based on geographic subdivisions; GAM run turnaround time; impact of Barnett Shale production and lack of regulations on water wells used for gas/oil production.

The Committee took a brief recess at 11:35 a.m.

The Committee reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

6. *Discussion and possible action on results of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) simulation request pursuant to the development of a DFC for the Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifers.*

Randy Williams gave a powerpoint presentation summarizing the results of the Trinity GAM simulation request. He opened the presentation by suggesting that the GCDs take some time to review the results and then set a future meeting to decide whether additional GAM runs are needed. He pointed out that Appendix B of the report contains the water budget for each of the counties in GMA 8. Mr. Williams' overview of the GAM results showed predicted drawdown levels in the various aquifer layers after 50 years. These layers included the Woodbine, Paluxy, Glen Rose, Hensell, and Hosston. The impact of the production of Barnett Shale based upon different pumping scenarios was also shown.

Mr. Williams identified possible issues that the committee might wish to address. He stated that some drawdown may have been exaggerated due to the way the pumping was spatially applied to a particular layer or area. Also, no pumping was applied to Delta and Kaufman Counties. These issues may justify conducting another GAM run. Mr. Williams suggested that the committee direct him to confer with TWDB to address the identified issues. He will provide each GCD with details of the GAM results for their area. He suggested that the GCDs review this data and then re-convene to determine if they wish to revise pumping specifications and conduct another GAM run.

Mr. Williams stated that his presentations will be posted on the GMA 8 website (www.gma8.org). The Committee discussed the time period needed to proceed as suggested. Andy Donnelly, TWDB, stated that a new GAM run would be needed to address the issues that were identified. He could not give a specific date when the results would be available but acknowledged that most of the work setting up the GAM run was already completed.

A question was asked how counties without a GCD could participate in the DFC process. Mr. Westbrook stated that the public has already had input in determining the demand and availability figures that were developed by the regional water planning groups. These are the figures that are being used in the unprotected counties. He went on to state that any new information that is presented will be considered by the Committee. He also stated that the best thing to do is form a GCD so they can have a vote.

Robert Bradley, TWDB, wanted to clarify that if the GMAs do not meet the December 1st deadline and the MAGs are not included in the regional and state water plans, the Regional Water Planning Groups cannot set the DFCs or the MAGs; only the GCDs can do this. Therefore, when the DFCs and MAGs are determined by the GMA, they will be implemented.

The Committee agreed to disseminate the GAM results to the GCDs and ask them to provide comments to Cheryl Maxwell by August 24th. She will then forward the comments to TWDB. The Committee will meet again on September 5th to discuss the results and determine whether another GAM run is needed.

7. *Committee Member Comments.*

Horace Grace stated that all information will be posted on the GMA 8 website. Gary Westbrook asked Mr. Williams if he had all the direction that he needed. Mr. Williams asked for clarification that he was authorized to consult with TWDB regarding the issues previously identified. The Committee concurred. Richard Bowers stated he felt the Committee was heading in the right direction but was making important decisions and needed to proceed cautiously.

8. *Discuss agenda items for next meeting.*

The results of GAM run for the Northern Trinity/Woodbine aquifer will be discussed.

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

The next meeting on Wednesday September 5, 2007 will be hosted by McLennan County GCD at the Bellmead City Hall at 10:00 a.m.

10. *Closing Comments.*

Robert Bradley reminded the group that TWDB is available to help in developing GCD management plans. Mr. Westbrook concurred that the TWDB is one of the greatest resources available to GCDs and encouraged the new GCDs to work closely with them. He also encouraged the new GCDs to join the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts which is another great source of information. Mr. Grace volunteered the Clearwater District staff and directors to meet with the new districts if they had any questions or advice in getting started. He stated that he felt the quicker the new districts sought confirmation, the better their chances were of being successfully confirmed.

11. *Adjourn.*

Mr. Grace adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

(A digital recording of this meeting is available upon request.)

The GMA 8 Board _____ the minutes on this 5th day of September, 2007.

Sign-In Sheet for August 9, 2007 GMA 8 Meeting is attached.