

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
September 17, 2008 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 Wednesday, September 17, 2008 in the City of Goldthwaite in the Mills County State Bank Community Room, located at 1101 Parker Street, Goldthwaite, Texas.

Groundwater District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Richard Bowers	Northern Trinity GCD: Jim Oliver
Clearwater UWCD: Horace Grace	Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook
Fox Crossing WD: Sam Beaumont	Saratoga UWCD: Dave Hamilton
McLennan Co. GCD: Rodney Kroll	Tablerock GCD: David Freeman
Middle Trinity GCD: Joe Cooper	Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey

1. *Invocation*

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 10:03 a.m. at the Mills County State Bank in Goldthwaite. Horace Grace called roll and established that a quorum was present. Nine Districts were present at the time of roll call. Jim Oliver, Northern Trinity GCD Representative arrived at approximately 10:20 a.m.

3. *Welcome and introductions.*

Horace Grace asked members of the audience to introduce themselves. Sam Beaumont welcomed everyone on behalf of the City of Goldthwaite. Joe Cooper gave a brief overview of the creation of GMA 8, contracting with engineers, use of groundwater availability models (GAM), and desired future conditions (DFC) utilization to develop managed available groundwater (MAG) figures. He summated that there has been a lot of hard work by the groundwater conservation districts to get GMA 8 to this point of approving the Trinity aquifer DFCs. He also made note of the diligence administratively made by Clearwater UWCD to keep GMA 8 moving forward in the development of DFCs.

4. *Public Comments.*

There was no public comment.

5. *Approve minutes of May 19, 2008 GMA 8 meeting.*

Sam Beaumont moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2008 GMA 8 meeting, seconded by Richard Bowers. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0.

6. *Presentation of proposed desired future conditions for the Trinity aquifer based on the Texas Water Development Board GAM Runs 07-30 and 08-06.*

Sam Beaumont reported that Fox Crossing is concerned with the current figures in the Regional Water Plan (RWP). He noted that the current numbers underestimate the water needs and potential growth of Mills County. Due to this misrepresentation, Fox Crossing WD is hopeful that GMA 8 will approve the Trinity aquifer DFCs at this meeting and meet the deadline to include the new figures in the upcoming RWP review.

(Jim Oliver, Northern Trinity GCD, arrived at approximately 10:20 a.m.)

Randy Williams, TCB/AECOM, presented information on proposed DFCs for the Trinity aquifer based on Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) GAM runs 07-30 and 08-06. He noted that there were two GAM runs still pending with TWDB (08-64 and 08-66). If GMA 8 were to meet the timeline for their MAG numbers to be included in the revision of the RWP, then the committee would need to move forward with adopting DFCs based off of GAM runs already processed by TWDB.

Randy Williams then noted that GAM runs 07-30 and 08-06 pumping amounts for each county differ in only three counties; Coryell, Comanche and Erath.

Joe Cooper inquired on the status and dates of completion for the two GAM runs that are currently being processed by TWDB. Cheryl Maxwell responded that the estimated MAG delivery date for 08-64 is December 5, 2008 and for 08-66 is January 30, 2009. The board discussed the overall changes in the area numbers between 08-06 and 08-66.

Horace Grace noted that if GMA 8 did decide to move forward and approve a DFC for the Trinity aquifer so as to meet the deadline to have the MAGs included in the RWP, they could go back at any time and update or modify the DFCs for the Trinity with GMA 8 approval. Horace Grace commented that unlike other GCDs who are looking to increase their MAGs the Upper Trinity GCD is working to lower their MAG.

Mike Massey spoke to the reasoning behind the Upper Trinity GCD's desire to lower their MAG. He noted that after extensive study by a contractual hydro-geoscientist, reports were submitted to their board indicating that the counties within the Upper Trinity GCD were already exceeding pumping and would not sustain the DFC in their area for the Trinity aquifer. Therefore, the Upper Trinity GCD board decided to reduce their pumping requests for each county in their district.

Sam Beaumont explained that setting this DFC is only one step in the process. Once the DFCs for the aquifer are set then they can be sent to the Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG) so they can establish areas where strategies may need to be established to plan for additional water supplies to those areas of concern.

Joe Cooper commented on the necessity of complete honesty with the RWPG so that they are able to address those water needs. Terry Kelley with the Brazos G RWPG reported that they are just trying to gather all of the data from the Water User Groups (WUG) and GCDs to establish what is going on and where additional planning is needed.

The committee discussed whether they should approve a processed GAM run or a pending GAM run. Several GCDs voiced concern with inappropriate representation in the RWP as well as some of the

individual concerns for the water issues within the different GCDs. No conclusions were made at this time.

7. ***Public hearing and possible action to adopt desired future conditions for the Trinity aquifer as described above.***

Horace Grace clarified that the committee had entered a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. and explained the purpose of the public hearing.

Richard Bowers recommended that the committee approve the most current and processed GAM run at this time.

Terry Kelley, Johnson County, inquired on the MAG for Johnson County. Randy Williams responded that the accumulative MAG for Johnson County between the Trinity aquifer and the Woodbine aquifer was 17,767 acre feet/year based on GAM run 08-06 which was the most current and processed GAM run at this time.

Gary Westbrook noted that the GMA 8 committee tried to avoid causing any encumbrance upon any other counties that currently have no representation due to an absence of a GCD. The committee adopted the figures from the RWP for those counties unless those numbers adversely affected an existing GCD within GMA 8.

Horace Grace closed the public hearing at 11:07 a.m.

Joe Cooper moved to adopt DFCs based on GAM run 08-06 for the Trinity aquifer, seconded by Sam Beaumont. Mike Massey asked the committee for their assurance to support Upper Trinity in the adoption of DFCs based on GAM run 08-66 once TWDB processed the GAM and returns the MAG to GMA 8. The committee responded that they would not oppose Upper Trinity lowering their pumping figures. **The motion carried, 10-0.**

8. ***Discussion regarding proposed schedule for GMA 8 to complete initial phase of the joint planning process.***

Cheryl Maxwell referred the committee to a handout outlining the GMA 8 original scope of work under the 2007 contract with TCB, Inc. along with additional services requests (ASR) outside of the contract parameter and their corresponding costs. ASR#1 for \$4,250 covered services provided in addition to the original contract services from May 2007 through October 2007. ASR#2 for \$2,750 covered services provided from August 2008 through the September 17, 2008 meeting. ASR#3 covered \$7,800 for any services beyond the September 17, 2008 meeting.

Horace Grace commented that he had met with TCB, Inc. to negotiate the listed costs. He noted that although these amounts are not currently covered or included in any contract with TCB, Inc. the GMA 8 committee had charged TCB, Inc. to produce the work.

GMA 8 committee members discussed and proposed financial support to cover the costs of the ASRs #1, #2, and #3.

Randy Williams, TCB/AECOM, Inc. noted that the additional work outlined under ASR #3 may range anywhere from \$1,500 to the full \$7,800 depending on the amount of labor necessary to complete the task.

Dave Hamilton left the committee meeting at 11:25 a.m.

9. a. Discussion and possible action to amend contract with TCB, Inc. to develop the desired future conditions for the aquifers in GMA 8;

Joe Cooper moved to amend the contract with TCB, Inc. to develop the desired future conditions for the aquifers in GMA 8, seconded by Mike Massey. The motion carried 9-0.

b. Discussion and possible action on how future work conducted by TCB, Inc. will be funded by the committee.

Committee members proposed financial support as Agenda Item No. 8 was discussed above.

10. Discussion regarding TWDB 30 day default approval statement for draft managed available groundwater (MAG) reports.

Sam Beaumont noted that the GMA 8 committee doesn't meet every 30 days. Robert Bradley, TWDB, noted that other GMAs are modifying the statement to say "30 day or the next board meeting". The committee discussed the concern. The consensus of the committee was that TWDB has been flexible and considerate enough not to enforce that deadline with other groups and therefore there was no need to change the statement.

11. Committee member comments.

Sam Beaumont thanked the committee for approving a DFC for the Trinity aquifer.

Rodney Kroll reported that McLennon County GCD has been placed in the Central Texas Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA), therefore requiring them to merge with several other districts by the TCEQ.

Joe Cooper extended thanks to Fox Crossing WD for their generosity as hosts of this meeting. He also noted that Senator Kip Averitt projects that there will be regional level groundwater management in the future.

David Freeman commented that changes in water regulation and planning are on the very near horizon in Texas.

Richard Bowers asked that the committee have an update by a representative of the TWDB on how GMA 8 is progressing and how other GMAs are progressing across the state.

Mike Massey extended gratitude to the GMA 8 committee for their patience in allowing Upper Trinity the time to get up to speed on the needs of their district.

Horace Grace thanked Fox Crossing WD for hosting the meeting and commended GMA 8 for being able to come together and develop a plan for their area. He encouraged the committee to continue diligently to maintain control at the local levels in the management and planning processes.

Robert Bradley, TWDB noted that it was a very good achievement to have passed DFCs for the Trinity aquifer as well as all other aquifers within GMA 8. He said that TWDB is overwhelmed with submittals

at this time but are working diligently to process all GAMs submitted by all of the GMAs. Robert Bradley commented that official GAMs were priority over non-official GAMs, therefore the GMA 8 GAM would take precedent over those non-official GAM submittals.

Horace Grace extended the invitation to pass the administrative duties for GMA 8 to another district for a time.

12. Discuss agenda items for next meeting

No future agenda items were determined at this time.

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

Next meeting to be determined.

14. Closing comments.

No additional comments were made.

15. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

The GMA 8 Committee unanimously approved the minutes on this 16th day of March, 2009.