

## ROUNDTABLE RECAP

The Bureau of Economic Geology – University of Texas at Austin (Bureau) conducted a pilot program, sponsored by the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation, to test and develop the [Well Performance Model](#) (WPM) with a limited cohort of groundwater conservation districts (GCDs).

The Bureau convened a roundtable on October 25, 2023 to discuss the WPM, the pilot program, and the future.

### Roundtable Attendees

- Bureau of Economic Geology
- Pilot program participants:
  - Clearwater GCD
  - Cow Creek GCD
  - Guadalupe County GCD
  - Post Oak Savannah GCD
  - Rolling Plains GCD
  - Southwest Travis County GCD
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
- Texas Water Development Board
- Texas Water Conservation Association
- Texas Water Foundation
- Texas 2036
- RMBJ Geo Inc.
- INTERA Inc.

### Goals & Agenda

The two goals of the roundtable discussion were: (1) share information on the WPM and pilot program, and (2) consider next-steps. The roundtable was structured into three agenda items:

- Discuss WPM alpha version, as well as questions and answers
- Seek pilot program perspectives and insights
- Discuss prospective development and operationalization of the WPM

### Key Discussion Points

- The WPM is in an “alpha version” state; it has no user interface and is generally not accessible to or useable by groundwater managers, planners, and stakeholders
  - There are currently *no planned initiatives* to further develop or operationalize the WPM
  - WPM methods are peer-reviewed and will soon appear in the [Texas Water Journal](#)
- Assembling well usage, aquifer characteristics, and well infrastructure data for use with the WPM presented a challenge for pilot program GCDs
  - The [groundwater availability models](#) and the [submitted drillers reports database](#) were leveraged to supply much of this data for the pilot program testing
    - Future development of the WPM could automatically link these data to the tool
    - The quality of these data was questioned, but they were ultimately accepted as the best data available and deemed appropriate for envisioned WPM uses
  - Suggestion: quantify uncertainty for any public-facing implementation of the WPM
- The pilot program participants discussed *many potential uses for the WPM*, including:
  - Quantifying the direct socioeconomic impacts of desired future conditions
  - Assessing and planning for the financial impacts of pumping and recharge projects
  - Providing additional basis and explanation for GCD permitting decisions
  - Supporting GCD efforts to educate the public on planning and management decisions
  - Assessing well feasibility and supplementing information to Total Estimated Recoverable Storage
- A general consensus was reached that *the WPM could address clear Texas groundwater planning and management needs*, but these must be balanced against other needs
  - Suggestion: the WPM should ultimately be simple, flexible, sustainable, and equitable
- The roundtable was adjourned with a call for further discussion.



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