

Meeting of the
Groundwater Management Area 8
November 3, 2014 in Cleburne, TX

Minutes

The Groundwater Management Area 8 (GMA 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, 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, held a ***Joint Planning meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, November 3, 2014***, in the Cleburne Conference Center in Cleburne, Texas.

Groundwater Conservation District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Charles Shell	Prairielands GCD: Charles Beseda
Clearwater UWCD: Judy Parker	Red River GCD: David Gattis
Middle Trinity GCD: Joe Cooper	Saratoga UWCD: Jason Jones
North Texas GCD: Eddy Daniel	Southern Trinity GCD: None
Northern Trinity GCD: Craig Schkade	Upper Trinity GCD: Mike Massey
Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook	

1. Invocation

Eddy Daniel, North Texas GCD presided over the meeting and Gary Westbrook, Post Oak Savannah GCD provided the invocation.

2. Call meeting to order and establish quorum.

The Groundwater Management Area 8 (GMA 8) meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM at the Cleburne Conference Center in Cleburne, TX. Mr. Daniel welcomed the new members, took roll and established that a quorum was present. Ten (10) districts were present at the time of roll call, with Southern Trinity GCD absent.

3. Welcome and introductions.

The members present introduced themselves. Mr. Daniel thanked all visitors for attending the meeting.

4. Public Comments.

No public comments were received.

5. Approve minutes of July 29, 2014 GMA 8 meeting.

The draft minutes were provided for review. David Gattis, Red River GCD requested that the sign-in sheet be copied to all members. Mr. Daniel recommended the sign in sheet be posted to the website for easy access.

Joe Cooper, Middle Trinity GCD moved to approve the revised minutes of the July 29, 2014 GMA 8 meeting as presented, seconded by Judy Parker, Clearwater UWCD. The motion carried unanimously, 10-0.

6. Update and discussion of groundwater-related legislation and other requirements for the development of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs).

Brian Sledge, Sledge Fancher, PLLC and Bill Mullican, Mullican and Associates provided an overview of interim legislative activities and stakeholder workgroups, as well as statutory requirements for DFCs. Mr. Sledge reported that groundwater legislation for the upcoming session has been in progress with multiple stakeholder groups. One deals with aquifer storage recovery, and another would remove the requirement for the State Auditor's Office to review the Management Plan goals and would only allow them to review financial records. One piece of legislation would revise permits for long-term projects to guarantee the permit renewal in the event that nothing has changed in the operation or permitting process, and one would revise the process that currently allows issuing permits above the MAG levels. Senator Fraser has requested the committees review regional permitting and rules to make the rules more similar in areas that connect, such as county lines.

7. Briefing on results from the Northern Trinity and Woodbine Aquifers Groundwater Availability Model Update project

Mr. Mullican reported that DFCs have to include a review of nine factors. Mr. Mullican made information available to the public on the water availability and needs for each county. He responded that the meeting will include discussion on the requirements in Chapter 36.108 (d) (3), which is one of the nine factors.

Larry French, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) reported that the TWDB is currently working on reviewing the updated model. On September 17th, a timeline for the review was provided with an expected final date of November 21st. Their review is currently on schedule. He expressed his appreciation for Mr. Mullican and his responsiveness to answer questions as they occur to the staff reviewing the model.

8. Briefing and discussion on hydrological conditions, including for each aquifer in the management area the average annual recharge, inflows, and discharge, as required by Texas Water Code Chapter 36.108 (d) (3)

Van Kelley, INTERA provided a presentation on the Northern Trinity and Woodbine Aquifers GAM update project. Mr. Kelley's presentation included discussion on gaining and losing streams, as well as recharge and discharge. The study also included research into flowing wells from high artesian conditions. The model also showed that a surprising portion of water is moving downdip into the aquifer. Mr. Kelley explained the process used to determine the baseflow amounts in the model update, along with the pumping information used in the model update. The new model includes a more refined grid, which will allow for better planning. Downdip must increase in the deep portions of the aquifer because there is not sufficient confined storage or cross transfer of water.

Discussion was held as to whether the presentations could be provided ahead of time. The consultants reported that the presentations are generally developed until the last minute. Several members of GMA 8 requested that a printed copy of the report be provided in order to make notes. The information is highly technical and a printed copy could be beneficial.

9. Briefing and discussion of the predictive groundwater availability model simulations executed to date for the Northern Trinity and Woodbine Aquifers

Mr. Kelley provided a presentation on the four predictive simulations that were requested. The simulation for "highest practicable use" was desired because it would provide a "bookend" for the maximum amount of use available. The results of the run were correct, but were not able to be used due to a lack of management context. The run was recompleted manually with pumpage increased by a factor of 2.8 for each county in the Trinity Aquifer and 2.7 factor increase in pumping for the Woodbine Aquifer. The conservation run included a reduction in pumping by 26% for the Trinity Aquifer and 30% for the Woodbine Aquifer through 2070. The reduction would be reduced slowly over the time period. A comparison of the "highest practicable" to conservation led to an unexpected result where in some cases the conservation was higher than the "highest practicable". This was due to

the "highest practicable" being a simple storage calculation, whereas the conservation is a simulation that allows for lateral and cross groundwater flow.

The model is a regional tool, which shows the potential impact that changing production in one county would have on another. Discussion was held on the water use in counties that do not have groundwater conservation districts. Information provided to the State in the annual Water Use Survey for 2010 was included in the model, as well as any historical use that was available.

10. Discussion of potential approaches for additional predictive simulations to evaluate potential desired future conditions.

Mr. Mullican expressed that the potential actions need to be discussed and proposed DFCs developed before review of the final considerations can be undertaken. Mr. Daniel stated that GMA 8 must agree on the simulations to be completed. Mr. Daniel recommended that hydrogeologists and consultants be requested to meet and determine what simulations need to be completed and then provide recommendations to the representatives for consideration by individual Boards. The districts will be required to work outside of the GMA 8 meetings. Some considerations are current pumping levels, future pumping, the impacts of the water levels being reduced by 20 or more feet, and the impact on neighboring districts. Districts should begin conversations with neighboring districts to see if an agreement can be reached for that smaller area. Discussion was held on the necessity of working with regional water planning groups, as well as funding for additional simulations.

Proposed DFCs must be adopted by May 1, 2016. By May 2015, the DFC selection needs to be in the final stages. Mr. Daniel requested all districts to ask their Boards to approve the consultants to work together to develop recommendations to provide to the districts and the GMA 8. A recommendation from the public was received to include legal counsel and general managers in the planning meetings. Mr. Mullican responded that general managers would be welcome, but most legal counsel may not be interested in participating, but would be welcome. Possible simulations were discussed, including adjusting one county to see its impact on all surrounding counties. Data for all counties will need to be input into the model for each simulation that is run.

11. Set date, time, and place of next meeting and discuss agenda items.

The meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM.


12. Closing comments.

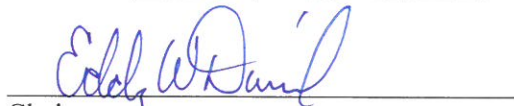
Mr. Daniel requested all visitors and GMA 8 committee members to sign in confirming they attended the meeting.

13. Adjourn.

The Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 12:23 PM.

The GMA 8 Committee unanimously approved the minutes on this 25th day of March, 2015


Recording Secretary


Chairman