

# **GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 8**

## **JOINT PLANNING MEETING**

**Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Office  
208 Kimberly Dr.  
Cleburne, Texas 76031**

**TUESDAY  
June 24, 2025  
10:00 AM**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**  
**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 8**

Notice is hereby given that the groundwater conservation districts located wholly or partially within Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 8, as designated by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), consisting of 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 will hold a **Joint Planning meeting at 10:00 A.M. on June 24, 2025** at the **Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Office** located at **208 Kimberly Dr., Cleburne, Texas 76031**. The meeting will be open to the public. The following items of business will be discussed and potentially acted upon:

1. Invocation.
2. Call meeting to order and establish quorum.
3. Welcome and introductions.
4. Public comment.
5. Consider and act upon approval of minutes from the February 25, 2025, GMA 8 meeting.
6. Discussion and possible action on the overview and timeline for DFC Joint Planning.
7. Discussion and possible action on the Northern Trinity and Woodbine Aquifer Groundwater Availability Model Update and review timeline.
8. Discussion and possible action on model runs for DFC Joint Planning.
9. Presentations and discussions relate to Desired Future Conditions pursuant to Texas Water Code Section 36.108(d) for (2) the water supply needs and water management strategies included in the state water plan; (3) hydrological conditions, including for each aquifer in the management area the total estimated recoverable storage as provided by the executive administrator, and the average annual recharge, inflows, and discharge; and (7) the impact on the interests and rights in private property, including ownership and the rights of management area landowners and their lessees and assigns in groundwater as recognized under Section 36.002.
10. Discussion and possible action on a request from Region C Planning Group related to Brackish Groundwater Water Management Strategies.
11. Updates from the TWDB.
12. Discussion of possible agenda items and dates for next GMA 8 meeting.
13. Closing comments.
14. Adjourn.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 2025

Mitchell Sodek, Chair  
Groundwater Management Area 8

*The above agenda schedules represent an estimate of the order for the indicated items and is subject to change at any time. These public meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance to attend the meeting, please call (855) 426-4433 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to coordinate any special physical access arrangements.*

*For questions regarding this notice, please contact Velma Starks at (855) 426-4433, at [ntgcd@northtexasgcd.org](mailto:ntgcd@northtexasgcd.org), or at 5100 Airport Drive, Denison, TX 75020.*

At any time during the meeting or work session and in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Government Code, Vernon's Texas Codes, Annotated, the Groundwater Management Area 8 may meet in executive session on any of the above agenda items or other lawful items for consultation concerning attorney-client matters (§551.071); deliberation regarding real property (§551.072); deliberation regarding prospective gifts (§551.073); personnel matters (§551.074); and deliberation regarding security devices (§551.076). Any subject discussed in executive session may be subject to action during an open meeting.

ATTACHMENT 5

**Meeting of the  
Groundwater Management Area 8  
February 25, 2025**

**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 Tuesday, February 25, 2025**, at the **Prairielands Groundwater Conservation District Office** located at **208 Kimberly Dr., Cleburne, Texas 76031**.

Groundwater Conservation District Representatives Present:

Central Texas GCD: Mitchell Sodek	Prairielands GCD: Kathy Turner Jones
Clearwater UWCD: Dirk Aaron	Red River GCD: David Gattis
Middle Trinity GCD: Patrick Wagner	Saratoga UWCD: Tasha Bates
North Texas GCD: Ronny Young	Southern Trinity GCD: Scooter Radcliffe
Northern Trinity GCD: Corey Jones	Upper Trinity GCD: Doug Shaw
Post Oak Savannah GCD: Gary Westbrook	

Groundwater Conservation District Representatives Absent:

**1. Invocation**

Gary Westbrook provided the invocation for the meeting.

**2. Call meeting to order and establish quorum**

Chairman Mitchell Sodek, Central Texas GCD, established that a quorum was present and called the GMA 8 meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**3. Welcome and introductions.**

Chairman Mitchell Sodek, Central Texas GCD, welcomed TWDB and consultants.

**4. Public Comments.**

No public comment.

**5. Consider and act upon approval of minutes from the October 31, 2024, GMA 8 meeting**

Motion by Dirk Aaron and seconded by David Gattis. Motion passed.

**6. Discussion and possible action on the overview and timeline for DFC Joint Planning.**

Chairman Mitchell Sodek introduced John Ellis. John Ellis presented to the Board. Discussion was held. Jean Perez discussed TWDB model review process. Ronny Young made a motion to use option 1 for the timeline. Dirk Aaron seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**7. Discussion and possible action on the Northern Trinity and Woodbine Aquifer Groundwater Availability Model Update and review timeline.**

John Ellis presented on the model update. Discussion was held. John Ellis will provide data by district and by county for the results.

**8. Discussion and possible action on model runs for DFC Joint Planning.**

John Ellis discussed model runs for the DFC planning. Discussion was held. A meeting of the technical committee will be scheduled in the next 30 days to discuss model runs.

**9. Presentations and discussions relate to Desired Future Conditions pursuant to Texas Water Code Section 36.108(d) for (1) aquifer uses or conditions within the management area, including conditions that differ substantially from one geographic area to another; (4) other environmental impacts, including impacts on spring flow and other interactions between groundwater and surface water; and (5) the impact on subsidence.**

James Beach presented on the Factor 1, Factor 4 and Factor 5 to the committee. Discussion was held.

**10. Updates from the TWDB.**

Jean Perez provided updates from the TWDB.

**11. Discussion of possible agenda items and dates for next GMA 8 meeting.**

Chairman Mitchell Sodek discussed the timeframe for the next meeting. The next meeting is planned for May.

**12. Closing comments.**

No comments

**13. Adjourn**

Chairman Mitchell Sodek, Central Texas GCD, declared the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

The GMA 8 Committee unanimously approved the minutes on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman



ATTACHMENT 10

April 4, 2025

Mitchell Sodek, Chair  
Groundwater Management Area 8 (GMA 8 )  
P.O. Box 870  
Burnet, TX 78611

Re: Brackish groundwater project for Greater Texoma Utility Authority

Dear Mr. Sodek:

The Greater Texoma Utility Authority (GTUA) is proposing to develop brackish groundwater in Grayson County to serve the needs of existing and potential future customers within its service area. GTUA requested this project be included in the 2026 Region C Water Plan. As the Region C consultant, we have included this project, along with brackish groundwater desalination in the plan. However, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is restricting the total groundwater available in Grayson County to the Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) values determined through the Joint Planning Process. It is our understanding that the groundwater within the designated brackish production zones is not considered part of the MAG, and its availability should be determined independently from the Joint Planning Process. We are requesting GMA 8 submit a letter to the TWDB concurring that groundwater within the brackish production zones are not considered part of the MAG for Grayson County and the groundwater production from this zone should not be limited to the MAG. Since this project occurs within the Red River GCD area, we are also requesting a similar support letter from the GCD.

The inclusion of this project in the Region C Water Plan is critical for GTUA to seek funding and permitting of the desalination facility. It is also critical to meet the needs of a fast-growing area of the state that has limited available water supply. To assist in your review of our request, we have included additional technical information on groundwater resources in Grayson County and justification for this request.

We thank you for your support on this matter. Due to the timeline for regional water planning, we will need a response from the GMA and GCD by the end of June 2025. If you have any questions, please contact me at (817) 735-7446 or Vince Clause at (512) 906-8614.

Sincerely,



04/04/2025

Simone Kiel  
Project Manager for Region C  
Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Cc: Harold Latham, Region C representative from GMA8  
Paul Sigle, Red River GCD  
Natalie Ballew, TWDB, Groundwater Science Division  
Dan Buhman, Region C Chair  
Kevin Smith, TWDB Project Manager



## **Supporting Information on Groundwater Resources in Grayson County**

Groundwater resources in Grayson County, are principally derived from the Woodbine and Trinity Aquifer. Historically, the development of groundwater in the Trinity Aquifer has been limited by the presence of saltwater in the northern and northeastern parts of the county. Similarly, the increased sodium content in the downdip Woodbine has posed challenges for development (Baker, 1960).

Brackish groundwater in the Woodbine and Trinity aquifers remains undeveloped in Grayson County, Texas. Developing this resource could provide a new source of municipal water, thereby reducing pressures on the use of freshwater. In support of House Bill 30, the TWDB has defined three Brackish Groundwater Production Zones (BGPZ) in Southeast Grayson County (Robinson et al., 2019). BGPZs are defined as areas of moderate to high availability and productivity of brackish groundwater that meet the following criteria:

- Average total dissolved solids level of more than 1,000 milligrams per liter
- Separated by sufficient hydrogeologic barriers to prevent significant impacts to freshwater supplies
- Not a significant source of supply for municipal, domestic or agricultural purposes
- Not within a wastewater injection zone
- Not located within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, Barton Springs-Edwards Conservation District, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District or Fort Bend Subsidence District

According to 2 TAC §36.1015(l), production authorized from a BGPZ is in addition to the amount of managed available groundwater provided under joint planning in 2 TAC §36.108(a).

For these reasons, GTUA has created a brackish groundwater strategy to develop 8.4 MGD of potable water supplies by utilizing brackish groundwater from the Woodbine and Trinity aquifers in Grayson County, Texas. The tentative location for this wellfield site is west and southwest of the City of Bells and assumes the construction of 12 wells across the Woodbine and Trinity aquifers. This area is strategically situated across three BGPZs that encompass the Antlers Sand of the Trinity Aquifer. A feasibility and site selection study will be performed to identify and confirm site locations for wellfield development.

## **References:**

Baker E.T. (1960). *Geology and Ground-Water Resources of Grayson County, Texas*, Texas Board of Water Engineers (Bulletin 6013). Prepared in Cooperation with the United States Geological Survey and the City of Sherman.

Robinson, M. C., Deeds, N. E., & Lupton, D. M. (2019). *Identification of potential brackish groundwater production areas—Northern trinity aquifer* (No. 19-1). Technical Note.



**RED RIVER**  
**GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
FANNIN COUNTY AND GRAYSON COUNTY



June 19, 2025

Ms. Simone Kiel  
Project Manager, Region C  
Freese and Nichols, Inc.  
801 Cherry Street, Suite 2800  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

**RE: Support for Brackish Groundwater Project and Clarification on MAG Inclusion**

Dear Ms. Kiel:

Thank you for your letter dated April 4, 2025, regarding the Greater Texoma Utility Authority's (GTUA) proposed development of brackish groundwater in Grayson County and its inclusion in the 2026 Region C Water Plan.

The Red River Groundwater Conservation District (Red River GCD) supports, from a conceptual standpoint, the position that brackish groundwater produced from designated Brackish Groundwater Production Zones (BGPZs) should not be considered part of the Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) under the joint planning process. As acknowledged in 2 TAC §36.1015(l), production from BGPZs is intended to be in addition to MAG values, and this distinction is critical for encouraging the responsible development of alternative water supplies in areas with limited freshwater availability.

*2 TAC §36.1015(l): Rules adopted under this section must provide that the production authorized from a designated brackish groundwater production zone is in addition to the amount of managed available groundwater provided under Section 36.108. To the extent possible, a district shall issue permits up to the point that the total volume of exempt and permitted groundwater production in a designated brackish groundwater production zone equals the amount of brackish groundwater that may be produced annually to achieve the groundwater availability described by the development board in its designation of the brackish groundwater production zone under Section 16.060(e).*

To facilitate appropriate planning and permitting, we respectfully recommend that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) consider pursuing policy changes that would:

- (1) Establish clear and consistent limits for brackish groundwater production from BGPZs;
- (2) Ensure that such limits are developed in a manner that protects freshwater resources; and
- (3) Provide those limits in a format usable by regional water planning groups.



**RED RIVER**  
**GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
FANNIN COUNTY AND GRAYSON COUNTY



These steps would support the responsible development of brackish groundwater resources while preserving the integrity of freshwater aquifers and enhancing water supply resilience in rapidly growing regions such as Grayson County.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important matter and support the continued efforts of GTUA and Region C to diversify and strengthen regional water supplies.

Sincerely,

Mark Patterson  
President, Board of Directors  
Red River Groundwater Conservation District

cc:  
Mitchell Sodek, Chair, GMA 8  
Paul Sigle, GTUA  
Natalie Ballew, TWDB  
Dan Buhman, Region C Chair  
Kevin Smith, TWDB Project Manager

ADJOURN