

**UPPER GULF COAST AQUIFER PLANNING AREA  
(GMA 14)**

Joint Planning Group  
Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 2008  
10:00 AM

**MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Upper Gulf Coast Aquifer Planning Area (GMA 14) was held Tuesday, April 22, 2008, in the board room of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District located at 207 W Phillips St, Suite 300, Conroe, Texas.

The meeting was called to order by Lloyd Behm (Bluebonnet GCD) at 10:00 a.m. District representatives introduced themselves. Districts represented included: Lone Star GCD, Bluebonnet GCD, Brazos Valley GCD, Lower Trinity GCD, Brazoria County GCD, and Southeast Texas GCD. Districts not represented: Brazoria County GCD. Also, in attendance at said meeting were: Greg Ellis, Executive Director for the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), Sarah Backhouse with the TWDB, Kirk Hanath representing Washington County and Mark Kasmarek with USGS. (*see Attachment "A" for a list of attendees*).

There was no public comment.

Members discussed approval of the meeting minutes of September 25, 2007, Joint Planning Group Meeting. Without further discussion, upon a motion by Kathy Jones (Lone Star GCD), seconded by Buffalo Alwright (Lower Trinity GCD) and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes for September 25, 2007, were approved.

Lloyd Behm (Bluebonnet GCD) began discussion regarding District status of management plans, desired future conditions, or managed available groundwater.

**Bluebonnet GCD** – They plan to begin updating their management plan this year as required every five years.

**Brazos Valley GCD** – They are waiting on a hydrologic study to be completed by LBG Guyton by May 2008. The District has also been working with GMA 12.

**Lone Star GCD** – The District released Phase II (A) of their regulatory plan in February 2008. Phase II (A) requires large water systems to estimate population and water demand from 2015 through 2045 and identify alternate water supplies to meet the 30% reduction in groundwater use by 2015. The next step will be to adopt Phase II (b) by midsummer of 2009, which will serve as the actual groundwater reduction plan.

**Lower Trinity GCD** – They located office space for the District and are interviewing for the General Manager position.

**Southeast Texas GCD** – Their management plan has been approved. They are now working with hydrologist to complete an aquifer study.

**Ft. Bend Subsidence** – Regulatory Area A are required to submit their groundwater reduction plans this year. Their groundwater production was 20% less in 2007 with no conversion.

**Harris – Galveston Subsidence District** – The City of Houston has converted 70 million gallons per day (mgd). Harris County's pumpage for 2007 was down from 2006 by 10% or approximately 100 mgd. Galveston County pumpage was down 6 mgd in 2007.

**Waller County** – Lloyd Behm spoke stating that Waller County is now part of the Bluebonnet GCD.

**Washington County (unprotected)** - Kirk Hanath spoke on behalf of the county. He stated they have nothing to report outside of meeting with local businesses. They are still highly opposed to a groundwater district. City of Brenham uses surface water from Lake Somerville.

Mark Kasmarak (USGS) gave a brief overview of the well monitoring process he explained the two different types of well monitoring including the snapshot and continuous. The snapshot is where levels are collected periodically while the continuous, is where the levels are monitored continuously. Water level sites are based on the well status and the data available on the well. He explained the methods of measuring including the steel tape, the electric tape and the airline method. In conclusion the final result would be mapping the data for analyzing.

Greg Ellis began discussion regarding the DFC and the progress of other GMA's. He stated that the DFC process is working across the state. The problem is, GMA's are trying to isolate their own districts as a management strategy and a lot of expense is going to the unprotected counties. The state is being encouraged to put money towards the unprotected counties. Another problem is, the GMA's are overloading the TWDB staff. He suggests they shift GMA's to different schedules of submitting DFC's so the TWDB is not overloaded. Potential problems coming up, exempt uses are not classified in the rules. Each district is to classify their own exempt use, which causes problem because the total available groundwater includes exempt uses. Another big issue is that as soon as the MAG comes out, there will be a gold rush on permits; the solution is to consider rules for not approving permits for 6 months to 1 year and approving them all at one time. Also include a requirement that supply is considered in the regional planning and have a contract signed for beneficial use.

Greg explained that the 2009 session will be big on groundwater. 5 or 6 GMA's set their DFC's by legislation so they will have to prove it is working. The DFC's will be criticized about how unreasonable it is. Greg then gave a brief overview of the following cases in litigation: Hudspeth County and Aspermont v. Rolling Plains.

Sara Backhouse (TWDB) did not have anything to report other than GMA 13 and 8 trying to reach their deadline. She suggests that the GMA's get their info in for the GAM's as soon as possible.

Lloyd Behm began discussion regarding action to approve a plan for GMA 14 to establish DFC's. Kathy suggests getting consultants working to give the districts guidance on what to take back to their Boards. Tom suggests bringing back the contract and the scope of work for review. The Districts agreed to review the proposal and scope of work again, but requests 2 options from the consultants.

Discussion was made regarding agenda items for next meeting. TCB will have the proposal and scope at the next meeting.

Discussion was made to set date and time for next meeting. Tom suggests having a combination of bimonthly and quarterly meetings. Upon a motion by Buffalo Alwright, seconded by Larry Shepherd and unanimously carried, the next meeting date and time, June 17, 2008, 10:00 AM at the Lone Star GCD, was approved.

Without further discussion and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 17th day of June, 2008.

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Lloyd Behm, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Kathy Turner Jones, Secretary