

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

Joint Planning Group
Meeting

Tuesday, June 17, 2008
10:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Upper Gulf Coast Aquifer Planning Area (GMA 14) was held Tuesday, June 17, 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. Also, in attendance at said meeting were: Greg Ellis, Executive Director for the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), Robert Bradley and Sarah Backhouse with the TWDB, Kirk Hanath and Dorothy Morgan representing Washington County and Bill Thaman with TCB. (*see Attachment "A" for a list of attendees*).

There was no public comment.

Members discussed approval of the meeting minutes of April 22, 2008, Joint Planning Group Meeting. Without further discussion, upon a motion by Kathy Jones (Lone Star GCD), seconded by Ralph Crum (Brazos Valley GCD) and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes for April 22, 2008, were approved.

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

Bluebonnet GCD – They have been working to get large users and cities permitted in Waller County. They have seen an increase in exempt wells. A permit was applied for in Austin County at Alan's Creek to install a nuclear plant. They are halfway through the permit process. This is a secondary site but there are concerns that it could become a primary site. The District was contacted by a power company regarding a coal plant in Grimes County. They are concerned that the Sparta aquifer will not support the amount needed for the plant.

Brazoria County GCD – They are working to get everyone on board to pay fees. They have also hired a company to assist in collecting fees. They have adopted their management plan, but have not completed their numbers.

Brazos Valley GCD – They are waiting on a hydrologic study to be completed by LBG Guyton, the study should be completed by their next meeting.

Lone Star GCD – The District is in the process of implementing Phase II (A) of the District Regulatory Plan. They will be updating the Districts management plan which is up for renewal this fall. The District is also having a study conducted by USGS to better determine aquifer recharge in Montgomery County.

Lower Trinity GCD – Update was given by Bill Jacobs, the new General Manager for the Lower Trinity GCD. He stated the District was working on getting their office set up. They have met with the TWDB. They have sent letters out to people regarding non compliance and have also adopted their administrative rules.

Southeast Texas GCD – John Martin, the new General Manager gave an update for the District stating they have requested input from producers on projected growth which in turn appears to be a 3.5% annual increase. At this time they have no knowledge of new industries.

Harris – Galveston Subsidence District & Ft. Bend Subsidence – Tom Michels briefly explained the background of the two Districts. West Harris County is 1 ½ years away from mandatory reductions which will be in 2010. Galveston is almost entirely on surface water. Fort Bend has adopted their regulatory plan, the City of Sugarland first reduction is planned for 2013.

Washington County (unprotected) - Kirk Hanath spoke stating they had nothing new to report but they are going into budget and would like amount to present in order to contribute to the Interlocal Agreement to determine DFC's.

Robert Bradley gave a brief overview of the current activities of the Texas Water Development Board. He stated that the TWDB has been very busy, they are down 2 modelers but are looking to hire more soon. They have received GMA 8's data with the exception of one aquifer. Sara Backhouse will be attending GMA 14's meetings in the future to give updates on behalf of the TWDB. In closing, they have been swamped with 29 management plans being due this year, which Sarah will be reviewing.

Lloyd began discussion regarding the action plan for GMA 14 to establish DFC's. He suggests in order to reduce work, we could come up with initial DFC based on management plans available. We understand the scope does not include additional GAM runs, which if needed it will cost more. Bill Thaman, TCB, gave an overview of the changes made to the scope since last year. He reminded everyone that this scope is not guaranteed to determine DFC's; it only includes 1 GAM run which is what the GMA requested. The scope of work includes 5 major tasks. In the end, meetings will be held to look at the results and gain some acceptance. A report will be sent to the TWDB. The only danger is that we can't come to an agreement. The worst that could happen is if no one likes the draw downs and we have to model over and over. The cost could be approximately \$3,000 - \$4,000 for each loop. But once the DFC is set it can be changed. Dorothy Morgan, Washington County, asks if DFC's are required in unprotected counties and will the TWDB determine them if not set? Lloyd Behm answered, no the GMA will determine those numbers.

Discussion was then made regarding the changes in the Interlocal Agreement. Lloyd explained the changes made in the agreement including where HGSD has more participation. Tom Michel explains, this would include HGSD in an advisory role, but ultimately the Groundwater Districts would vote to make the final decision. Lloyd states that all of the Districts have been contacted but we are still unsure of who all will participate; if all Districts do not participate then Districts will have to share the cost. Tom Michels suggests cleaning up the numbers on the agreement as well as attach a schedule to submit to individual Boards and come back at the next meeting with their decisions, and to call Lloyd Behm if there are any additional questions.

Greg Ellis gave a brief update on current court decisions of interest, including the case regarding Rolling Plains which has requested a rehearing. TAGD is moving forward to remove sovereign immunity at the next legislative session. In closing he gave a quick overview of the Guitar case.

Discussion was made regarding agenda items for next meeting. The Board will plan to take action on the scope of work from TCB as well as the Interlocal Agreement with the proposed changes.

Discussion was made to set date and time for next meeting. The next meeting date and time will be, August 19, 2008, 10:00 AM at the Lone Star GCD.

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

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 19th day of August, 2008.

Lloyd Behm, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kathy Turner Jones, Secretary