

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

Joint Planning Group
Meeting

Tuesday, August 19, 2008
10:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Upper Gulf Coast Aquifer Planning Area (GMA 14) was held Tuesday, August 19, 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 10:05 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), Sarah Backhouse with the TWDB, Fred Jackson representing Jefferson County; Pudge Wilcox representing Chambers 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 June 17, 2008, Joint Planning Group Meeting. Without further discussion, upon a motion by Don Mudd (Brazoria County GCD), seconded by Kathy Jones (Lone Star GCD) and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes for June 17, 2008, were approved.

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

Bluebonnet GCD – They are working on updating their management plan which is due in 2009. They are also in the middle of a second set of meetings with the power company proposing a new site in Grimes County.

Brazoria County GCD – They have adopted their management plan.

Brazos Valley GCD – They continue to await a hydrologic study to be completed by LBG Guyton, the study should be completed by their next meeting. They do believe the findings of that study confirm the original speculations.

Lone Star GCD – The District is in the process of implementing Phase II (A) of the District Regulatory Plan which Part 1 of the Water Resource Assessment Plan is due September 1st. The District plans to have their management plan updated and approved at the Districts October Board Meeting. The Districts Board also approved GMA 14's interlocal agreement not to exceed \$5000.

Lower Trinity GCD – They hope to have their management plan completed by next month.

Southeast Texas GCD – They are submitting numbers next to the TWDB to have models run. They are also working on rule changes to better organize their rules.

Harris – Galveston Subsidence & Ft. Bend Subsidence District – Greg Ellis gave an update, last spring the District denied its first application. The application was for a well permit to provide water for cooling towers. The particular site was already on 100% surface water, the Board denied the application since surface water was readily available.

Chambers County (unprotected) – Pudge Wilcox spoke on behalf of Chambers County, Region H is still working on get West Chambers County off of groundwater due to the salt water intrusion.

Jefferson County (unprotected) – nothing to report at this time.

Sara Backhouse gave a brief overview of the current activities of the Texas Water Development Board. She stated that the TWDB has been very busy, they have year to date completed 66 GAM runs. They have received GMA 8's data with the exception of one aquifer. They have hired one new modeler and are still looking for one more. They are also working on getting funding for the modeling team.

Greg Ellis gave a brief update on current court decisions of interest, including the case regarding Rolling Plains which has filed a petition with the Supreme Court. TAGD is moving forward to remove sovereign immunity at the next legislative session. Also discussed was the proposed legislation for next session. There have been discussions that a lot will be done with groundwater this session. There are plans to amend the exempt section of Chapter 36 but no intentions of requiring the metering of domestic wells. Concerns were presented regarding elections for District Board Members and splitting the cost with the counties. Kent Watson expressed concern because they have to hold their election in November which entails much more cost than if they were held in May.

Lloyd Behm began discussion regarding the action plan GMA 14 and determining desired future conditions. Individual Districts gave an update of whether their Boards approved the dollars to participate in funding the scope of services presented by TCB at previous meetings.

The following were authorized to contribute the recommended cost: Bluebonnet GCD authorized not to exceed \$5,500, Lone Star GCD authorized not to exceed \$5,000, Brazoria County GCD authorized not to exceed \$4,475. Brazos Valley GCD was authorized \$1,500, reason being, the Districts Board felt like since they are primarily in GMA 12, they should not have to contribute the full amount requested. The following were denied authorization: Southeast Texas GCD and Lower Trinity GCD. Harris – Galveston Subsidence & Ft. Bend Subsidence District is still working to get approval with Board meetings approaching. There were no official commitments made by the unprotected counties at this time.

Discussion was made regarding the findings of authorization listed above. Concerns were addressed regarding the Districts not participating. Randy Baker, Lower Trinity GCD, stated that there have been changes on their Board of Directors and plans to go back and present again for approval. He does not see a problem in getting authorization to contribute the full amount requested by the member districts. John Martin, Southeast Texas GCD, explained that his District is currently working on developing their desired future conditions at this time. He does not feel like the Board would negotiate their decision at this time.

Bill Thaman gave a brief outline of events highlighting the strict deadline of September 2010 to submit final DFC's to the TWDB. Discussion was made regarding action to approve the scope of work now that we know the commitments. Each of the members agreed to go back to their Boards to seek funding if not yet approved, or to seek additional funding to cover cost not funded.

Discussion was made regarding agenda items for next meeting. The members will plan to seek additional funding and present at the next meeting as well as 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, Sept 30, 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 30th day of September, 2008.

Lloyd Behm, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kathy Turner Jones, Secretary