

Groundwater Management Area #1 Meeting

Minutes

May 30, 2014

The Groundwater Management Area Number 1 (GMA #1) met on Friday, May 30, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in the PRPC Board Room, 415 SW 8th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas with the following members in attendance:

Voting Members Present:

Jim Haley, Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District, Bob Zimmer, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, Lynn Tate, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District and Danny Hardcastle, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District

Other Groundwater Management Area 1 Representatives Present:

Janet Guthrie, Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District, Steve Walthour, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, Jason Coleman, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District and C.E. Williams, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District

Guests Present:

Danny Krienke, Bill Mullican, Ray Brady, Robert Bradley, Alan Abraham, Dale Hallmark, Haley Rader, Keith Good, Steve Shumate, Ben Weinheimer, Gene Borne and Mike Beauchamp

PRPC Staff Present:

Kyle Ingham, Local Government Services Director; Jamie Allen, Local Government Services Coordinator; Joe Price, Local Government Services Program Specialist

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. with Chairman Zimmer presiding.
2. **Roll Call and Introductions were made.**

Kyle Ingham called the roll for the GMA #1 Board and established that a quorum was present. Introductions of all in attendance were made.
3. **Opening Pledge**

Chairman Zimmer lead the Pledge of Allegiance
4. **Public Comment**

None
5. **Discuss and Consider – The Minutes from the April 11, 2014 GMA #1 Meeting**

Lynn Tate made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Danny Hardcastle seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Receive, Discuss and Consider – Presentation Regarding Primary Desired Future Condition Options for Each of the Major Aquifers in the GMA #1 Joint Planning Area**

Steve Walthour with North Plains Groundwater Conservation District made a presentation on the DFC Options for each of the Major Aquifers in the GMA #1 JP

Area. Mr. Walthour's presentation will be included with the minutes as a part of the official record. The Ogallala, Rita Blanca, Dockum, Blaine and Seymour Aquifers were discussed in detail with associated slides and visual representations. Previously adopted DFCs were discussed for each of the aquifers. Mr. Walthour noted that North Plains GCD now covers all of Dallam County which is a difference from the previous DFC discussions where only a part of Dallam County was covered. Danny Hardcastle discussed that Panhandle GCD is currently contemplating whether the Blaine Aquifer should be included as a major or minor aquifer. He noted that the question is whether or not the 50/50 DFC is applicable to that aquifer and stated that the Board will be determining whether or not to keep it included according to the rules that PGCD currently has in place. Chairman Zimmer asked Mr. Hardcastle what the estimated pumping is in that area and Steve Shumate noted that only 12 or so wells were monitored in that area. Chairman Zimmer then asked if those wells were metered by saturated thickness and C.E. Williams answered that all new wells are required to be metered. Mr. Hardcastle noted that water quality is an issue in that area and that the water does have a high salt content. The most popular usage of those wells is irrigation and livestock usage. Chairman Zimmer requested that a rough estimate of usage out of that aquifer be presented to GMA sometime in this process. Chairman Zimmer noted that included for review is a DFC public input presentation that NPGCD has made to their constituents. Lynn Tate with HPWD noted that the current 50/50 DFC is being considered for adoption and that the DFC which is currently adopted in the Dockum is still under reviewed. Jason Coleman with HPUWCD is measuring Dockum levels and Steve Walthour and C.E. Williams are doing the same. Mr. Coleman asked how those levels were reviewed previously and C.E. Williams answered that in the previous cycle, Bill Mullican had reviewed data and recommended the DFC that was ultimately adopted. Mr. Tate noted that there were very few Dockum wells located in his planning area. C.E. Williams noted that the burden of demonstrating how each Conservation District is meeting DFCs is higher than in the previous cycle. There was a brief discussion as to why the Rita Blanca and Ogallala Aquifer were grouped together and it was noted that current models grouped those two aquifers. There was also a discussion of dual completed wells in the Dockum and Ogallala Aquifers. C.E. Williams asked Bill Mullican if it is required that the Rita Blanca and Ogallala aquifers be split according to the law and Mr. Mullican answered that the hydrologic connection between the two is allowable in his interpretation of legislation. Steve Walthour echoed that discussion and agreed that because the two aquifers interact so clearly and respond similarly to hydrologic conditions, that the two could continue to be combined for modeling and DFC purposes. Lynn Tate noted that most of his wells are in the Ogallala Aquifer. C.E. Williams noted that the Seymour and Blaine Aquifers will likely be declared irrelevant due to a small amount of production in those areas. Jim Haley with Hemphill County noted that they plan to continue with the same DFCs as last cycle and Chairman Zimmer answered similarly that North Plains will likely be considering the same DFCs as a logical starting point. Chairman Zimmer then asked the group to solidify the initially considered options as discussed. Lynn Tate moved that the GMA#1 initially considered the options as discussed by each District for the purposes of moving forward with the DFC consideration process. Jim Haley seconded that motion. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Zimmer then noted that any changes are welcomed at future meetings as no DFCs have been formally proposed as of yet.

7. Receive, Discuss and Consider – Presentation Regarding Aquifer Uses or Conditions Within the Management Area, Including Conditions that Differ Substantially from one Geographic Area to Another for Each of the major Aquifers in GMA #1 {Texas Water Code §36.108(d)(1)}

Steve Walthour made a presentation on Aquifer Uses and Conditions. His presentation will be included as part of the official record including all slides, graphs, and other presented materials. Danny Hardcastle asked when the well-field began pumping in Roberts County. C.E. Williams noted that water produced in Roberts County is not actually used in Roberts County oftentimes and that the usage numbers are perhaps artificially low. Jim Haley asked that production numbers be utilized for GMA planning efforts which will increase the Roberts County numbers and may change other numbers. There was general discussion of utilizing the terms “usage” and “production” accurately and not interchangeably. The group noted that production numbers should be utilized, not usage numbers, in order to accurately reflect the impact to the aquifers. Janet Guthrie asked for a graphic showing groundwater production by county with another slide showing where those produced numbers are actually being utilized. It was noted that roughly 60% of what is produced in Roberts County is actually transported outside of GMA #1. Danny Hardcastle asked if all produced water is utilized in Region A. The group answered that no, it is not, that some of the produced water is utilized in GMA #2, Region O. There was general discussion of drawdown maps and whether or not there was a direct correlation between drawdown and number of wells. Danny Hardcastle asked about pumping restrictions in North Plains and how yearly drawdowns have changed. Steve Walthour answered that there are not notable changes yet, but that tillage changes have been made which will help with pumping numbers. Danny Krienke noted that in some places, pumping restrictions and yearly drawdowns do not correlate. There was general discussion of how to regulate pumping production equitably throughout each District and the challenges associated with that discussion. The group discussed production and MAG numbers in relation to DFCs.

Steve Shumate with PGCD made a presentation regarding water supply needs and management strategies in order to meet the requirements of TWC 36.108. He requested that his presentation will be included as a part of the official record. C.E. Williams added that numbers will be updated when the new GAM is released.

Lynn Tate presented some proposed rule amendments to the High Plains Water District that are currently in draft stage. That document will be included as a part of the official record associated with the meeting.

Janet Guthrie made a short presentation of Hemphill County’s methods and that information will be included as a part of the official record.

8. Receive, Discuss and Consider – Presentation Regarding Water Supply Needs and Water Management Strategies Included in the 2012 Texas State Water Plan - {Texas Water Code §36.108(d)(2)}

Steve Walthour presented the water supply needs and management strategies that were included in the 2012 Texas State Water Plan. That presentation is included with the minutes as a part of the official record. Also noted was a recommendation from Steve Walthour that each of the WUGs be listed and that a definition of need be decided upon. The Regional Planning project prioritization process was discussed in relation to Water Management Strategies. Kyle Ingham gave a brief outline of the current status regarding project prioritization for projects in the 2011 Regional Water

Plan. The project prioritization list as presented will be included as a part of the official record. Chairman Zimmer made a suggestion that at the next GMA meeting a formal presentation from Panhandle Water Planning Group regarding the Regional Water Plan be requested.

9. Receive, Discuss and Consider – Presentation Regarding Background Information Related to Hydrologic Conditions, Including for Each Aquifer in the GMA #1 Planning Area, the Current total Estimated Recoverable Storage as Provided by the Texas Water Development Board Executive Administrator - [Texas Water Code §36.108(d)(3)]

Steve Walthour made a presentation regarding Estimated Recoverable Storage and Hydrologic Conditions for Each Aquifer including slides, graphs, and written summaries. His presentation will be included as a part of the official record for this meeting. There was discussion by the voting membership of GMA#1 of each aquifer's geologic and hydraulic formations throughout Mr. Walthour's presentation.

10. Discuss and Consider – Scheduling of the Next 3 Meetings of the GMA #1

C.E. Williams noted that it might be advantageous to have more concise summaries included in the agenda packages in future meetings for members to be able to review and prepare themselves for future meetings.

The next meeting was tentatively slated for July 23, 2014 at 10:00 at the consensus of the group

11. Adjournment