

Minutes of GMA #2 Joint Planning Meeting

March 25, 2009

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. at the Mesa Underground Water Conservation District office in Lamesa, Texas.
2. **Roll Call/Introductions:** Role was called and a quorum was established. Attending for the High Plains Underground Water District were Jim Conkwright, Bob Meyer, Bruce Rigler, and Sherry Stephens; for the Permian Basin Groundwater District were Leatrice Adams and John Campbell; for the South Plains Underground Water District were Jason Coleman (GMA Administrator) and Matt Hogue, for Mesa Underground Water Conservation District were Harvey Everheart (GMA Public Information Officer), Richard Leonard, and Deanya Williams; for Llano Estacado Groundwater Conservation District were Lori Barnes and Shelby Elam; and for Sandy Land Groundwater Water Conservation District were Gary Walker (by phone) and Don Parrish.

Visitors attending the meeting were Robert Bradley for the Texas Water Development Board, Russell Skiles for the The Press Reporter, Ray Brady, Melanie Barnes, and Judy Reeves.

3. **Public Comment:** No public comments were made.
4. **Hear presentation from TWDB representative concerning GAM results:** Robert Bradley began his discussion by asking the districts if they had any questions related to the information presented in Southern Ogallala GAM (GAM 08-85 dated January 2009 which was run on the old model). He continued by explaining that the groundwater modeler responsible for updating the Southern Ogallala GAM using the new model was not presently available to continue the update. The updated model would include the runs considered in GAM 08-85 plus three additional three layers representing the minor aquifers. The model he was working on has not been officially released but will be released this week. Once the model is released and staff is able to access the appropriate files a final report will be issued.

He also reported that the modeling team is now fully staffed. The new members will be modeling for the district management plans, while the more senior staff will be modeling for the GMAs. The TWDB is also considering outsourcing some of the modeling.

Jason Coleman recalled a recent conversation he had with Richard Smith who said that the updated Southern Ogallala GAM is what the TWDB will use for modeling requests from this point forward.

Jim Conkwright pointed out that the date on GAM 08-85 was incorrect. The correct date should be January 2009 *not* January 2008.

Coleman will continue to communicate with TWDB regarding the status of the modeling.

5. **Discuss existing DFC options that have been modeled by TWDB and consider identifying the most reasonable scenarios:** Gary Walker asked Conkwright, based on his experience with GMA #1, what he thought of multiple DFCs for the GMA. Conkwright responded by saying that multiple DFCs seemed appropriate for GMA #1. He recommends that, after the districts receive the results of the GAM, if they can't decide on one DFC that effectively serves the GMA, the districts should consider multiple DFCs.

Coleman asked the districts to provide their thoughts about whether any of the scenarios presented so far were practicable. The majority of the districts indicated that they could support at least one of the scenarios presented to date. The majority of the districts would support multiple DFCs for the GMA but indicated that setting a DFC for each county would be problematic for multi-county districts. There was a brief discussion regarding the possible implications of Senate Bill 2119.

6. **Consider identifying areas of the aquifer within the management area:** Bradley recommends refraining from using the term "subdivision" if use of the term is not consistent with the definition of "subdivision" established in Chapter 36.

No comments beyond what was discussed under agenda item 5 were made.

7. **Consider request to TWDB for Southern Ogallala GAM run:** Harvey Everheart requested a summary of the modeling requests made to date. These include zero, 1-foot, 1¼-feet, 1½-feet, 1¾-feet, 2-feet, 10-year average, and 10-year adjusted average. Bradley

mentioned that a 3-feet was attempted but not finished. Coleman confirmed that all scenarios may be found on the website. No additional requests were made.

8. **Consider setting date(s) for public hearing regarding potential DFC scenario(s):** Coleman asked Conkwright, based on his experience with GMA #1, what procedures he would recommend beyond what was required by Chapter 36. Conkwright recommended that the more public meetings and hearings the districts hold to provide information to the public the more smoothly the process will go.

9. **Public Comments:** Melanie Barnes recommended using other groundwater groups and interested parties to help get the information out to a larger public audience. Russell Skiles recommended using local media sources as well.

10. **Discuss items for future agendas:** No future agenda items were discussed.

11. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.