

Minutes of GMA #2 Joint Planning Meeting

March 25, 2010

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Llano Estacado Groundwater Conservation District office in Seminole, Texas.
2. **Roll Call/Introductions:** Roll was called and a quorum was established. Attending for the High Plains Underground Water District were Jim Conkwright, James Mitchell, Jim Copeland, Bill Mullican and Sherry Stephens; for the Permian Basin Groundwater Conservation District was Leatrice Adams; 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, Shelby Elam, Weldon Shook and Jud Chevront; and for Sandy Land Groundwater Water Conservation District were Don Parrish and Crystal Hogue.

Visitors attending the meeting were Robert Bradley and Bill Hutchison for the Texas Water Development Board and Bernie Wieck for Excel Energy.

3. **Public Comment:** No public comments were made.
4. **Discuss and consider request to TWDB for GAM run of Edwards Trinity (High Plains):** Bill Hutchison gave a summary of the information provided in GAM 09-23 dated February 1, 2010. He stated that the Southern Ogallala GAM was recently updated with layers 2-4, which are the Cretaceous units that comprise the Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) minor aquifer. Thus, the 09-023 model run was performed with the newer model.

There was significant discussion concerning the issue of the Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) minor aquifer, and whether or not the aquifer should be considered and managed as a separate resource from the overlying Ogallala. Several important points were brought up during this discussion. First, many of the wells that penetrate this minor aquifer are also slotted in the Ogallala sand and gravel units, which means that they produce water from both aquifers. As a result, there are few wells available for monitoring water levels solely

in the minor aquifer. Any water level monitoring of the dually-completed wells does not differentiate between the two aquifers. Secondly, the heavier use of water from the minor aquifer occurs in the southern counties of GMA#2 (Dawson, Gaines, Terry, and Yoakum counties). It is common that these dually-completed wells are constructed where the saturated thickness in the Ogallala is very thin. Also, the gcds in this southern area enact permitting rules for the minor aquifer the same as they do for the overlying Ogallala aquifer. Bill informed the group that it is permissible by TWDB rules for the two aquifers to be considered and managed as a single resource. This approach simplifies the management scheme, and does not require that a separate DFC be adopted for the minor aquifer. Shelby Elam moved that the Ogallala and Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) aquifers be considered as one resource, and that the TWDB model results include one MAG number for each district that includes both Ogallala and Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) as a sum. Richard Leonard seconded the motion. All voted favorably and the motion passed.

Following this action, Bill stated two issues needed further action so TWDB staff could complete the next model runs. First, the gcds should review the estimated pumping volume from the Edwards-Trinity (High Plains) and determine if the numbers are reasonably accurate to present estimates. Secondly, it is necessary that the “preferred” Ogallala DFC be incorporated with the next model run. The discussion for this issue is recorded under agenda item 6. Bill and Robert Bradley stated that TWDB staff would e-mail to GMA#2 the current estimates of minor aquifer usage from the 2007 SWP, and then request that the gcds respond with any corrections to the estimates. This will occur before the next model run is performed.

5. **Hear a presentation from TWDB representative concerning GAM reports 08-85 and 09-23:** Bill Hutchison presented a county by county summary of the information provided in the narrative of the GAM 09-23 dated February 1, 2010. Discussion is recorded under agenda item 4.

6. **Discuss existing DFC options for the Ogallala aquifer that have been modeled by TWDB and consider identifying the most reasonable scenario(s):** Jason Coleman began this discussion by indicating that he has attended several public meetings within GMA#2 to discuss various DFC options; and that outside of the High Plains district, there

seems to be no public support of a 50/50 DFC. He then asked each district which scenario they preferred. All districts, except the High Plains district, preferred the “10-year average drawdown” scenario (GAM 08-85), while the High Plains district has already adopted a “50/50 storage volume” scenario (GAM 09-23).

Based on this discussion, Mr. Hutchison recommended that he prepare another GAM report that essentially combined GAM 08-85 and GAM 09-23, that includes a MAG for the Ogallala and minor aquifers combined, and detailed information in a variety of forms (pumping, volume in storage, and drawdown) by aquifer (Ogallala, cretaceous, and combined). He explained that by providing the information in this manner, each district can use the information appropriately for their district’s conditions.

7. **Consider identifying subdivisions of the aquifer within the management area:**

There was no discussion of subdividing the aquifer.

8. **Public Comment:** No public comments were made.

9. **Discuss items for future agendas:** At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Hutchison reminded the districts that they needed to decide how they planned to manage the remaining minor aquifers: Pecos Valley, Edwards-Trinity Plateau, and Seymour. Since the item was not on the agenda for consideration, it will be discussed at a future meeting.

11. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.