

GMA #2 Minutes

Meeting 11:00 AM, January 23, 2015

Mesa UWCD Board Room

Lamesa, TX

Administrative Officer Jason Coleman called the meeting to order at 11:10 AM.

A roll call of the Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCD) participating in the joint planning Annual Meeting was performed. In attendance were High Plains UWCD # 1, voting representative, Ronnie Hopper, Sandy Land UWCD, voting representative, Don Parrish, Llano Estacado UWCD, voting representative, Jud Chevront, Mesa UWCD, voting representative, Richard Leonard, Permian Basin UWCD, voting representative, Leatrice Adams, Mesquite GCD, voting representative, Amy Crowell, Garza County UWCD, voting representative, Ronald Thuett, and South Plains UWCD, voting representative, Matt Hogue. Eight of the eight GCD in GMA #2, with voting members were present; therefore, a quorum was established. Attendees included Ray Brady, Lori Barnes, Jason Coleman, Harvey Everheart, Lindy Harris, Misty Mimms, Deanya Williams, and Bill Hutchison, consultant.

The floor was opened for public comment and none was presented.

The minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting were presented to all members, after Deanya Williams printed the minutes. Jason called for time to be given to read the minutes. Jason made a correction in the term used for Bill Hutchison, which should be "consultant". On page 2, paragraph 2 the word "indication" should be replaced with "indicating". A typo was found and changed to "covered". On Paragraph 4, line 5, "conscious" was changed to "consensus". A typo was corrected in the spelling of Hutchison. Amy Crowell made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Leatrice Adams seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous vote. Deanya Williams will post the corrected minutes to the website.

Jason asked for the discussion of Agenda item #5 for the scope of work in the joint planning process with the consultant of GMA2, Bill Hutchison. Bill spoke concerning the 9 factors that must be considered and a report provided for each of the 9 factors in the establishment of the Proposed DFC May 1, 2016. The consideration of each of these 9 factors in the report will be the backbone of the public hearings each of the GCD will conduct in each of their respective districts. Mr. Hutchison indicated the report will

clearly provide the evidence the GCD used in evaluating all these different 9 factors as the Proposed DFC May 1, 2016 was adopted.

The establishment of the DFC, by May 1, 2016 gives the GCD ample time for developing the 9 factors in the report. Bill Hutchison made the group aware that the new Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) is scheduled to be presented to the TWDB by Intera, the Company preparing the GAM, sometime around the March or April date. Bill is unaware if he will be able to get his hands on the new prepared model at that time or if the new prepared model will have to have the approval of the TWDB before he will be able to work with it. Bill indicated he would be in a meeting within the next two (2) weeks, and some light may be shed on when he will be able to start working with the new GAM Model. The results of this meeting will indicate how quickly GMA2 can proceed with the Joint Planning Process.

Jason Coleman introduced a couple of the major factors in preparing the report. One of the more important factors might be the Socio Economic Impact resulting from the Proposed DFC May 1, 2015 adopted by GMA2. Jason polled the districts if they had any indications at this time if petitions in their District would be filed relating to this factor. The Districts responded as follows: Mesa~No, Sandy Land~No, but there is always the possibility, Garza~Property Rights is a major concern and there could be possible repercussions, South Plains~No so we need to keep the report short and simple, Permian Basin~No and agreed with the short and simple approach, High Plains~Yes, Mesquite~No, and Llano Estacado~No. Harvey Everheart ask Mr. Hutchison if the Texas Tech Economic Impact Study might be a material the GMA2 group might consider in addressing this task; the reply was for Jason to forward the study to him but he felt sure it would be a great tool in addressing the Socio Economic Impact.

The next factor Jason presented for discussion was the Impact on Private Property. The discussion began on the balancing of the issues such as a continued use of the water and the rights of the property owners who do not want to use their water preserved until a later date. Amy and Ronnie agreed that this was a major issue. All GCD agree that the best way to address this issue is at the local level. The political element may be different and each GCD will have the opportunity to address this issue at the public hearings held in each of the eight (8) individual districts. Jason once again polled the districts concerning petitions being filled and the results were: Mesa~No, Sandy Land~Yes, Garza~Yes, South Plains~Yes, Permian Basin~No, High Plains~Yes, Mesquite~Hoped to be out of GMA2 before May1, 2016, and Llano Estacado~No. From this exercise, it is clear that this factor is possibly the most contentious and will require the most careful consideration in developing the DFC.

Ronnie Hopper asked Bill to discuss with the group the fact that water planning on the High Plains of Texas was so much different from other parts of the State. Bill agreed GMA2 had in it the oldest GCD in Texas (High Plains UWCD #1) and was virtually covered completely by groundwater management from the other 7 GCD and Permian Basin was created just after the first. All of the GCDs in GMA2 have extensive data collection programs and can provide Bill with additional data that he may need in making the new model perform to its highest level. Bill asked that any local data be sent to him also be copied to the Administrative Officer, Jason Coleman.

No official vote was taken on Agenda Item #5.

Jason called for discussion of the payment method to be used in compensating the consultant. Mr. Hutchison indicated that he could bill any method the members desired. Jason emailed a spreadsheet to the members, and Deanya Williams printed for the group the document for each participant to study. GMA2 group had voted to adopt the "budget" method for paying the consultant. The spreadsheet provided the information Bill would need to proportion each billing rate for the GMA2 members. Bill said he could use the chart for his billing, and thanked Jason and Deanya for the information.

No official vote was taken on Agenda Item #6.

Under Agenda Item #7, Public Comment, Amy Crowell presented a handout that Mesquite GCD had prepared. The handout indicated the surface area that Mesquite GCD were proposing for the TWDB to consider in making the Administrative Change in the Boundaries between GMA2 and GMA6. The proposed change was a much more definable boundary as it followed State Highway 86 as the North Boundary and went West and connected with County Road 28 to make the West Boundary. This proposed change would square up the boundary of the area that would be moved from GMA2 into GMA6. Action was taken at the December meeting to request TWDB to make the change.

Under Agenda Item #7 Jason Coleman advised the group that High Plains UWCD #1 was working on proposed legislation to be considered by the 84th Legislature. The proposed legislation would allow a landowner the ability for the GCD where the Water Use Report was filed to keep that information confidential. Richard Leonard asked if that would not defeat the usefulness of mandatory reporting. Jason explained that the GCD would have access to the data in all the internal uses of the data, but it would not be subject to the open records request. Amy Crowell indicated her support for such privacy because the District she represents (Mesquite GCD) is considering a mandatory water use requirement and this legislation would help to protect the privacy of the reporting landowners.

Under Agenda Item #7 Don Parrish informed the group concerning the retirement of District Manager Gary L. Walker. Gary Walker will be leaving Sandy Land UWCD after 25 years of service.

The discussion for future agendas items and date was limited because Bill does not yet know when he will be able to have the New Model to work with. The location of the next GMA2 was settled on Post, Texas. The date and agenda items will be forwarded to the members as soon as they can be determined.

Jud Chevront made the motion to adjourn. Don Parrish seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Harvey Everheart, Information Officer
