



Joint Planning For Groundwater Management Area # 2

Thursday, November 15, 2018

2:00 PM

South Plains Association of Governments, 1323 58th Street, Lubbock, TX 79412

1. CALL TO ORDER

Administrative Officer Jason Coleman called the Groundwater Management Area # 2 (GMA 2) meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

He thanked the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) for hosting today's meeting.

The Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group ("Region O") met earlier today at SPAG. Mr. Coleman had invited those in attendance to stay for the GMA 2 meeting, if able.

2. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

Mr. Coleman conducted a roll call of the Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) participating in the joint planning meeting.

A quorum was present with four of the seven GCDs in GMA 2 represented.

The GMA 2 voting representatives in attendance were:

- Ronnie Hopper, High Plains UWCD.
- Jacob Hernandez, Mesa UWCD
- Amber Blount for Ross Hilburn, Sandy Land UWCD.
- Lindy Harris for Matt Hogue, South Plains UWCD.

Others signing in at today's meeting were: Sarah Backhouse, Robert Bradley, Ray Brady, Gary Burke, Amy Bush, Jason Coleman, Katherine Drury, Carmon McCain, Greg Stanton, Aaron Waters, and Victoria Whitehead.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Coleman asked if there were any comments from the public at today's meeting. There were none.

4. MINUTES

October 13, 2017 GMA # 2 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coleman presented the minutes of the October 23, 2017 meeting at Stanton, TX. An electronic copy of the minutes was provided to the member districts for review in advance of today's meeting.

He gave attendees time for a second review of the minutes and then asked if there were any

additions or corrections. There were none.

UWCD High Plains made a motion to approve the October 23, 2017 meeting minutes as presented. UWCD South Plains seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

Ayes: High Plains, Mesa, Sandy Land, South Plains

Absent: Garza, Llano Estacado , Permian Basin

5. TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATES

GMA # 2 Liaison Robert Bradley, P.G., provided the following updates:

The Water For Texas conference is set for January 23-25, 2019 in Austin. He encouraged GMA # 2 members to visit <http://waterfortexas.twdb.texas.gov/2019> for the conference agenda, registration information, speakers list, updates, and other information.

GMA # 2 districts are encouraged to submit their amended management plans for a pre-review by TWDB groundwater staff. He encouraged districts to explain the reasoning why a management objective is "not applicable" or "N/A" in their management plan. As an example for "Controlling and preventing subsidence," it would be better for a district to state "there is no historic evidence of subsidence within the district" -- rather than "not applicable."

Natalie Ballew, GIT, is the new manager of the TWDB Groundwater Technical Assistance division. Alberto Jimenez, P.G., was recently added as a geoscientist.

There is no new information relating to the Dockum Aquifer study.

Several groundwater management areas, including GMA # 2, are in the process of comparing similarities and differences of their member GCD rules.

6. AGENDA ITEMS AND UPDATES

GCD Rules: Comparison and Contrast

During the Oct. 23, 2017 meeting, the member districts agreed that it would be helpful to prepare a spreadsheet listing the difference and similarities between the respective GCD rules. This is extremely important as GCD rulemaking will likely be a hot topic during the 86th Texas Legislature, which convenes Jan. 8, 2019.

Ms. Blount emailed a draft GMA # 2 rules comparison spreadsheet to the member districts for review and comment prior to today's meeting. All districts responded, with exception of Garza County.

The spreadsheet includes a comparison of how the districts abide with the statutes in Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, a comparison of management goals and water well permitting rules, and an overview of each District's enabling legislation.

An extended discussion period followed.

Calculations in the spreadsheet noted that the seven GMA # 2 member districts are about 91% similar to each other. This can be attributed to the fact that the majority of the GMA # 2 districts are older -- and that the newer districts rules were modeled after the existing districts. Yet, the differences allow districts to recognize individual conditions within their respective service areas.

"One set of rules does not fit all."

Mr. Coleman and the GMA # 2 members thanked Ms. Blount for her work in compiling data for the spreadsheet. This document is available online at www.gma2.org as part of the November 15, 2018 online agenda.

This report was provided for informational purposes only. No action was taken by the GMA # 2 members.

There was a brief discussion about the deadlines for the respective districts to submit their management plans. Mr. Coleman asked each district representative about potential additions/deletions for the current round of submissions.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Coleman asked if there were any items for future GMA # 2 agendas. There were none.

8. ADJOURN

UWCD Sandy Land made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:32 p.m.. UWCD South Plains seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

Ayes: High Plains, Mesa, Sandy Land, South Plains

Absent: Garza, Llano Estacado , Permian Basin

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Coleman,P.E.
Administrator, GMA # 2