



## **Joint Planning For Groundwater Management Area # 2**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2019**

**10:00 AM**

**Sandy Land UWCD Office, 1012 Avenue F, Plains, TX 79355**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Administrative Officer Jason Coleman called the Groundwater Management Area # 2 (GMA # 2) meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

He thanked Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District for hosting today's meeting.

### **2. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH QUORUM**

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

A quorum was present with six of the seven GCDs in GMA 2 represented. (86 percent in attendance)

The GMA 2 voting representatives in attendance were:

- Ronnie Hopper. High Plains UWCD.
- Lori Barnes for Weldon Shook, Llano Estacado UWCD.
- Jacob Hernandez for Matt Farmer, Mesa UWCD.
- Donna Springer, Permian Basin UWCD.
- Amber Blount for Ross Hilburn, Sandy Land UWCD.
- Lindy Harris for Matt Hogue, South Plains UWCD.

Garza County UWCD was absent.

Others signing in at today's meeting were: Robert Bradley, Ray Brady, Amy Bush, Layne Marlow, Carmon McCain, Dan Seale, Tracy Welch, and Victoria Whitehead.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Coleman asked for public comment. None was offered and the public comment period ended at this time.

In related discussion, Mr. Coleman noted that recent legislative changes may impact how public comment is received at open meetings. Conceptually, an opportunity for public comment period could be required for each agenda item.

Mr. Bradley works with several GMAs. Some have a public comment period at the start of the

meeting and another at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Coleman asked the GMA # 2 members to share their thoughts about developing a set of GMA # 2 By-Laws. Most agreed that it would help the members to be more consistent with procedures and/or protocol.

Mr. Bradley noted that GMA # 7 has the simplest bylaws while GMA # 14 has the most complicated.

#### 4. MINUTES

##### September 24, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coleman presented draft minutes of the September 24, 2019 GMA # 2 meeting at Seminole, TX. An electronic copy was provided to the member districts for review in advance of today's meeting.

On Oct. 17, Ms. Springer asked Mr. McCain to revise a sentence in the draft minutes. The revision was made and the revised document was emailed to the member districts.

Mr. Coleman gave attendees time for a second review of the minutes and then asked if there were any other additions or corrections. There were none.

UWCD Sandy Land made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2019 GMA # 2 meeting as presented. UWCD Llano Estacado seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

Ayes: High Plains, Llano Estacado , Mesa, Permian Basin, Sandy Land, South Plains

Absent: Garza

#### 5. TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATES

GMA # 2 Liaison Robert Bradley provided the following Texas Water Development Board updates:

- Rebecca Storms assumed her duties as the new TWDB Groundwater Monitoring Manager this month. She succeeds Janie Hopkins, who recently retired.
- The TWDB continues its work with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to make older plotted maps available to the public in a digital format. These will be displayed on the TCEQ's Water Well Report Viewer.
- Mr. Bradley brought several technical reports that may be of interest to GMA #2 member districts. Most of these files and reports are being moved out of the TWDB office to an off-site location. Many reports are from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who gave the reports to the TWDB, after they "cleaned house" in a similar manner.
- Mr. Bradley told the group that David Meesey of Austin passed away Oct. 17 at age 69. He had a long career in water planning. According to Bradley, Meesey helped establish the regional water planning process following passage of Senate Bill 1 in 1997. He is survived by his son, a daughter, three grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Coleman thanked Mr. Bradley for his report.

#### 6. AGENDA ITEMS AND UPDATES

Mr. Coleman called for discussion of agenda items and updates from the GMA # 2 member districts.

### Discuss & Consider Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District's Request For Updated Groundwater Availability Modeling For Its Service Area.

Ms. Springer told the group that the Permian Basin UWCD Board of Directors will not request revised groundwater modeling for Howard County and all of Martin County for this round of joint planning.

Therefore, no action was taken by the GMA # 2 members.

### Discuss & Consider Engaging A Consultant For DFC Planning.

As requested, Mr. Coleman contacted Dr. William R. Hutchison, P.E., P.G. following the September 24, 2019 GMA # 2 meeting.

Dr. Hutchison provided a proposed scope of work to provide technical support to the groundwater conservation districts in GMA # 2 for the current round of joint planning.

Technical support includes:

- Attending four GMA # 2 meetings. The third meeting must be held before the statutory deadline of May 1, 2021 and the last meeting must be held to allow time to finalize the planning documents so that they can be completed and received at the TWDB by Jan. 5, 2022.
- Updating the explanatory report approved by GMA # 2 on Oct. 19, 2016 and submitted to the TWDB on Nov. 1, 2016 as a draft report for public hearings
- Updating documentation of aquifers designated as "non relevant for the purposes of joint planning" (Edwards-Trinity [Plateau] and Pecos Valley aquifers)
- Responding to comments from public hearings and updating the explanatory report.
- Preparing resolutions for final approval of desired future conditions and submit required documents and model files to the TWDB after final approval.

A proposed meeting schedule and costs were presented for discussion. Similar to the previous planning effort, a cost-sharing schedule will be used to determine individual costs to each GCD.

Mr. Hopper said it is important to satisfy the State's requirements while keeping cost of planning to a minimum. It is the consensus of the HPWD Board of Directors to use the current groundwater availability model results to help determine DFCs for the next round of planning. There is no need to "go back to square one" in the Board's opinion. This option is very helpful due to the cost of groundwater modeling and especially if there is no anticipated change in the adopted DFCs during the next round of planning.

Mr. Bradley confirmed this is an acceptable practice, according to the TWDB. He also stated that this approach has benefits as 2020 Census data will not be available for this round of planning.

UWCD High Plains made a motion to accept the proposed scope of work from Dr. William R. Hutchison to provide technical support to the groundwater conservation districts in GMA # 2 for

the current round of joint planning. UWCD South Plains seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

Ayes: High Plains, Llano Estacado , Mesa, Permian Basin, Sandy Land, South Plains  
Absent: Garza

## 7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Mr. Coleman asked if there were any items for future GMA # 2 agendas.

Mesa UWCD offered to host the next GMA # 2 meeting in Lamesa. It was recommended that the meeting be held during the first week of January 2020 -- since stock shows begin in February and March. The exact date and time will be provided to members at a later date.

In response to earlier discussion, Ms. Blount said it would be a good idea to review other GMA By-Laws in order to prepare a draft GMA # 2 by-laws document for discussion at a future meeting.

There was brief discussion about presentations for future GMA # 2 meetings. It was suggested that host districts provide a presentation about water use within their district. As an example, Mesa UWCD could provide a presentation about "sand mines" and water use. Districts with large amounts of oil and gas production could have a presentation about produced water in the oil and gas industry. Several representatives recommended Karen Work, Water Management Supervisor with ConocoPhillips, who was a presenter on Mr. Coleman's panel at the recent TAGD Groundwater Summit in San Antonio.

## 8. ADJOURN

UWCD Sandy Land made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 a.m.. UWCD Llano Estacado seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

Ayes: High Plains, Llano Estacado , Mesa, Permian Basin, Sandy Land, South Plains  
Absent: Garza

Respectfully submitted,

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