



Joint Planning For Groundwater Management Area # 2

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

10:00 AM

Llano Estacado UWCD Office, 200 SE Avenue C, Seminole, TX 79360-4444

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 the Llano Estacado 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.

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.
- Matt Hogue, South Plains UWCD.

Garza County UWCD was absent.

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Coleman asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none and the public comment period was closed.

4. MINUTES

November 15, 2018 GMA # 2 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coleman presented the minutes of the November 15, 2018 meeting at Lubbock, TX. An electronic copy 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 Sandy Land made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2018 GMA # 2 meeting as presented.. UWCD High Plains 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

Mr. Coleman asked GMA # 2 Liaison Robert Bradley to provide the following updates:

- Rebecca Storms assumes responsibilities of TWDB Groundwater Monitoring manager in mid-October. She succeeds Janie Hopkins, who recently retired.
- The TWDB is working with the TCEQ to make older plotted maps available to the public in a digital format. The TWDB will retain possession of the paper maps.
- Mr. Bradley told the group that most of GMAs that he works with have selected consultants for Desired Future Conditions (DFC) planning. There are some GMAs that have not met as yet this year.
- GMA 2 members asked if the same modeling could be used to determine DFCs for the next round of planning. This would be helpful due to the cost of groundwater availability modeling and particularly if there is no change in the adopted DFCs. Bradley said this would be allowed - especially since the GMAs do not have the 50-year planning horizon that Regional Water Planning Groups do. He said GMA # 9 planned to do this. He added that the GMA would need to have different GAM runs conducted if one or more GCDs wanted different DFCs.
- He concluded by stating that the TWDB is reviewing GCD management plans in greater detail. This will help with any potential questions from the Texas Legislature. For example, the TWDB now has a technical report about subsidence, which can be referenced in the amended management plans. Bradley added that most of the GCDs in GMA 2 have either submitted plans for review or have received approval of their plans from the TWDB.

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 Engaging A Consultant For DFC Planning.

Permian Basin GCD Manager Donna Springer discussed groundwater production within her district.

The Ogallala Aquifer is very shallow and difficult to model. She shared her concern that Howard County shows zero decline in the GAM model -- but there is significant groundwater production resulting from increased oil and gas production. Adjustments to the Groundwater Availability Model for GMA 2 by Dr. Bill Hutchison still indicate no decline in Howard County.

Hydrologist Amy Bush said there was a known issue in the GAM model relating to groundwater recharge in Howard County. She believes that the other district's numbers may not be impacted by a second run of the GAM. Ms. Bush said the Permian Basin UWCD is processing an average of 100 water well permits per month since the last DFCs were adopted in October 2016.

Ms. Springer said there are short-term groundwater declines that are starting to appear. The long-term prospects still look good.

Mr. Coleman noted that Dr. Hutchison, the previous consultant, is working on other projects. He is unsure of his available time to assist with the GMA # 2 DFCs. He could do the work with one small adjustment (Howard County) but it is doubtful that he could conduct a brand new GAM run for GMA # 2.

Ms. Springer said it is only fair for Permian Basin UWCD to pay for a requested GAM re-run in Howard and Martin Counties, especially if the other UWCDs in GMA # 2 wish to readopt the existing DFCs.

There was a brief discussion about the group's expectations for the GMA # 2 explanatory report. Should the GMA # 2 districts pay a consultant to write the report? Should the GMA # 2 districts use the previous report as a template and work together to draft a new report?

The group agreed that there are two facets of change to address: 1) What is required by state statute following the recent legislative session; and 2) what conditions have changed within the GMA since the last DFCs were adopted.

UWCD Sandy Land made a motion to to authorize the Administrative Officer to contact Dr. Bill Hutchison for a cost estimate to 1) run a new GAM model for the Permian Basin UWCD and 2) to prepare a new GMA # 2 explanatory report. UWCD Permian Basin seconded the motion. The motion was Approved.

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

Absent: Garza

Updates From Groundwater Conservation Districts Within GMA # 2.

Mr. Coleman asked for updates from the groundwater conservation districts:

Garza County UWCD -- Absent.

High Plains UWCD -- The district conducted a recent Rural Legislative Wrap-Up. HPWD submitted its amended management plan for TWDB review in August.

Llano Estacado UWCD -- The district is busy with registration of house wells in new subdivisions. Representatives of Llano Estacado, Mesa, and South Plains met with attorney Greg Ellis regarding rule revisions.

Mesa UWCD -- A new management plan was adopted in February. However, the district was audited under the old management plan. They have also revised their District By-Laws. Mesa UWCD is now looking at possible oilfield operations entering their district. They want their efforts to be proactive--rather reactive if or when this occurs.

Permian Basin -- The district has not amended its management plan since it was adopted in 2017.

A rule change relating to property line spacing was recently enacted. It was noted that there are 57 oil rigs currently running within their district -- this is more than in most countries.

Sandy Land UWCD -- The district adopted its amended management plan with few revisions. They are in the process of updating their rules, which includes a per acre cap on groundwater produced from the Ogallala Aquifer. There is no cap on the Dockum Aquifer. It is hoped that the rules can be adopted by the end of the calendar year.

South Plains UWCD -- The district submitted its revised management plan to the TWDB on November 14, 2018.. They are looking at an upcoming rules revision as a result of legislative changes.

There was a brief discussion about the need for GCDs to do a better job of marketing themselves. It is a big task -- but GCDs should look at their audiences and do a better job of sharing success stories with the public.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

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

Ms. Blount thought it would be a good idea to invite a representative of the oil and gas industry to discuss water reuse. She told the group that Karen Work, Water Management Supervisor, with ConocoPhillips had an excellent presentation during Mr. Coleman's panel at the recent TAGD Groundwater Summit in San Antonio.

Ms. Springer said use of reclaimed water for oil and gas production would go a long way in meeting the groundwater production challenges in her district.

Ms. Whitehead attended the recent Produced Water Conference in Midland. She has a list of contacts from that conference.

After discussion, the next GMA # 2 meeting was set for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 22, at the Sandy Land UWCD office, 1012 Avenue F, in Plains, TX.

8. ADJOURN

UWCD Permian Basin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 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