

**Hays Trinity Groundwater  
Conservation District,  
Hays County, Texas**

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**Minutes of Open Meeting of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District**

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

Time: 7:30am

Place: Woodcreek City Hall

Located at: 41 Champions Circle, Wimberley, TX 78676

**7:30am: Regular Meeting Opens, a quorum is achieved.**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Andrew H. Backus (President), Douglas A. Wierman (Vice President), Jack A. Hollon (Interim Secretary/Treasurer), David G. Baker, and Greg F. Nesbitt

**The following subjects were considered for discussion and/or action at said meeting:**

- **Consider approval of prior meeting Minutes:** DAW moves to approve 5/28/09 and 6/11/09 Workshop Minutes. DGB seconds. All in favor.
- **General Manager's Report of Activities:** DRC announced:
  - The hiring and training of two new employees in the month of June:
    - Rick Broun as Co General Manager
    - Cathy Balch as Assistant Manager
  - A number of dry well and modified well reports have come in. A map will be given at the next Board meeting.
  - A number of water wasting complaints have been lodged this month against:
    - The filling of ponds at Polo Club from residents of Oak Run West;
    - Gary Keller/Browning Ranch/ Alfred Albert LLC for having full ponds in a drought;
    - Neighbors watering lawns in the drought;
    - McDonald's fast-food Dripping Springs, hosing down the parking lot during the drought;
    - Home Depot's irrigation system running during the middle of the day and watering RR 12;
  - 6 permits are under review and recommendations will be sent prior to the Hearing for:
    - Dr. Ron White;
    - Erik Howard (Requested delay);
    - Wimberley Springs Partners (Formerly Quicksand Development Partners);
    - Woodcreek Phase 1 & 2;
    - River Oaks Ranch;
  - District was down 6 well construction registrations over prior 12 months resulting in \$1,800 less in income to the District;
  - District is over budget on the Field Operations line item by \$6,740 (This line item is over budget due in substantial part to a charge for consulting services by AECOM Austin to perform some modeling work and analysis related to the Water Availability Study for the True Ranch / Mustang Ranch Subdivision.) The overall budget can still be achieved for the year.
  - District has a remaining \$10,000 in the budget for legal for the year.
  - To achieve the approved annual budget the three part-time administrative staff employee will share 56-hours between them. They understand their hours may be cut back further as the year progresses depending on how the HTGCD revenue changes with economy.
  - Review future dates of interest.
- **Board & Staff Announcements:**

DGB announced:

  - Attended Commissioner's Court on 6/30/09 and discussed the following:
    - Drought Triggers and Responses
    - Lack of flow at Jacob's Well
    - Water priorities given the drought
    - Need for funding of the District for operations
    - District Mission/Grant Funding proposal
    - Pointed out that water use estimates for grape irrigation have increased substantially since the 2005 management plan. Agricultural water use estimates should be increased to 1,000 acre-ft per year based on

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DAW's recent analysis related to orchard and vineyard irrigation data that DAW has obtained from Ag-Life Extension Agent and Texas A&M and the increased number of acres under irrigation.

- Discussed other counties redirecting county water needs to GW over SW in a Drought
- Inequitability of water use by large CCN and interest in setting a goal to make the formula more sustainable and equitable.

DGB requested staff:

Send a chart to Commissioner's Court reflecting wells from 2001 to current registered with the District  
Follow up with Commissioner's re: PWS reporting and reaction to Critical Drought declaration.

### • Board & Staff Announcements continued:

AHB announced:

- TCEQ recently completed a report on the need to create a groundwater conservation district in the Priority Groundwater Management Area that includes Dallam County in the Texas panhandle (Groundwater Conservation District Recommendation for Dallam County Priority Groundwater Management Area, TCEQ, Dec. 2008 ). Page 7 of the report states that "A budget of \$250,000 per year is considered the lowest amount of revenue needed to finance a functional GCD." The report is available through the TCEQ web site.

DAW announced:

- Incoming Drought Pumpage numbers will work to help provide a presentation and analysis of response to Drought to present to the public and Commissioner's Court.
- There is a need to establish and map drawdown to the aquifer over time to show historical impact to the aquifer

JAH announced:

- He attended BSEAD Drought meeting along with DGB and RDB. JAH recommends an advisory group to react to the Drought.
- Recaps workshop meeting held on 6/11/09.

GFN announced:

- Recap of the 6/11/09 Workshop and the need for a PR plan with a softer approach to relate to the general public.
  - Get a buy in from the general public
  - Accomplish goals
  - Educate local business owners and get them invested
  - Engage drillers
  - Get all water users involved
  - Show historical data from the 50's
  - Identify trends and papers
  - Simplify the message
  - Problems with legislation is the restrictions
  - Focus on basic items and show the benefits
  - Offer meters

### • Public Comments:

- Mark Key suggested showing the District residents how to better conserve
- Janet Acord suggested using papers more heavily as a communication tool of the District's, making conservation a community effort, using the word "desert" when referring to the area, renovate "GW issues"
- Tom Haley reported WWSC unaccounted for loss is below 10%, and they will go to stage 3 by next Weds. (DAW) recommended all PWS adopting the District Drought Plan). (AHB discusses District plan vs. WWSC. Tom Haley reaction: "they feel this is being pushed down their throats, they are willing to listen but don't push us around.")
- Richard Sullivan indicated he felt the District had an "apathy" problem. He looked into RW, and is disgusted by Jacob's Well lack of flow; thinks the District should promote conservation.
- Joe Day recommends quantifying sustainability

### • Report on GMA #9 Efforts towards establishing a "desired future condition" of the Trinity Aquifer: No Report

1) **Revision of 2009 Budget:** Postponed

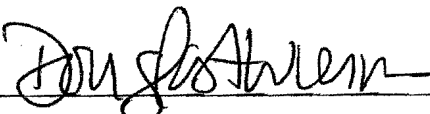
2) **Priorities and Objectives:**

- Public Outreach (GFN/JAH)
- Government Relations (DGB)
- Fund Raising (DGB)
- Enforcement (AHB)
- DFC Process (DAW)
- Aquifer Folio(DAW)
- TSU/Cypress Creek Updates (DAW)
- Rule Updates (DAW/Staff)
- Permits (DAW/Staff)
- Drought Trigger Analysis and Declaration

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- 3) **Election of Officers and Committee Chairs:** AHB made a motion that the Board be made up of the following officers:
- DAW as President
  - DGB as Vice President
  - JAH as Secretary and Treasurer
- After some discussion, DAW accepted the nomination and JAH seconded the motion. All in favor.
- 4) **Revision of policy requiring a quorum of the Board to be present to conduct hearing and adoption of a policy appointing a default presiding officer for hearing in lieu of a quorum of the Board.** After some discussion, DAW and AHB recommended DRC follow up with GME regarding the language, reasoning, and benefits for the policy revision and to follow up with the Board. .
- 5) **Drought Status, plans, and progress with regulated entities:**
- Based on current triggers, no need to move out of Critical Drought Stage.
  - HTGCD continues to declare "Critical Drought Stage."
  - Update Drought Trigger Sheet that was distributed by DRC and make a revision.
  - June Drought Trigger Discharge / Flow Averages, Cubic Feet per Second (CFS):
    - USGS Pedemales River 11.8 CFS (Critical Trigger Level 10.2 CFS)
    - USGS Blanco River 6.9 CFS (Critical Trigger Level 14.5 CFS)
      - Trigger Review:
        - It takes one month at or below trigger to go into stage;
        - It takes two months exceeding trigger level to come out of stage;
  - AHB will provide a trigger spreadsheet of daily discharge readings from USGS used to calculate monthly averages to Robin Grace, Data-base consultant, to see if she can automate the process on the web-site;
  - Develop a map on the Drought page, showing primary and secondary trigger measuring points with links to USGS data.
  - Recommendation to use Drought Flags, signs, twitter, current email distribution lists, papers, and other simple communication efforts to get the Drought Word out.
  - Set up a drought workshop for late July
- 6) **Future Agenda Items:**
- DGB recommends a line loss rule of 15%. DAW recommends RCB research the industry standard and report back to the Board prior to making this an agenda item.
  - DAW recommends all materials to supplement an agenda item be distributed to the Board one week prior to the Board meeting for review.
  - DAW recommends adding the review of proposed District logos to the agenda
  - Budget Hearing
  - Permit Hearing
  - Update on Drought

**11:10am Adjourn**

Approved By: , Douglas A. Wiernman (President)

Attested By: , Jack A. Hollon (Secretary/Treasurer)

Date: 4/15 -- 2010