

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

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

**Monday, October 19, 2009**

**Time: 9:00am**

**Place: Woodcreek City Hall**

**Located at: 41 Champions Circle, Wimberley, TX 78676**

**9:02 am Regular Meeting Opens, a quorum was achieved.**

**Board Present:** Douglas A. Wierman (DAW) President, David G. Baker (DGB) Vice President, Jack A. Hollon (JAH) Secretary/Treasurer, Andrew H. Backus

**Board Absent:** Greg F. Nesbitt

**Staff Present:** Dana R. Carmean (DRC) Co General Manager, Wes Schumacher (WS) Staff Geologist

**Staff Absent:** Rick D. Broun, Cathy J. Balch

**Announcements/Reports/Public Comments**

- **Review of Board Meeting Protocol;** not provided
- **Consider approval of prior meeting Minutes;** None Considered
- **General Manager's Report of Activities:** DRC reported to the Board:
  - Meeting was held on 10/15/09 with Wimberley Springs Partners to review permit application. A second meeting is set for 10/29/09
  - Two new Dry Well Reports came in last week bringing the count, to 43 Dry Well Reports
- **Report from Staff Scientist, Wesley Schumacher;** none provided
- **Board & Staff Announcements;**
  - DGB reported:
    - Good turnout for the WVWA Fundraiser on 10/18/09
    - GW 101 Training on 10/14/09, "training was valuable" according to attendees David Baker, Cathy Balch and Rick Broun. Greg Nesbitt's was enrolled but unable to attend at the last minute.
    - Upcoming Dates:
      - 10/20/09 Water Quality Meeting for Cypress Creek
      - 10/21/09 Meeting with Representative Rose and Senator Wentworth at the Capitol.
      - 10/21/09 TCEQ Water Protection Plan Model of Cypress Creek
      - 10/22/09 Agri Life sponsoring all day Water Shed Steward Program
  - JAH reported the Eco Fest, held on 10/17/09, was successful and AHB concurred.
- **General Public Comments:**
  - Alex S. Broun, P.G. 4845 recommended a Rule Change for the Definition of "recharge zone" for the Trinity aquifer to something similar to what TCEQ uses for the Edwards aquifer.

**Agenda Items**

The following subjects will be considered for discussion and/or action. Public Comment will be accepted for each agenda item.

- 1) **A Discussion of a HTGCD response to the TCEQ DRAFT report titled "Groundwater Conservation District Recommendation for Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area— Western Comal and Southwestern Travis Counties".**

This report addresses groundwater management in the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area (PGMA). The purpose of this report is to identify and evaluate the areas in the Hill Country PGMA not included in a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) (Western Comal and Southwestern Travis Counties) and evaluate and recommend whether one or more GCDs be created, whether the identified areas be added to an existing GCD, or whether a combination of these actions be taken.

  - a. DAW - comments for the Draft Report are due on 11/12/09
  - b. Kirk Holland, Manger for BSEAD, - they will have a Board Meeting on 10/22/09, at 6pm, to review the Draft Report. BSEAD remains neutral on the topic at this time.
  - c. Steve Musick, District Resident, - is in favor of the larger District option.
  - d. Alex S. Broun, P.G. 4845, District Geologist, - is opposed to the larger District option and believes "the local control of single county districts will provide more attention to local nuances of the aquifer".
  - e. Jimmy Skipton, Henly Resident, - is opposed to the larger District option and believes "there would be too much state control with the bigger District."
  - f. JAH, with HTGCD, - is opposed to consolidation of the HTGCD into a larger District as we would "lose the intimate control." He recommends fixing HTGCD legislation.

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- g. DGB thinks there would be mixed benefits from combining the Districts and it may lead to Chapter 36 authority more quickly than other strategies. He would like to see at least \$500k for funding the current District and indicates it may be beneficial to have one larger Trinity District alongside the multi-County Edwards Aquifer Authority.
- h. DAW is in support of the three county change.
- i. AHB is in favor of a larger District with management zones, noting there would be minimal loss of local control (each county would maintain board representation), improved funding alternatives, and an increase in administrative efficiency.
- j. Steve Musick, retired from TCEQ after 26 years, gave an overview of the process in creating new Districts within a PGMA.
- k. Kirk Holland, of BSEAD, believes the people of Western Travis County have a preference to be grouped with other Hill Country Districts over BSEAD due to similarities in their aquifer and the growth pressures they are feeling. Also, there is a reasonable chance that BSEAD Board will not endorse the TCEQ recommendation adding south-western Travis County to the BSEACD. The City of Austin is not in favor of this and they provide significant funding to the BSEACD.
- l. DRC, HTGCD Staff, is in favor of District Consolidation to create larger multi-county district(s) from a business perspective; currently there is too much redundancy with single county GCD's and it is costly to have this redundancy.
- m. AHB suggested a possible alternative would be to combine western Comal with the Trinity Glen Rose Conservation District in northern Bexar Co. and the territory of the HTGCD with south-western Travis County to form another District. DGB expands on this idea noting that each of these scenarios require an adequate funding mechanism.
- n. Paul Polhemus, with WWSC, is opposed to a larger multi-County District and would "personally like to see it remain on a local level."
- o. Kirk Holland, with BSEAD, indicated Senator Kip Averitt, chair of the Senate's Natural Resources Committee, is no longer in favor of single county districts and therefore the legislature and TCEQ will probably look more favorably upon multi-county districts.
- p. JAH inquires with DGB as to what he would propose to protect Jacob's Well and Cypress Creek? DGB responded with getting wells out of the conduits but working that through a management plan and zones.
- q. AHB proposes written Draft language for a response and DAW recommends a committee of DAW and AHB to work the Draft language. Board affirms committee of DAW & AHB.
- r. DAW, with Board affirmation, recommend the following points to include in the Draft response letter:
  - i. Acknowledgement of Current Inadequacies in HTGCD Funding.
  - ii. Option 1:  
HTGCD Support of keeping a local Groundwater Conservation District with Adequate Funding
  - iii. Option 2:  
HTGCD support of a Multi County District with Adequate Funding.

DAW recommends future Board meeting to Review and possibly approve a response letter to TCEQ regarding the TCEQ report titled "Groundwater Conservation District Recommendation for Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area." Points to Review for the letter include.

The meeting date set for Monday, 10/26/09 at 9am at Woodcreek City Hall.

**2) Examine Drought Triggers and update the Drought Status:**

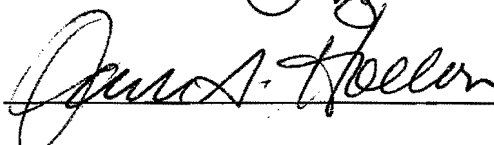
Impact of recent rains:

- a. Primary triggers of the Blanco and Pedernales Rivers flow show Cubic Feet per Second (CFS) flow rates on the rise but for less than the 60-days required to move out of the Critical Drought Stage. The CFS flow-rate has been above the Drought levels for only ten days.
- b. WS presents Secondary Drought Triggers for Water Level data on:
  - i. Mt. Baldy monitoring well water-level declined about 80 feet since the January 2008 at this well. The WL has come up only a couple of feet as of the end of September 2009.
  - ii. Henly Church monitoring well water-level has declined 22 feet since January 2008 and the WL continued to decline up to September 2009.
- c. DAW declares the HTGCD continues to be in a Critical Drought even though:
  - i. There have been recent spikes in the river flows.
  - ii. There has been very little response to the Trinity Aquifer from the recent rains.

AHB will draft a press release for the papers regarding the District Remaining in Critical Drought.

**3) Possible Future Agenda Items:** Not discussed.

11:09 am Adjourn Approved By:  Douglas A. Wierman, President

Attested By:  Jack A. Hollon, Secretary/Treasurer; Date: 4/15-2010