

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

A meeting of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District was held:
Friday, May 8, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Dripping Springs City Hall
Located at: 511 Mercer St., Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

8:32am Regular Meeting Opens

Present: Douglas A. Wierman (Vice President), Mark P. Hemingway (Secretary/Treasurer), Jack A. Hollon, Joe C. Day

8:35am Andrew H. Backus (President) arrives

The following subjects will be considered for discussion and/or action at said meeting:

- **Consider approval of prior meeting Minutes:** Reviewed 4/23/09 Meeting Minutes. JAH moved to accept minutes as written. JD seconds. Vote 3-0 in favor of approving minutes. DAW and AHB abstain.
- **General Manager's Report of Activities:** DRC absent. Board reviewed report and materials and noted the reduced number of well registrations and PWS connections for April 2008.
- **Report from staff geologist Wesley Schumacher:** WS discussed:
 - The new LIDAR topographic survey of county and data. Reduction in process.
 - The use of the resulting high accuracy topo in future stratigraphic and structural analysis of Hays County Geology.
 - Ongoing isotopic dating of Groundwater from the Trinity
 - Al Broun is logging stratigraphy of a deep well in Ruby Ranch.
 - Other routine mapping and logging activities are also in progress.
- **Board & Staff Announcements:**
 - **DAW** announced he attended LCRA's Clean Rivers Meeting on 5/7/09. The focus was on the Onion Creek Watershed. The meeting was preliminary in nature. No final decisions, another meeting will be held next month.
 - **AHB** announced Hays County has grant money from TWDB to evaluate water and wastewater needs and capacity West of I-35. HDR is consultant leading that contract.
- **Public Comments:** None

Agenda Items

- 1) **Review of 2009 Budget:**
2009 Budget - current version attempts to account for economic downturn's impact on the District Funding. Budget anticipates hiring a new part time person to replace John Anderson, Coni Phillips, and Ashley Johnston. Budget Projections show a deficit of \$41K through year's end. The Science Budget is pared way back. The proposed budget includes the following costs:
 - Election
 - Sampling & Analytical CostsThe Board will schedule a hearing on the budget pursuant to normal and appropriate notice requirements.
- 2) **Immediate and post legislative session staffing:** Not discussed.
- 3) **Drought status and drought planning / education updates:** Not discussed.
- 4) **Public education strategy and efforts:** Not discussed.

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- 5) **Report on Groundwater Management Area # 9 Efforts towards establishing a “desired future condition” of the Trinity Aquifer and status of TWDB revised Hill Country Trinity GAM:**
GMA#9. Discuss the progress on the hill Country GAM with respect to Lower Trinity and Drought of Record issues. AHB raises the question of whether we should suggest to the GMA that the DFC process be held up to utilize the new model. General discussions of the DFC & MAG process continue. No actions recommended by the Board.
- 6) **Review of the 042408 Resolution (no new permitted wells until MAG established) and Managed Available Groundwater status related to issue of some property owners being very close to utility water but only able to access for very high fees:**
- i. Ron White is present, and an applicant building a new dental office. He would have to bore under Highway 290 to access LCRA water and they estimate the cost at \$75K. The dental office expects low usage, about 17K gallons per year. They are also expecting to put in a rain water system but are not sure it would provide.
 - ii. After discussion, the HTGCD Board would be inclined to issue a permit, either through variance or other means, under the condition that the well be plugged if they ever connect to LCRA. Mr. White said that would be acceptable.
- 7) **HTGCD legislation at 81st Texas Legislature:**
AHB announced the HTGCD Board rejected Representative Rose & Senator Wentworth's proposed bill and counter proposed another bill with more constraints on: authority, eminent domain, and cap on taxing authority, right of entry more restrained to the time period that the well is sited and installed. The Board's proposed legislation is not being considered. The Rose/Wentworth bill is still pending but not considered likely to pass.
- 8) **Possible future agenda items:** Not discussed.

10:54am DAW leaves.

10:58am Executive Session - Section 551.071

11:32am Executive Session Ends

11:35am Adjourn

Minutes Approved By:

Andrew H. Backus _____, President

Date: _____, 2009

Attested By:

Mark P. Hemingway _____, Secretary/Treasurer

Date: _____, 2009