

Minutes of Open Meeting of the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

A meeting was held by the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District on:
Thursday, May 28, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Place: Dripping Springs City Hall
Located at: 511 Mercer St., Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

8:40 a.m.: Regular Meeting Opens

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

Also present were newly elected Board Members: David G. Baker (Single Member District 4), and Greg F. Nesbitt (Single Member District 2)

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

- **Consider approval of prior meeting Minutes:** None Considered
- **General Manager's Report of Activities:** DRC reported on:
 - Complaints Received this month:
 - Ryan Hills (Driller on property, lot too small, no registration yet)
 - The Polo Club (lakes)
 - Keller Property (lakes)
 - McDonalds's (Watering Drive in the middle of the Day)
 - Increased Communication with:
 - Jon Thompson with the City of Dripping Springs
 - Clint Garza with Hays County Subdivision Planning
 - Board Hearing Set for June 25, 2009. The Board requested we push that out to July 9, 2009.
 - The Hays County Grant Application was submitted on May 20, 2009
 - Attended the County Charette to discuss expected growth and infrastructure to accommodate it
- **Report from staff geologist Wesley Schumacher:**
 - Recent work was conducted with:
 - The Still Well
 - Blanco Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
 - Spillar Well Correlation
 - Compilation of the District
- **Board & Staff Announcements:**
 - DAW announced the Isotope Age Study Results are in showing the Jacob's Well Base at Cow Creek is approximately 2000 years old. The Lower Trinity Analysis showed water from 20K-35K years old.
 - JAH requested updating the Date on the Combined Well Monitoring Chart and adding a brief explanation.
- **Public Comments:**
 - Roger Kew with Radiance Water Supply System thanked the Board Members for their service and hours to make the District alive and well.

● **Hays Trinity GCD, Board Meeting Agenda May 28, 2009 continued.**

9:00am Judge Terry Kyle will swear in new Board members:

- Greg F. Nesbitt (Single Member District 2)
- David G. Baker (Single Member District 4)

-Elections of Board Officers: JAH recommends we have a Board Meeting Workshop to discuss priorities and direction of the District on June 11, 2009 and to conduct the elections of officers at the time. Potential Workshop Date June 11, 2009. Next Scheduled Board meeting on July 9, 2009.

AHB makes a motion that we have a Board Meeting within two months and elect officers at that time and that JAH act as Board Secretary/Treasurer in the meantime. GFN seconds the motion. All in favor.

9:30am Workshop with Kay Beth Williams of Hays Central Appraisal District about Wildlife Valuations for property and supplemental water considerations:

Overview of Wildlife Exemption provided by Kay Beth Williams:

- Property is under Agricultural Exemption First for 5 years
 - Property able to hold 3,000 animal weight
- 1995 Voters voted in Wildlife Exemptions
- July 2002 – 1st regulation for wildlife exemptions
- July 2006 Regulations updated
- 3 out of 7 Wildlife Criteria must be met
- Ponds and Lakes are not required (alternatives are RW retention/cattle troughs)
- Currently there are over 700 Wildlife Exemptions in Hays County or 10,000 acres
- Minimum Acreage required is 20 acres
- Erosion Control is not considered for pond development.
- Annual Review or 5 to 7 year review periods established for audit

Others Groups to meet with to discuss HTGCD Rules and “Waste” of Water are:

- State’s Comptroller’s Office
- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- Hays County

Other Recommendations:

- Send Rules in Writing to Kay Beth Williams
- Partner with TPWD re: alternatives
- Can get size of lakes and ponds on Exemptions from the County via “Open Records Request” from David Valle
- Recommendation for lined lakes to include: Bentonite, Palm Sand, Phosphorous

10:00am Robin Grace, Database developer, will give an overview of the new website in development:

The reasons for updating the site include:

- Technology updates
- Bringing Site up to Industry Standard
- More public focused site
- Offering of online forms
- Consolidation of the Database
- Web based applications

A list of recommendations was taken from the Board for further updates to the site to include:

1. Adding the following:
2. Onion Creek USGS in Driftwood at Hwy 150– under Region K on Drought Map
3. Rules/Management Plan
4. Senate Bill 2 (2001) or 77th Legislature identifying the creation of the District
5. Bylaws
6. Ethics Policy
7. Enabling Legislation
8. TCEQ link to CZP – Edward’s Aquifer Contributing Zone/Online Recharge
9. Orders and Resolutions
10. Complaint Form
11. Search Capability within the site

● **Hays Trinity GCD, Board Meeting Agenda May 28, 2009 continued.**

- 12. **Links to Organizations:**
 - a. **Edwards Aquifer Authority**
 - b. **River Systems Institute/TX State University**
- 13. **Links to other Groundwater Districts within GMA9**
- 14. **PDF Map of the Aquifer**
- 15. **Link to a map of other LCRA stations in Region K under a Hydro Page w/link to Water Quality Data**
- 16. **Write Procedures for HTGCD Site**
- 17. **Set Additional Meetings for Roll out of Forms pages**

- 1) **Variance to 042408 Resolution (no new permitted/non-exempt wells until MAG established) allowing 1-year permits for non-exempt wells requesting less than or equal to 20,000 gallons per year:**
Review of the Resolution 042408 based on a well registration for Dr. Ron White and permit application for 20,000 gallons per year.
DAW makes a motion to make a variance to the 042408 Resolution for non exempt wells requesting less than 50,000 gallons a year to be processed, with the requirement that they must add a meter, and a WL pvc pipe. AHB seconds. All in favor.
- 2) **Drought status and drought planning / education updates:** Not discussed
- 3) **Board Priorities and Goals:** DAW distributed recommended priorities but not discussed.
- 4) **2009 and 2010 Budget:** Not discussed
- 5) **Staffing:**
 - Discussed interviews with Rick Broun and Cathy Balch. AHB & DAW recommend hiring Rick Broun as Co General Manager and Cathy Balch as Assistant.**DGB makes a motion to ask AHB and DAW to negotiate employment contracts with Rick Broun as Co General Manager and Cathy Balch as Assistant with the understanding the budget would dictate how many hours they work. The conditions must be communicated up front. AHB seconds the motion. All in favor.**
- 6) **Public education strategy and efforts:** Not discussed
- 7) **Groundwater Management Area # 9 “desired future condition” of the Trinity Aquifer and status of TWDB revised Hill Country Trinity GAM:** Not discussed
- 8) **HTGCD legislation at 81st Texas Legislature:** Not discussed
- 9) **Scheduling of permit hearings** Not discussed
- 10) **Possible future agenda items:** Not discussed

12:09pm Adjourn

Approved: _____ Andrew H. Backus (President)

Date: _____, 2009

Attested: _____ Jack A. Hollon (Interim Secretary/Treasurer)

Date: _____, 2009