

**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**

**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 complaints have been lodged this month against:
    - The Polo Club from residents of Oak Run West
    - Gary Keller for having full ponds in a drought
    - Neighbors watering lawns in the drought
    - McDonald's 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
    - Woodcreek Phase 1 & 2
    - River Oaks Ranch
  - District was down 6 registrations over prior 12 months resulting in \$1,800 less in income to the District
  - District is over by \$6,740 on Field Operations (\$11,740 including Aecom)
  - District has a remaining \$10,000 in the budget for legal for the year.
  - Currently to stay within the budget, the three business staff members will split 56 hours between them, understanding the hours may be cut back during later months during the year.
  - Review future dates
- **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
      - Acre footage for Agricultural purposes (843) - DAW corrects number upward at 1,000 acre ft to reflect irrigation as well.
      - 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 has not established a GCD in Dallam County.
- Referenced report (page 7) that identified Districts need \$250K to handle administrative duties
- "Credibility" was reported to be a current problem of the District.

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

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 Averages:
  - Pedernales 11.8 cfs
  - Blanco 6.9 cfs
    - Rule:
      - One month to go into stage
      - Two months to come out of stage
- Get a copy of Daily Drought Trigger Spreadsheet from AHB and see if it can be automated on the web by Database Developer, Robin Grace,
- Develop a map on the Drought page, showing primary and secondary trigger 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. Wierman (President) on: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009

Attested By: \_\_\_\_\_, Jack A. Hollon (Secretary/Treasurer) on: \_\_\_\_\_, 2009