

# UPPER TRINITY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016

## MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

1. Board President Tracy Mesler welcomed guests and members of the public and notified the public that a quorum of the Board of Directors would not be present, and that General Manager Doug Shaw would conduct the hearing, with the assistance of the District's consultants. The public hearing convened at 5:00 p.m.
2. A quorum of the Board of Directors was not present. The hearing was declared open to the public; those in attendance were informed that the members of the Board of Directors that were present could not comment on any of the topics.

Directors Present: Tracy Mesler, Mike Massey, Richard English, and Tim Watts

Directors Absent: Dan Caudle, Mike Berkley, Don Majka, and Billy Stout

3. Pledges of allegiance to the flags were omitted.
4. General Manager Doug Shaw, Attorney Brian Sledge, and Hydrogeologist Wade Oliver provided an update on the DFC development process and the roll of the DFCs in the District's management of groundwater resources. The General Manager then received public comments from regarding proposed Desired Future Conditions ("DFCs") for the Trinity Aquifer in Hood, Montague, Parker, and Wise Counties, Texas in accordance with Section 36.108(d-2) of the Texas Water Code.
  - Mayor Kit Marshall, City of Aledo expressed her concern more than once about population growth in the area, the finite amount of water, and the many governing parties involved in future planning. She specifically asked how this process addresses said growth.
    - GM Shaw briefly described how the Regional Water Planning (RWP) process, which is largely a water supply planning process, addresses future growth. He also noted that by statute, GMAs have to consider the demands, supplies and future water management strategies identified in RWP as part of the DFC process.
  - Lori Swaim, Tolar Texas, asked about the different model runs, specifically Runs 10 and 10.1. Based on her understanding, she questioned the integrity of process if changes can be made to the way the model is run in order to manipulate the outcome. Also, she voiced her concern that it does not seem that the DFCs currently on the table, based on Run 10, properly protects the resources that are part of her private property. She noted, as a resident of the western portion of Hood County, that she relies on several shallow surficial wells as the source of water for her farming operation and worries that in the future her children and grandchildren will be left with valueless property should water levels fall to levels that prohibit access.
  - John Henry Luton of Granbury, asked if his understanding that the Desired Future Conditions proposed by the UTGCD do not align with what was approved by GMA8. The differences between Run 10 and Run 10.1 were explained, which led to several follow up questions. He then voiced his concern regarding the differences between the distribution of pumping in the model layers in Run 10 versus the distribution in the previous eight GMA 8 sanctioned runs, and his additional concern that the decision to change the pumping distribution for Run 10 was not approved in an open meeting. He then asked what the purpose for using the model differently than previous simulations. Wade Oliver (INTERA Inc.) read the following, taken from a presentation given to GMA 8 regarding Run 10, "...moved

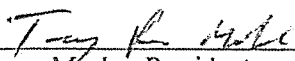
pumping from a surficial [shallow] layer to a lower aquifer layer to eliminate potential pumping reductions” and “to honor GCD directive pumping inputs.” It was noted that this approach seems to be focusing on desired pumping outputs rather than managing the physical condition of the aquifer.

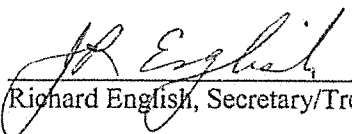
- Kerry Graham, Wichita Falls, asked if there are any notable sources of brackish groundwater in the District.
- Lori Swaim, Tolar, questioned the reasonableness of DFCs based a model run that was performed differently than all other GMA 8 sanctioned model runs.
- John Henry Luton, Granbury, asked if the DFCs on the table take into consideration the differences between the outcrop and subcrop of the aquifer. It was explained that they do not.
- Ronnie Tomlinson, Granbury, commented that it is Upper Trinity’s responsibility to ensure all well owners, including those with shallow wells in the outcrop, are protected not only from pumping within the District’s boundaries but also from adverse pumping in neighboring counties.

5. After all comments were heard, the Public Hearing concluded at 6:01 pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS this 20 day of June, 2016.

Attest:

  
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Tracy Mesler, President

  
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Richard English, Secretary/Treasurer