



**Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District  
Meeting Minutes  
5:30 PM, April 13, 2016  
Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center  
706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, TX**

**Directors Present**

Director Tom Callan  
Director Ed Hegen  
Director Lynn Wildman

**Directors Absent**

Director Robert Walls  
Director John Alexander

**Staff Members Present**

Linda Garcia  
James Dodson

**Elected Officials Present**

Commissioner Betty Stiles

**Guests Present**

Opening Agenda

1. **Call to order.**

With a quorum of Directors present, the regular meeting of the Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District (ACGCD) was called to order by Chairman, Tom Callan at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at the Aquarium at Rockport Harbor Education Center, 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, TX.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

*On motion of Director Hegen and second by Director Wildman, workshop minutes of January 27, 2016, were tabled, and minutes of public hearing and regular meeting of March 23, 2016, were unanimously approved.*

3. **Citizens to be Heard**

*At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any subject matter that is not on the agenda. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the ACGCD Board may not discuss or take action on any item which has not been posted on the agenda.*

There were none.

4. **Update Speakers' Schedule of 4/13.**

Chairman Callan went over Speaker's Schedule and some additional dates were finalized. Commissioner Stiles questioned the Chamber's inserts, but was told Chamber would be putting out a separate bulletin regarding the establishment of a groundwater conservation district.

5. **Review Feedback from Organization Presentations.**

With one or two rare exceptions, most all feedback has been positive.

**6. Discuss Publication of Another Newspaper Article.**

No discussion or action taken.

**7. Confirm Election Notices, etc., have been Properly Posted in Accordance with Election Law.**

Notice of election will be in the Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> editions of the Rockport Pilot. Copy of proofs will be obtained. Public Hearing notice proofs have already been obtained.

**8. Deliberate Regarding Publication of Summary of Comments Received Both at the Public Hearing and Afterwards and Transmittal to GMA 15 by April 27, 2016.**

Under Section 36.108(d) of the Texas Water Code, GMA 15 Representatives are required to consider nine specific factors before voting to adopt any proposed desired future condition. These nine specific factors are: (1) aquifer uses or conditions within the management area, including conditions that differ substantially from one geographic area to another; (2) the water supply needs and water management strategies included in the state water plan; (3) hydrological conditions, including for each aquifer in the management area the total estimated recoverable storage as provided by the executive administrator, and the average annual recharge, inflows, and discharge; (4) other environmental impacts, including impacts on spring flow and other interactions between groundwater and surface water; (5) the impact on subsidence; (6) socioeconomic impacts reasonably expected to occur; (7) the impact on the interests and rights in private property, including ownership and the rights of management area landowners and their lessees and assigns in groundwater as recognized under Section 36.002; (8) the feasibility of achieving the desired future condition; and (9) any other information relevant to the specific desired future conditions.

The Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District (ACGCD) Board of Directors reviewed these nine factors during a regular called meeting on April 13, 2016, basing their review on the following previously compiled summary of potential GMA 15 comments on these nine factors. ACGCD comments, if any, arising from consideration of these nine factors are noted after the GMA 15 comments. After further input from GMA 15 member districts, final comments on these nine factors will be provided in the GMA 15 DFC Explanatory Report.

- 1) Under 36.108(d)(1), member district are required to consider aquifer uses or conditions within the management area, including conditions that differ substantially from one geographic area to another.

**GMA 15 Response:** The aquifer uses and conditions differ substantially across Groundwater Management Area 15. Groundwater production is generally greater in the northeastern portions of GMA 15 in Colorado, Wharton, Matagorda, and Jackson Counties. Groundwater in northeastern portion of GMA 15 is predominately used for irrigation purposes. Groundwater production in the central portion of GMA 15 in Victoria County is predominately used for irrigation, municipal, and industrial uses. Groundwater production in the north central portion of GMA 15 in DeWitt County and Karnes County is predominately used for domestic and livestock purposes as well as supporting oil and gas production in the Eagle Ford Shale. Groundwater production in the southwestern portions of GMA 15 is predominately used for domestic, livestock, and agricultural uses. The condition of the Gulf Coast Aquifer differs significantly geographically. Generally, the capacity of the Gulf Coast Aquifer to produce groundwater increases to the northeast and decreases to the southwest as well as increase down dip relative to up dip portions of the Gulf Coast Aquifer. The adoption of the desired future conditions of GMA 15 are not anticipated to significantly impact aquifer uses or conditions during the planning horizon and would provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of groundwater, and control of subsidence in the management area.

**ACGCD Comments:** *In addition to the Gulf Coast Aquifer underlying Aransas County, there is a very unique, local aquifer unit, the “Dune Ridge Aquifer” overlying much of the Live Oak Peninsula area of Aransas County. This water table aquifer system is shallow, relatively fresh and highly transmissive. In addition to supporting the extensive stands of Live Oaks found growing in the sandy soils associated with this ancient dune ridge system, this unique aquifer supports numerous shallow freshwater wetlands, small scale residential irrigation and livestock/wildlife watering. Since the GMA 15 DFC’s are only proposed for aquifer systems within the Gulf Coast Aquifer, the adoption of the desired future conditions of GMA 15 are not anticipated to significantly impact aquifer uses or conditions for the local “Dune Ridge Aquifer” during the planning horizon.*

- 2) Under 36.108(d)(2), member district are required to consider the water supply needs and water management strategies included in the state water plan.

**GMA 15 Response:** Based on a review of the a summary of the water supply needs and water management strategies of the 2012 Texas State Water Plan, the adoption of the desired future conditions of GMA 15 are not anticipated to significantly impact the water supplies, water supply needs, or water management strategies of the 2012 Texas State Water Plan during the planning horizon and would provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of groundwater, and control of subsidence in the management area.

**ACGCD Comments:** *No exception in response to GMA comments*

- 3) Under 36.108(d)(3), member districts are required to consider hydrological conditions, including for each aquifer in the management area the total estimated recoverable storage as provided by the executive administrator, and the average annual recharge, inflows, and discharge.

**GMA 15 Response:** The Texas Water Development Board published total estimated recoverable storage for aquifers within GMA 15 in a report titled GAM Task 13-038: Total Estimated Recoverable Storage for Aquifers in Groundwater Management Area 15. The total estimated recoverable storage for the Gulf Coast Aquifer within GMA 15 ranges between 92,200,000 acre-feet and 276,600,000 acre-feet. Based on a review of the total estimated recoverable storage and simulated water budgets associated with the Baseline (Option 1) and High Production (Option 1) model runs, the adoption of the desired future conditions of GMA 15 are not anticipated to significantly impact the hydrological conditions within GMA 15 during the planning horizon and would provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of groundwater, and control of subsidence in the management area.

**ACGCD Comments:** *No exception in response to GMA comments*

- 4) Under 36.108(d)(4), member districts are required to consider other environmental impacts, including impacts on spring flow and other interactions between groundwater and surface water.

**GMA 15 Response:** Based on a review of the simulated water budgets associated with the Baseline (Option 1) and High Production (Option 1) model runs, the adoption of the desired future conditions of GMA 15 are not anticipated to significantly impact environmental conditions during the planning horizon and would provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of groundwater, and control of subsidence in the management area.

**ACGCD Comments:** *No exception in response to GMA comments*

- 5) Under 36.108(d)(5), member districts are required to consider the impact on subsidence.

**GMA 15 Response:** Based on a reports developed by INTERA for member districts related to subsidence within GMA 15, the adoption of the desired future conditions of GMA 15 are not anticipated to significantly impact subsidence during the planning horizon and would provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation,

preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of groundwater, and control of subsidence in the management area.

***ACGCD Comments: No exception in response to GMA comments***

- 6) Under 36.108(d)(6), member districts are required to consider socioeconomic impacts reasonably expected to occur.

**GMA 15 Response:** Based on a review of the water management strategies of the 2012 Texas State Water Plan associate with supplies from the Gulf Coast Aquifer within GMA 15 and the anticipated impact on groundwater resources caused by groundwater production in the future, the adoption of the desired future conditions of GMA 15 are not anticipated to significantly impact socioeconomic conditions within GMA 15 during the planning horizon and would provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of groundwater, and control of subsidence in the management area.

***ACGCD Comments: No exception in response to GMA comments***

- 7) Under 36.108(d)(7), member districts are required to consider the impact on the interests and rights in private property.

**GMA 15 Response:** The member district recognize that the regulation of groundwater production, including the adoption of desired future conditions, could significantly impact interests and rights in private property. Based on estimations of existing groundwater production, existing groundwater regulations, and the proposed water management strategies of the 2012 Texas State Water Plan, the adoption of the desired future conditions of GMA 15 are not anticipated to significantly impact interests and rights in private property within GMA 15 during the planning horizon and would provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of groundwater, and control of subsidence in the management area.

***ACGCD Comments: No exception in response to GMA comments***

- 8) Under 36.108(d)(8), member districts are required to consider the feasibility of achieving the desired future condition.

**GMA 15 Response:** Based on predictive groundwater availability modeling conducted by GMA 15, the achievement of the desired future conditions are considered feasible and physically compatible.

***ACGCD Comments: No exception in response to GMA comments***

- 9) Under 36.108(d)(9), member districts are required to consider any other information relevant to the specific desired future conditions –

**GMA 15 Response:** No additional comments

***ACGCD Comments: No exception in response to GMA comments***

**9. Approval of Resolution that Aransas County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors is in Agreement with the Proposed Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for Groundwater Management Area 15 and Recommending Approval of Such by the Groundwater Management Area 15 Member District.**

***On motion of Director Hegen and second by Director Wildman, Resolution (#R-01-2016) was passed and approved. (Copy attached hereto.)***

**11. Discussion of Next Meeting Agenda Items.**

- 1) Workshop Minutes of January 27 and Regular Minutes of April 13
- 2) Update Speaker's Schedule as of April 27<sup>th</sup>
- 3) Review Feedback from Organization Presentations
- 4) Confirm election notices, etc., have been properly posted in accordance with election law
- 5) Review of Regional Water Planning Meeting and GMA 15 Regional Meeting
- 6) Begin consideration of proposed budget line items and forecast for County Treasurer
- 7) Old Business
- 8) New Business
- 9) Discussion of next meeting agenda items.

**12. Adjourn.**

*On motion by Director Hegen and second by Chairman Callan, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Garcia*



Approved subject to Board Confirmation  
Tom Callan, Chairman