

**UPPER GULF COAST AQUIFER PLANNING AREA
(GMA 14)**

Joint Planning Group Meeting

**Tuesday, March 27, 2018
1:00 PM**

MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of GMA 14 was held Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 1:00 PM, in the board room of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District located at 655 Conroe Park North Drive, Conroe, Texas.

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Turner Jones (Lone Star GCD) at 1:00 PM with a roll call of District representatives and Interlocal Agreement Participants. Districts represented included: Kent Burkett, Brazoria County GCD, Zach Holland, Bluebonnet GCD, Kathy Turner Jones, Lone Star GCD, Gary Ashmore, Lower Trinity GCD and John Martin, Southeast Texas GCD. Interlocal Agreement Participants included: The Honorable John Brieden, Washington County Judge; Robert Thompson, Fort Bend Subsidence District; Mike Turco, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District and Fort Bend Subsidence District; and Pudge Willcox, Chambers County. Also in attendance at the meeting were Larry French, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB); and members of the public. (see Attachment "A" for a list of attendees).

Ms. Jones called for and opened the floor to public comment. Mr. Kent Maggert, Montgomery County resident, and Mr. Jordan Furnans, with LRE, signed in to speak and address GMA 14.

Ms. Jones proceeded with requests for and receipt of posted notices from District Representatives. Ms. Jones then asked for consideration of the approval of the minutes from the GMA 14 meeting on February 28, 2018. After discussion and upon a motion by Mr. Burkett, seconded by Mr. Ashmore, the minutes for the February 28, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Meeting convened as a meeting of the GMA 14 Joint Planning Interlocal Agreement Participants.

The GMA 14 Joint Planning Interlocal Agreement Participants meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM.

Ms. Jones called for the presentation of information from the Texas Water Development Board and discussions of items of interest to the GMA. Mr. French provided general information from TWDB, including the announcements that all GMAs had finalized DFCs with TWDB working on providing the MAGs and a subsidence report in the final stages of being approved and published.

Ms. Jones noted no updates to the GMA 14 Interlocal Agreements financial report at this time. Ms. Jones called for the formal presentation by Lone Star GCD requesting GMA 14 to approve formal consideration of another request for amended DFCs and take action to consider the DFC request referred to as "Run D of Task 3 of the Lone Star GCD Strategic Water Resources Planning Study" only as an amendment to the DFCs previously adopted for the second cycle of joint planning (2010 – 2016). The request was presented in the form of a written resolution to attempt to eliminate any confusion on what was being requested. Ms. Jones noted that the action item would be Item 13 and this item was for presentation and discussion. Mr. Sledge laid out the presentation as directed by the Lone Star Board of Directors of the proposal presented by resolution to GMA 14.

Ms. Jones called for discussion and possible action regarding path forward for GMA 14 to accomplish statutory mandates, beginning to discuss, consider and possible action on Request for Qualifications, schedule, and process for procurement of professional services to support the development of desired future conditions during the current joint-planning effort in GMA 14 as required by Texas Water Code 36.108. Mr. Turco provided an update and stated the committee would grade the RFQs and bring back to the group at a future meeting. As there was no action to select professional services, there was no update or action to discuss and take possible action to review and amend as necessary the Interlocal Agreement Related to Joint Planning in GMA 14.

Ms. Jones called for the discussion and possible action to select and/or retain legal services related to Joint Planning for GMA 14. A motion to reconsider the action taken at the last meeting to seek agreement for legal services related to joint planning for GMA 14 was made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Turco. The motion carried with opposition from Mr. Holland. A motion to table action to seek agreement for legal services related to joint planning for GMA 14 was made by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Turco. The motion carried with opposition from Mr. Holland.

Ms. Jones called for the continued discussion regarding the issue of and process for identifying commonalities and differences between the rules and the various services provided by districts that manage groundwater resources in GMA 14 and the reasons for these commonalities and differences. Mr. Ashmore provided an update to the collected data and reminded everyone to provide additional updates. One of the purposes for this effort is to have outlines of what each GCD performs and provides as well as open discussion between them. Ms. Jones also noted the need to have action item to demonstrate to the Legislature GCDs are being proactive to their requests and discussions on proposed bills. Mr. Ellis encouraged the efforts and offered insight to

gather and highlight information regarding differences in statutes, look at commonalities and find ways to make uniform such as administrative, procedural, outlines, and hearing requests, as well as differences in demographics, county-based lines, types of demands, etc...

Ms. Jones called for a presentation and discussion by districts of recent activities of interest or accomplishments impacting the GMA 14 planning group. Mr. Turco again highlighted a new effort found at www.smarteraboutwater.org that has several useful tools and information about water conservation efforts. Ms. Jones noted USGS water level work being collected for the area.

Ms. Jones adjourned the meeting of the GMA 14 Interlocal Agreement Participants and reconvening the Joint Planning Group meeting at 2:55 PM.


Meeting of the GMA 14 Joint Planning Interlocal Agreement Participants adjourned.

Ms. Jones reconvened the GMA 14 meeting and called for discussion and consideration of any proposals to adopt new or amend existing desired future conditions, including without limitation review of the procedures, information, scheduling, legal issues, technical issues, and financial issues related to any such proposals and determining whether any such proposals should be formally considered under the administrative procedures of GMA 14 and, if so, whether any such proposals should be further reviewed under the nine statutory factors listed in Section 36.108(d)(1 – 9), Texas Water Code. Mr. Burkett made the motion to accept the resolution from Lone Star GCD previously discussed as presented, seconded by Ms. Jones. The motion failed to meet the two-thirds requirement for approval at 2-3 with Mr. Burkett and Ms. Jones for and Mr. Ashmore, Mr. Holland, and Mr. Martin against. Ms. Jones, noting the failure of the vote on the resolution and noting that Lone Star GCD's settlement agreement in the petitioners in the appeal of its desired future conditions still nonetheless required Lone Star to make a good faith effort to pursue the Run D desired future conditions, requested that the Run D be formally considered as both an amendment to the second joint planning cycle desired future conditions and as the third joint planning cycle desired future conditions. Ms. Jones made a motion that the GMA 14 approve formal consideration of Run D as requested by Lone Star GCD both, (1) in response to its request from the appeal of the second joint planning cycle desired future conditions; and, (2) to develop the third cycle desired future conditions. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Ms. Jones called for other business before GMA 14. With no other business brought before the group, Ms. Jones called for discussion of next meeting date, location, and agenda items. The next meeting was set for April 26, 2018 at 10:00 AM to be held at the offices of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District, located at 655 Conroe Park North, Conroe, Texas 77303.


Without further discussion or comment and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 25th day of July, 2018.



Chairman

ATTEST:



Secretary