LONE STAR
GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

June 7, 2021

MINUTES OF HEARING ON PROPOSED DFCs

The Board of Directors of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District ("District") met in special session, open to the public, held in person in the Lone Star GCD – James B. "Jim" Wesley Board Room located at 655 Conroe Park North Drive, Conroe, Texas, and remotely via the publicly accessible webinar/telephone conference call within the boundaries of the District on June 7, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER:

President Hardman presided and called to order the regular Board of Directors meeting at 4:00 PM, announcing that it was open to the public.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called of the members of the Board of Directors, to wit:

Harry Hardman
Jonathan Prykryl
Larry A. Rogers
Jim Spigener
Janice Thigpen
Stuart Traylor

All members of the Board, aside from Jon Bouche, were present thus constituting a quorum of the Board of Directors. In attendance at said meeting were Samantha Reiter, General Manager; Stacey V. Reese, District Counsel; James Beach, District Consultant; District staff; and members of the public. *Copies of the public sign-in sheets and comment cards received are attached hereto as Exhibit "A".*

PRAYER AND PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Hardman called on Director Rogers for the opening prayer and Director Thigpen to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge of Allegiance to the state flag.

PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS:

Ms. Stacey Reese, District Counsel introduced the presentation by announcing the hearing had been properly noticed under District rules and Chapter 36.

Mr. James Beach, District Consultant, gave a power point presentation on the proposed Desired Future Conditions for GMA 14. He started off by stating desired future conditions (DFCSs) is a quantitative description adopted in accordance with Section 36.108. Modelled available groundwater (MAG) refers to the amount of water that may be produced on an average annual basis to achieve a DFC under Section 36.108. The groundwater planning cycle and regional water planning go hand in hand, with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and other GCDs in a GMA coming together to form a DFC and establish a MAG. However, the DFC must provide a balance between the highest practicable level of groundwater production and conservation, while considering the 9 factors in developing a DFC.

GMA 14 proposed the following DFC for the Gulf Coast Aquifer:

- In each county in GMA 14, no less than 70 percent median available drawdown remaining in 2080 and no more than an average of 1.0 additional foot of subsidence between 2009 and 2080.

The other potential models were also reviewed and compared to potential future MAG.

Mr. Beach looked over the approaches used to develop proposed DFC for GMA 14, referencing the Houston Area Groundwater Model (HAGM) used in conjunction with PEST (Parameter Estimation Model).

The presentation concluded with an evaluation of Lone Star GCD's vote on the proposed DFCs, while highlighting a few concerns that were questioned and reasoning behind each of the concerns. *A copy of the presentation is attached hereto as Exhibit "B".*

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Penny Bradshaw, resident of Montgomery County, began by reading two recent articles she had found. She cited groundwater levels are increasingly diminishing, while some of the supplies are already gone. Aquifers are in danger, which connects with rapid food loss and consumer products. She believes a solution is available, and that needs to be a solution of groundwater and surface water from Large Volume Groundwater Users.

Laura Norton, resident of The Woodlands, and she brought up a commissioners meeting form the previous month. She stated Lone Star is focused on private property rights, and not about the general well-being of our aquifer. Ms. Norton also believes the main focus is that of the private company Quadvest and not all landowners in Montgomery County. She would like Lone Star to stand up for all property owners, not just a handful.

Ron Kelling, Deputy General Manager of SJRA, supports alternative DFC which provides a balance between the highest practical level of groundwater production, while keeping

preservation and conservation in mind. He would like the District to focus on a sustainable water supply for future generations of Montgomery County.

Bob Lux, resident and homeowner of Montgomery County, asked what the political definition of conservative. He believes the District should focus on a conservative approach to our groundwater production and supply. He deems Lone Star should cap groundwater production to help slow the subsidence throughout our area.

Carol Stromall, resident of Montgomery County, asks Lone Star GCD to accept the DFC proposed by GMA 14 including subsidence as a metric. She wishes this for future generations and states she sees evidence of subsidence while driving throughout Conroe and knows individuals whose homes have been ruined because of it.

Betty Daugherty, resident of The Woodlands and Director of MUD 60 asked to be heard on behalf of SuEllen Myers. Ms. Myers wants the District to factor in subsidence and acknowledge it in their DFC. She believes that an individual in the community influences the Directors decisions. President Hardman spoke out that the District will not be accused of illegal activity, and he asked Ms. Daugherty to keep her statements to scientific facts.

George Newman, resident of The Woodlands, expressed his appreciation to the District for their work with subsidence studies. He does wish the District would adopt a DFC that would specify maximum allowable subsidence. His interpretation is more data needs to be reviewed and more studies need to be done.

Ms. Rashmi Gupta, resident of Montgomery County, wished the District to accept that subsidence is happening and accept the DFC recommendation. She asked why LSGCD will not incorporate surface water. She reminded the Directors they are elected officials and asked the Board why they are not doing what is right for the county.

Deidre Eckland, professional engineer and board member of MUD 46, wanted to express her reasoning to run for the board. She acknowledged the issues are complicated and complex, even for one with her professional background. Ms. Eckland issued a warning on property value decreasing if subsidence continues. She also believes additional data is needed to truly assess what the negative effects of Montgomery subsidence can cause. She asked the board to continue their research and data assessments in the future.

Dr. Shelley Gibbs, resident of Montgomery County and member of the Woodlands Township Board, thanked the board to allow her to speak. Dr. Gibbs believes the GMA 14 Proposed DFC seems like a reasonable balance between private property rights and those who manage infrastructure. She sees the importance of that balance and believes the only way to measure that is by measuring subsidence across the entire county. She also requested putting subsidence into the District DFC and continued measurement of groundwater levels with data is extremely valuable.

Additional comments were submitted via email regarding the upcoming GMA 14 meeting, and copies made for each director to consider but were not read aloud. *A copy of these comments is attached hereto as Exhibits "C through AK".*

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Director Rogers motioned to adjourn the meeting and Director Prykryl seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 PM.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF JULY 2021.

Larry Rogers, Board Secretary