Report on GCDs and GMAs in the DFC process

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CHARTING The COURSE

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STATE CAPITOL EXTENTION
AUSTIN, TEXAS
Good News! The GMA portion of the State Planning Process is working.

- 14 of 15 possible GMAs meeting (no GCDs in GMA 5)
- Eight GMAs have met 4 or more times, with one meeting 7 times.
- Several different processes being used - Necessity is the mother of invention.
- Nine of the 15 GMAs are targeting MAG inclusion in the next State Water Plan, 9-1-07, with one having already submitted preliminary DFCs for GAM runs for MAG
Good News! The GMA portion of the State Planning Process is working.

- Eight GMAs have already run their own GAMs or are having them run by TWDB
- Several are receiving input from non-voting stakeholders, some via stakeholder interviews
- Standing invitations to non-voting stakeholders in all GMAs, including representatives from unprotected areas- those counties without a GCD
Good News! The GMA portion of the State Planning Process is working.

- HB1763 Provides for True “Bottom – Up” planning process:
  Chapter 36.0015 - Groundwater Conservation Districts... are the State’s preferred method of groundwater management...

GCDs set the DFCs and send to TWDB

TWDB uses DFCs to establish MAG

TWDB sends MAG to Regional Water Planning Groups to be used in the State Water Planning process
Team Work
Good News! The GMA portion of the State Planning Process is working.

- TWDB Staff and programs working well with GCDs in GMA process:
  - GMA GAMs receive priority
  - TWDB staff available for all GMA meetings and functions
  - TWDB grants funded UT Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution: Dispute Resolution Training for DFC process-
  - 14 GMAs, 58 GCDs represented
  - GCDs feedback about the training - excellent, very useful
  - Center feedback about the GCDs – excellent willingness of GCDs to work together and many GMAs progressed further in the process than first imagined by the Center.
Concerns
Concerns

Unprotected Areas- areas not protected by a GCD

- Unprotected Areas need to participate as non-voting stakeholders
- Not equipped to participate as a voting member in a process such as this – Need a GCD
- Not equipped to manage the resource after a DFC and MAG established – Need a GCD
- Not equipped to implement or enforce results or requirements of the process – Need a GCD
- GCDs do not desire liability for legal issues in setting DFCs for unprotected areas
- GCDs do not desire to be an impediment to anyone in an unprotected area
- Impacts to GCDs from lack of GW management in neighboring unprotected areas
Concerns

Unaccounted for water use inside a GCD

- Exempt Wells
  - Exploration
  - Mining
  - Domestic
  - Livestock
Hope for the Future

- Additional GCDs in unprotected areas-where appropriate and when needed

- Don’t change horses in mid-stream: Give time for the process to work

- Funding for the TWDB to give necessary support to complete the process

- Possible supplemental funding to GMAs to assist new Districts
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As always, the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts appreciates the opportunity to participate in any and all water planning events that will impact this great State.