

Annual Report
2009
Groundwater Management Plan
Management Goals

Brazoria County Groundwater
Conservation District

Introduction

In accordance with the Brazoria County Groundwater Conservation District's (District) Groundwater Management Plan (BCGCD, 2008), the general manager of the District will prepare and submit an annual report (Annual Report) to the District Board of Directors. The Annual Report is to include an update on the District's performance in achieving the management goals contained in the Groundwater Management Plan. The general manager will present the Annual Report to the Board of Directors Within ninety (90) days following the completion of the District's Fiscal Year, beginning in the fiscal year starting on October 1, 2008. A copy of the annual audit of District financial records will be included in the Annual Report. The District will maintain a copy of the Annual Report on file for public inspection at the District offices, upon adoption by the Board of Directors. Following is a discussion of the District's performance in achieving the management goals.

Management Goals

1. Providing the Most Efficient Use of Groundwater – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(A)

- 1.1. Objective** – Each year, the District will require all new exempt or permitted wells that are constructed within the boundaries of the District to be registered or permitted with the District in accordance with the District Rules.

Performance Standard – The District has permitted 300 wells during 2009.

- 1.2. Objective** – Each year, the District will regulate the production of groundwater by maintaining a system of permitting the use and production of groundwater within the boundaries of the District in accordance with the District Rules.

Performance Standard – The District has accepted and processed applications for the permitted use of groundwater in the District in accordance with the permitting process established by the District Rules. A summary of the applications is presented below.

| TYPE OF PERMIT | APPLICATIONS RECEIVED | PERMITS ISSUED | PERCENT |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Commercial / Domestic | 105 | 104 | 35% |
| Industrial | 49 | 49 | 16% |
| Public Water Systems | 136 | 131 | 44% |
| Other | 17 | 16 | 5% |
| TOTALS | 307 | 300 | 100% |

- 1.3. **Objective** . The District will conduct investigations to evaluate the aquifers of the district and the production of groundwater within the district in preparation of establishing a monitor well network within the boundaries of the District.

Performance Standard . Although the District has not performed its own investigations at this time, it is currently supporting the work of AECOM who is evaluating data to be used in the determination of desired future conditions for members of the Groundwater Management Area 14 (GMA-14). The District is a member of the GMA-14.

2. **Controlling and Preventing Waste of Groundwater – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(B)**

- 2.1. **Objective** – Each year, the District will make an evaluation of the District Rules to determine whether any amendments are recommended to decrease the amount of waste of groundwater within the District.

Performance Standard – The District reviewed its rules to determine whether any amendments to the rules are recommended to prevent the waste of groundwater. At this time no change in District rules is recommended.

- 2.2. **Objective** – Each year, the District will apply a water use fee structure to the permitted use of groundwater in the District to encourage the elimination and reduction of waste of groundwater.

Performance Standard – The District has applied a water use fee to the permitted use of groundwater in the District pursuant to District rules. The Texas legislature approved an increase in the maximum fee from 3.06 cents to 17 cents per thousand gallons. Revenue generated by production fees for 2009, by category, is as follows:

| TYPE OF PERMIT | REVENUE GENERATED |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Commercial / Domestic | \$ 91,000.00 |
| Industrial | \$ 41,600.00 |
| Public Water Systems | \$ 114,400.00 |
| Other | \$ 13,000.00 |
| Total: | \$ 260,000.00 |

2.3. Objective – Each year, the District will provide information to the public on eliminating and reducing wasteful practices in the use of groundwater by including information on groundwater waste reduction on the District's website.

Performance Standard – Information provided to the public on groundwater waste reduction is provided in the District web page. Additionally, the newspaper article published by the District, and enclosed as Appendix A, also provides the pertinent information.

3. Controlling and Preventing Subsidence – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(C)

3.1. Objective – Each year, the District will hold a joint conference with the neighboring Groundwater Conservation or Subsidence Districts (e.g., Harris-Galveston Subsidence District and the Fort Bend Subsidence District) focused on sharing information regarding subsidence and the control and prevention of subsidence through the regulation of groundwater.

Performance Standard – The District participated in discussions on September 22, 2009 with the surrounding Subsidence Districts in order to share information

of mutual importance regarding subsidence. Participants in this discussion included representatives from the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District, Fort Bend Subsidence District, Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District, Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

- 3.2. **Objective** – Each year, the District will provide one article on the District's website to educate the public on the subject of subsidence.

Performance Standard – The district has provided links to the subject of subsidence in their web page.

4. **Conjunctive Surface Water Management Issues – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(D)**

- 4.1. **Objective** – Each year, the District will participate in the regional planning process by attending, as able, the Region H . Regional Water Planning Group meetings to encourage the development of surface water supplies to meet the needs of water user groups in the District.

Performance Standard – The District General Manager attended all four of the four Region H Water Planning Group meetings held during 2008 and attended three of the five meetings held during 2009.

In addition to the Region H Water Planning Group meetings, the District General Manager participated in all five of the five Upper Gulf Coast Aquifer (GMA-14) Joint Planning Group meetings held during 2008 and participated in both of the two meetings held during 2009.

5. **Drought Conditions – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(F)**

- 5.1. **Objective** – Each month, the District will review the updated Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) map and check for the periodic updates to the Drought Preparedness Council Situation Report posted on the Texas Water Information Network website www.txwin.net.

Performance Standard – The Texas Water Information Network is no longer in service and has been shut down. However, the Drought Monitor

(<http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>) provides a synthesis of multiple indices and impacts that represent a consensus of federal and academic scientists. Individual monthly drought maps are presented in Appendix B.

Abnormally dry to severe drought conditions prevailed from February to October 2009. Exceptionally dry conditions were reported in August and September 2009. The District monitored the status of the drought conditions in the District and prepared quarterly briefings to the Board of Directors.

6. Conservation – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(G)

- 6.1. **Objective** . The District will annually submit an article regarding water conservation for publication to at least one newspaper of general circulation in Brazoria County.

Performance Standard – The District published an article in The Brazosport Facts on December 1, 2009, regarding water conservation and other District issues impacting groundwater availability. A copy of the article submitted by the District is included as Appendix A in this Annual Report.

- 6.2. **Objective** . The District will develop or implement a pre-existing educational program for use in public or private schools in Brazoria County to educate students on the importance of water conservation by January 1, 2010.

Performance Standard – A description of the educational program developed or implemented by the District for use in Brazoria County public or private schools will be included in the Annual Report to the Board of Directors for the year 2010.

- 6.3. **Objective** . Each year, the District will include an informative flier on water conservation within at least one mail out to groundwater use permit holders distributed in the normal course of business for the District.

Performance Standard – Appendix C of this report includes a copy of the informative flier to be distributed to groundwater users regarding water conservation. These fliers have been developed by the Texas Water Development Board.

7. Natural Resource Issues That Affect the Use and Availability of Groundwater or are affected by the Use of Groundwater - 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(G)

7.1 Objective . The District will inquire to the Texas Railroad Commission asking for the location of existing salt water or waste disposal injection wells permitted by the Texas Railroad Commission within the District by the end of fiscal year 2009.

Performance Standard . The District is currently attempting to identify the appropriate contact person(s) to achieve this objective. Once the person is identified dialogue will commence with the Texas Railroad Commission.

7.2 Objective . Each year the District will inquire to the Texas Railroad Commission asking whether any new salt water or waste disposal injection wells have been permitted by the Texas Railroad Commission to operate within the District.

Performance Standard . The District is currently attempting to identify the appropriate contact person(s) to achieve this objective. Once the person is identified dialogue will commence with the Texas Railroad Commission. Additionally, available commercial databases are being reviewed as a possible source for some of the information needed to achieve this objective.

7.3 Objective . Each year the District will request the Texas Railroad Commission to provide a copy of the results of integrity tests performed on salt water or waste disposal injection wells permitted by the Texas Railroad Commission to operate within the District.

Performance Standard . The District is currently attempting to identify the appropriate contact person(s) to achieve this objective. Once the person is identified dialogue will commence with the Texas Railroad Commission.

8. Brush Control – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(G)

8.1. Objective . The District will provide the public information regarding brush control through newspaper articles of general circulation.

Performance Standard – The district has provided links to the subject of brush control in their web page.

9. Rainwater Harvesting – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(G)

9.1. Objective . The District will provide the public information regarding rainwater harvesting through newspaper articles of general circulation.

Performance Standard – The district has provided links to the subject of rainwater harvesting in their web page.

10. Recharge Enhancement – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(G)

10.1. Objective . The District will provide the public information regarding recharge enhancement through newspaper articles of general circulation.

Performance Standard – The district has provided links to the subject of recharge enhancement in their web page.

11. Precipitation Enhancement – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(G)

11.1. Objective . The District will provide the public information regarding precipitation enhancement through newspaper articles of general circulation.

Performance Standard – The district has provided links to the subject of precipitation enhancement in their web page.

12 Addressing in a Quantitative Manner the desired Future Condition of the Groundwater Resources – 31 TAC § 356.5(a)(1)(H)

The Desired Future Conditions of the groundwater within the District have not yet been established in accordance with Chapter 36.108 of the Texas Water Code. The District is actively participating in the joint planning process and the development of a desired future condition for the portion of the aquifer(s) within the District. Therefore, this goal is not applicable to the District at this time.

13 Annual Audit of District Financial Records

A copy of the annual audit of the District financial records is included as Appendix D of this report.

References

Brazoria County Groundwater Conservation District (BCGCD), 2008. ~~B~~Brazoria County Groundwater Conservation District Groundwater Management Plan.+ Adopted November 13, 2009.