Groundwater Availability - Texas Style!

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Greetings from "The Lone Star State"
like beauty, groundwater availability is in the eye of the beholder
groundwater availability...
(policy) + (science) = groundwater availability
Groundwater Availability

History in Texas
Rule of Capture

“Cujus est solum, ejus usque ad coelum at ad inferos.”
Conservation Amendment

1917
Groundwater conservation districts

1949
groundwater conservation districts
State Water Planning

Regional Water Planning Areas
groundwater management areas
groundwater management areas with aquifers
groundwater management areas with GCDs
Two terms
Texans mutter in their sleep...

Desired Future Conditions

Managed Available Groundwater
(policy) + (science) = groundwater availability

desired future conditions

managed available groundwater

permitting and planning
Districts in GMAs decide Desired Future Conditions and deliver to TWDB.

TWDB provides estimates of Managed Available Groundwater to districts and regions.

Districts and regions include Managed Available Groundwater in plans.
Managed available groundwater

Too restrictive!!!

Not restrictive enough!!!
A person with a legally defined interest in groundwater
Deadlines

• September 1, 2010, to deliver desired future conditions
• Have to review at least once every five years
Del Rio?
Day & McDaniel?
Conclusions

• Groundwater availability is in the eye of the beholder
• History includes rule of capture and state and regional water planning
• Joint planning in groundwater management areas is the current tool
• Districts define desired future conditions which turn into managed available groundwater
• Lots of legal stuff going on, probably more to come…
More about groundwater in Texas

Groundwater in Texas:
www.twdb.state.tx.us/groundwater

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