



# The Cow Creek Quarterly

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VOLUME 3 EDITION

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2009

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## SECTION 1- GMA-9 AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE RESPONSE

November 2, 2009, a hearing was held on the petitions filed with the Texas Water Development Board appealing the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) set by GMA-9 for the Hickory, Ellenburger, and the Edwards Group of the Edwards-Trinity (Plateau) Aquifers. An Ad Hoc sub-committee was formed to answer the petitions on behalf of GMA-9 members. Sub-Committee members are Tommy Mathews, PG, President of Cow Creek GCD; Doug Wierman, PG, President of Hay-Trinity GCD; Ronald Fieseler, PG, General Manager of Blanco-Pedernales GCD; and Mary Ellen Summerlin, Director-at-Large of the Headwaters GCD. All are professionally recognized in their fields. Ms. Summerlin holds a Masters in Public Administration. The response is instructive to the amount of time, effort, and expertise offered by volunteers to secure future water supplies for this region.

[Click here](#) to read the Sub-committee response

[Click here](#) to read additional response comments

Full Hearing minutes will be available on the TWDB website, [www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us).

## SECTION 2 – THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

“Groundwater has been used for domestic and irrigation needs from time immemorial. Yet its nature and occurrence have always possessed a certain mystery because water below the land surface is invisible and relatively inaccessible. The influence of this mystery lingers in some tenets that govern groundwater law.”—T.N. Narasimhan

Beginning with Senate Bill 1 in 1997, the State of Texas sought to clear the mystery of groundwater. It is a combined effort of public and private shareholders in a regional approach to plan projects and conservation of our most value resource. The process and planning have evolved since 1997, too slow for some, too fast for others.

Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) are the next step in the process to management. Changes to Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 10, Chapter 356, Groundwater Management are now available [online](#).

For an explanation of GAMs [click here](#) for Frequently Asked Questions

## SECTION 3- GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF TRINITY AQUIFER

Dr. Bill Ward, professor emeritus in geology from the University of New Orleans, retired from the university before his move to Boerne but not from education. Dr. Ward volunteers at the Cibolo Nature Center, the Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, and writes a bi-monthly column on native plants for The Boerne Star. Dr. Ward also serves on the Water Resources Committee of the Boerne Star Readers Advisory Committee.

The Trinity Group Aquifers in the Texas Hill Country is often confused with the much larger Edwards Aquifer. Dr. Ward's paper on the history of the Hill Country's karst topography is a primer for a better understanding of the many layers that supply our water.

[Click here](#) for Basic Geology of the Trinity Aquifer

[Click here](#) for Geologic History as it Relates to Vegetation Patterns of South Texas

## SECTION 4 QUOTES TO REMEMBER

"The only books that separate ground water and surface water are our law books."

Duane Smith, Executive Director, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

## SECTION 5 GROUNDWATER RELATED CONFERENCES

7 pm Friday, November 20, 2009 Texas Public Radio will air a recorded and edited program of the November 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Water Symposium. The program will broadcast over KSTX (San Antonio) and KTXI (Ingram) on the Newsmaker Hour.

November 18-20, 2009 the National Water Resources Association annual meeting will be held at the Hilton Palacio del Rio in San Antonio, Texas. See [www.nwra.org](http://www.nwra.org) for more information.

January 26-29, 2010 the Texas Ground Water Association will hold its TGWA 2010 Annual Conference at the San Marcos Hotel and Conference Center in San Marcos, Texas. Documents for exhibitors and sponsors are available on [www.tgwa.org](http://www.tgwa.org). The conference offers the latest in equipment, technology, and supplies.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District meetings are held at 6:00 P.M. on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Monday of each month at 216 Market Ave. Ste. 105, Boerne, TX 78006. All meetings are posted and open to the general public.*

For CCGCD agendas, minutes, and reports: [www.ccgcd.org/](http://www.ccgcd.org/)

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