
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 MEETING

This meeting was held virtually and the meeting recording may be viewed at <https://posgcd.org/gma-12-agendas-minutes/>

September 18, 2020 – 10:00 am

GMA 12 Members Present

Gary Westbrook	POSGCD
Jim Totten	LPGCD
David Van Dresar	FCGCD
David Bailey	METGCD
Alan Day	BVGCD

GMA 12 Members Absent

None

Others Present

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MINUTES

1. Invocation

The invocation was given by Alan Day.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Gary Westbrook lead the pledges to the flags of the United States and Texas.

3. Call meeting to order and establish quorum

Gary Westbrook, serving as chair for this meeting, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and noted that all voting members of GMA 12 were present online.

4. Welcome and introductions

Mr. Westbrook welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Westbrook reminded everyone the GMA encouraged comment and questions on each item and invited public comment on agenda items at this time.

Andy Wier requested the members of GMA 12 to consider landowner's rights and environmental impacts throughout the process of adopting DFCs.

Steve Box stated he appreciated being able to ask questions and comment during presentations as they are given.

6. Minutes of July 24, 2020 Groundwater Management Area (GMA 12) Meeting

Mr. Westbrook asked for consideration of the minutes of the January 29, 2020 meeting. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Alan Day to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was 2nd by David Van Dresar. Mr. Westbrook noted that due to the nature of virtual meetings it might be more efficient to ask for dissenting votes than to ask for verbal votes or perform role call votes, so he would proceed in that manner unless there was a desire from the voting members to do otherwise. All agreed. Mr. Westbrook asked for dissenting votes. There were none. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Report from Lower Colorado River Authority on Groundwater – Surface Water Study

Mr. Westbrook invited Rebecca Batchelder with LCRA and Tom Fenstermaker with R.W. Harden and Assoc. to give this report. After brief discussion, including questions from GMA members as well as those in attendance, the GMA 12 members thanked Ms. Batchelder and Mr. Fenstermaker for their report. No action was taken.

8. Update from Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) of GMA 12 on joint planning, water level monitoring, and compliance with Chapter 36.108, State Water Code

Mr. Westbrook invited Steve Young of Intera to give a report on changes in water levels in the Carrizo and Simsboro Aquifers since the beginning of pumping in the Vista Ridge project, and noted this report had been presented to the POSGCD Board at their regular Board meeting on September 8, 2020. He also noted that this and all presentations from the GMA 12 Meeting would be posted to the POSGCD website. Following brief discussion, Mr. Westbrook also noted POSGCD was engaged in their water level measurements for the Fall. Mr. Day reported BVGCD was approximately 60% complete with its late Summer round of water level measurements.

No further reports were given.

9. Discussion on expressions of Desired Future Conditions (DFC's) and compatibility between GCD's in GMA 12

Mr. Westbrook stated that this is a constant agenda item and there was no specific information reported on this item.

10. Discussion of comments received from stakeholders

Mr. Westbrook asked if any of the districts had received any new comments from stakeholders since the last GMA 12 meeting. All agreed there had been no new submissions received. Mr. Westbrook reminded all that the form created specifically for submitting comments to GMA 12 could be easily accessed on the posgcd.org website at the top of the GMA 12 page.

11. Consider update and process for updating the Sparta/Queen City/Carrizo-Wilcox Groundwater Availability Model (GAM)

Mr. Westbrook reported that following the actions taken at the July 24, 2020 GMA 12 Meeting, the GMA 12 consultants had conferred and draft responses to requests were sent to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) as needed for the purpose of making minor updates to the GAM in specific areas where sufficient data existed. Mr. Westbrook noted another response had been received from TWDB for several additional clarifications. He also reminded all that the process to update the GAM would be a public process and invited Larry French of TWDB to comment. Mr. French agreed, and stated TWDB would be prepared to move forward pending receiving of the additional information requested. Mr. Day asked if this information was available to the public. Mr. Westbrook answered that it was. Mr. Day then moved that GMA 12 move proceed and complete this work promptly. Mr. Van Dresar seconded the motion. Mr. Westbrook asked for dissenting votes. There were none. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Evaluation and discussion of future pumping scenarios using the Sparta/Queen City/Carrizo-Wilcox GAM and results, including predicted water levels and water budgets, and instruction to consultants concerning Joint

Planning in GMA 12

Mr. Westbrook noted there was nothing to consider on this item at this meeting.

13. Discuss requirements of Chapter 36.108(d) in adopting Desired Future Conditions:

- a. other environmental impacts, including impacts on spring flow and other interactions between groundwater and surface water;**

Mr. Westbrook invited Dr. Steve Young of Intera to present information on this agenda item for consideration by the GMA. Dr. Young gave a presentation entitled: "Consideration for Environmental Impacts." Mr. Westbrook invited questions and discussion from the GMA 12 representatives, and then others attending the meeting. Steve Box noted challenges in this process and encouraged GMA 12 members to put steps in place to protect environmental flows. After a brief time of questions and answers, no action was taken.

- b. the impact on the interests and rights in private property, including ownership and the rights of management area landowners and their lessees and assigns in groundwater as recognized under Section 36.002;**

Mr. Westbrook invited Monique Norman to present information on this agenda item for consideration by the GMA. Ms. Norman gave a presentation entitled: "Consideration of the impact on the interests and rights in private property in the adoption of Desired Future Conditions." Mr. Westbrook invited questions and discussion from the GMA 12 representatives, and then others attending the meeting.

Mr. Box asked about additional discussions of these topics at GMA 12 meetings. Ms. Norman stated this does not preclude additional discussions. Mr. Westbrook stated this is a beginning point for discussions. Mr. Totten advised that some discussions and considerations should be more appropriate to occur at the GCD level instead of the GMA as they involved individual GCD management of the resources. He stated DFCs do not drive impacts, but rather how DFC are implemented in each GCD determines impacts on property rights. All GMA representatives voiced agreement. After a brief time of questions and answers, no action was taken.

14. Public Comment on non-agenda items

Mr. Westbrook invited comment from the public.

Steve Box inquired about the timeline and previous presentations given to the GMA. Mr. Westbrook and Mr. Day answered these questions and referred Mr. Box to the website for review of previous presentations.

Andy Wier encouraged the GCDs of GMA 12 to move to a method of monitoring water levels which would be consistent across the GMA.

15. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Natalie Ballew of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) reported "nothing new" and thanked the GMA representatives for their efforts.

16. Agenda items and Date for next meeting

Mr. Westbrook asked Mr. French about the timeline for completion of updates to the GAM. Mr. French estimated the entire process would be complete in two months. Mr. Day asked if the GMA should move forward with consideration of GAM runs using an updated GAM in anticipation of the update being approved since the time for completion of this round of joint planning was growing short. After discussion it was agreed to consider GAM Runs using an updated GAM at the next GMA meeting. It was also agreed the next GMA 12 meeting will be scheduled for late October 22, 2020. Additional agenda items will include continuation of consideration of the nine factors included in Section 36.108(d) of the Texas Water Code.

17. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm.

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 HELD ON JULY 18, 2020, WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY GMA 12 ON OCTOBER 22, 2020.

ATTEST:

Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District

Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District

Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District

Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District