
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 MEETING

This meeting was held in person with virtual attendance and participation.

The meeting recording may be viewed at
<https://posgcd.org/gma-12-agendas-minutes/>

February 25, 2022 – 10:00 am

GMA 12 Members Present in Person

Gary Westbrook	POSGCD
Jim Totten	LPGCD
David Bailey	METGCD
Alan Day	BVGCD
Wendi Pyle	FCGCD

GMA 12 Members Absent

None

Others Present in person

Steve Young
John Seifert
Javier Saenz
Robert Bradley
Ryan Harmon
Paul Kirby
Doug Box
Courtney Gentry
Bobby Bazan

Entity

Intera
Groundwater Consultants, LLC
Lost Pines GCD
TWDB
Intera/METGCD
Daniel B. Stephens
POSGCD
POSGCD
POSGCD

Others Present online

Steve Box	Environmental Stewardship
Andrew Donnelly	Daniel B. Stephens
Andy Wier	SAWDF
Craig Andrews	POSGCD
Jeff Fisher	POSGCD
Lyn Clancy	
Paul Brandenburg	
Sheril Smith	
Liz Ferry	R.W. Harden
Amy Muttoni	
ML	
512-300-6609	
512-694-7001	

MINUTES

1. Invocation

The invocation was given by Gary Westbrook.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Alan Day led 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 10:03 am and noted that all five voting members of GMA 12 were present in person.

4. Welcome and introductions

Mr. Westbrook introduced Wendi Pyle who is representing Fayette County GCD for this meeting. Mr. Westbrook also introduced Robert Bradley with the Texas Water Development Board. Jim Totten introduced Lost Pines' new Assistant General Manager, Javier Saenz and Lost Pines board member Sheril Smith.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Westbrook reminded everyone the GMA encouraged comment and questions on each item. He invited public comment on agenda items from those attending in person. He also invited public comment from anyone attending online.

Andy Wier requested to make comment. Mr. Wier, with Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund (SAWDF), wanted to speak about agenda item #8, regarding the future processes for adoption of DFCs and to emphasize the impact study performed by SAWDF. SAWDF tried to look at pumping file, GAM runs, and how they impact domestic and livestock wells. Domestic and livestock wells represent over 50% of the straws in the aquifer. He would like to see methodology similar to the study conducted by SAWDF incorporated in GMA 12. He has written to The Meadows Foundation and The Baker Institute to have them follow up on improving these types of studies so they may be used as a mechanism for GMAs in evaluating DFCs. He also stated that sometimes people don't drill all of the sand and don't drill deep enough. It makes him wonder if this is not penalizing domestic and livestock well owners because they did not know what future conditions would be approved. He asked the GMA 12 members to spend more time on this question and asked them to look at GMA 8 and their explanatory report which includes 3 pages devoted to this question.

No further public comments were made by anyone attending in person or online.

6. Minutes of January 28, 2022 Groundwater Management Area (GMA 12) Meeting

Mr. Westbrook presented the minutes from the January 28, 2022 GMA 12 meeting and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Alan Day moved to approve the January 28, 2022 GMA 12 Meeting Minutes as presented. That motion was seconded by Jim Totten. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion and comparison of Management Plans, Rules, and Management Strategies of the Districts in GMA 12 as required by Chapter 36.108

Agenda items 7-10 were opened up simultaneously.

8. **Discussion of past, current, and future processes for adoption of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) and affects of these processes on management of groundwater in the Districts in GMA 12**
9. **Discussion of requirements of Chapter 36.108 in adopting DFCs**
10. **Evaluation and discussion of past and future pumping files and scenarios using the Sparta/Queen City/Carrizo-Wilcox Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) and results, including predicted water levels and water budgets**

A presentation was provided by Steve Young. Mr. Westbrook asked for questions or comments regarding this review. No questions or comments were made.

Mr. Westbrook gave an overview of the location, meeting times, and frequency of meetings. He asked for opinions regarding the frequency of meetings. Alan Day stated he is comfortable with quarterly meetings. Jim Totten agrees with quarterly meetings, at a minimum. This allows GMA 12 members time with their respective boards and committees. Mr. Totten believes bi-monthly meetings may be more appropriate for the first year and then once a schedule is established, move back to quarterly GMA 12 meetings.

Mr. Westbrook asked if our website is a good resource for boards and consultants. Mr. Day stated he believes it makes it easier for people to find things and has gotten no negative feedback at this time. Mr. Totten spoke about buying a domain that redirects to a specific page on POSGCD.org with GMA 12 information. Mr. Westbrook stated that would be evaluated before the next GMA 12 meeting.

The satisfaction with the way each District uses their consultants was discussed. Mr. Westbrook asked if everyone felt that there is a fairly equal cost to each District and if there was a need to explore total amount expended and individual portions expended. It was agreed upon to evaluate cost sharing.

Mr. Westbrook reported confirmation of submission of explanatory report in a timely manner on 2/1/2022.

The consultants were charged to come back with a schedule for consideration of some of the 9 factors in 36.108 for this year. Steve Young wants to establish a logical progression of topics to go through without rushing. Mr. Young would like an indication of what GMA 12 hopes to cover and approximately when. Discussion ensued regarding experts being invited to talk about these factors.

Mr. Westbrook invited the district representatives to advise him of any individuals or entities they might like to see present on the 9 factors. He stated Dr. Robert Mace had recently completed a study of the aquifers in Texas and published information on sustainability of these aquifers including a study on the Carrizo-Wilcox. All agreed to invite Dr. Mace to discuss this study with the GMA.

The GMA discussed use of DFCs in District Regulations. It was agreed there still exists a difference in how the GCDs in GMA 12 see DFCs when evaluating permits for production.

Mr. Westbrook asks how do the districts in GMA 12 define the balance between highest practicable level of production and conservation? Mr. Totten states this is a topic for a separate study and separate meeting.

Steve Young states there will be a discussion on the nomenclature for GAMs presented sometime this year to receive comments on the GAM and it's uses moving forward.

District Representatives discussed the Pumping File used in GAM runs. They also discussed how exempt pumping is estimated in each district. Mr. Totten stated LPGCD will see unprecedented growth and recommends finding ways to have more rural water supply corporations provide water in areas where only wells are currently available. Mr. Bailey states the counties in METGCD are requiring sub developers to provide a hydrogeologic assessment showing the water is available in subdivisions if you are going to have individual wells on lots. All agree to work towards better estimates of exempt uses for purposes of planning.

District representatives discussed permitted pumping and agreed each district should provide updated amounts of pumping since 2010. Steve Young recommends each district provide that information and total amounts of permits issued for each aquifer to put into a common database that all district consultants could access.

The district representatives also agreed to evaluate DFC GAM Runs for GMAs 11 & 13 for impacts overlapping into GMA 12.

11. Review and possible action on representatives and alternates to represent GMA 12 on Regional Planning Groups

David Bailey, representing GMA 12 on Region H and Region C, alternate for Region H is Jim Nash, a district board member. In Region C, Mr. Bailey's alternate is John Alford. This will be changing tentatively to Clyde Woods, a board member for Region C.

Gary Westbrook represents GMA 12 on Region G. Alan Day represents Region G in GMA 12 as an alternate to Gary Westbrook.

Jim Totten represents GMA 12 on Region K. Mr. Totten does not currently have an alternate. Javier Saenz is discussed as an alternate to Jim Totten for GMA 12 on Region K.

David Van Dresar serves on Region K representing Groundwater Districts.

This agenda item will be brought back at the next GMA 12 Meeting.

12. Public Comment on non-agenda items

Mr. Westbrook invited those attending in person and via online to make comment on non-agenda items. No one provided comments.

13. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Robert Bradley attended the GMA 12 Meeting to represent the Texas Water Development Board and provide updates. Management plans are due this year for two districts in GMA 12.

14. Agenda items and Date for next meeting

Agenda items 7-10 will reappear on the next GMA 12 Meeting Agenda. Review and possible action on representatives and alternates will also be revisited. The next GMA 12 Meeting will be on April 22nd, 2022.

15. Adjourn

The GMA 12 Meeting was adjourned at 12:26 pm.

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2022 WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY GMA 12 ON APRIL 22, 2022.

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
