

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 MEETING
April 30, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
Milano Civic Center
120 West Ave. E
Milano, Texas

MINUTES

GMA 12 Members Present

Nathan Ausley	POSGCD
Jim Totten	LPGCD
David Van Dresar	FCGCD
David Bailey	METGCD
Alan Day	BVGCD

GMA 12 Members Absent

Others Present

Entity

Gary Westbrook	POSGCD	Michael J. Simmang	Lost Pines
Bobby Bazan	POSGCD	Sandra Traweek	landowner
Cynthia Lopez	BVGCD	Monique Norman	BVGCD, FCGCD
Steve Box	Environmental Stewardship	Melvin Wall	landowner
Cathy Lazarus	Robertson County	Eugene Baumann	landowner
Shirley Wade	TWDB	Charlie Ahrens	SAWS
Kathleen Jackson	TWDB	Darren Thompson	SAWS
Larry French	TWDB		
Jennifer White	TWDB		
James Bene	RWU		
Stephen Allen	TWDB		
Dave Coleman	City of College Station		
Bill Harris	BVGCD		
Elizabeth Ferry	Thornhill Group Inc.		
Kirk Holland	Self		
Phil Cook	Sierra Club		
David Wheelock	LCRA		
Edmond McCarthy	JSMT		
Amy Muttoni	BRA		
Richard Morgan	Abengoa		
Steve Young	Intera		
Kodi Sanin	Self		
Pat Reilly	Blue Water		
Andrew Donnelly	DBS&A		

1. Call meeting to order and establish quorum

Nathan Ausley, Chaired, and called the Groundwater Management Area 12 (GMA 12) Meeting to order and established quorum at 10:08 am.

2. Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Ausley introduced the head table, and then Larry French of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Mr. French then introduced TWDB Board member, Kathleen Jackson and Mrs. Jackson addressed the crowd on recent and current work by the Texas water development board.

3. Minutes of March 27, 2015 GMA 12 Meeting

Alan Day moved and David Bailey seconded to approve the minutes as previously sent out. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Update and report from Consultants regarding ongoing evaluations and studies

Andy Donnelly presented a report on previous work by consultants in GMA 12 on GAM Runs PS-1 through PS-4, including how these results could be considered. He also covered the nine factors to be considered which must be addressed in the process of adoption of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs), and possible ways they might be evaluated. Alan Day asked how the group would break down the nine factors to be able to address them over the next three meetings. Andy Donnelly noted that there are actually only six factors which are applicable and will need to be addressed. Mr. Donnelly suggested dividing those six factors amongst the next 2 to 3 meetings. Monique Norman noted that she would address areas concerning property rights. Monique Norman also discussed uses of desired future conditions in the state water plan as well as those factors required in chapter 36.108 which provides balance between conservation and highest practical production from the aquifers of GMA 12. Nathan Ausley asked for clarification on the process moving forward and whether it was appropriate to discuss these items prior to adoption of DFCs. Andy Donnelly provided several reasons why it would be appropriate to review criteria and concerns associated with the factors prior to adopting a DFC. Monique Norman, Andy Donnelly, and Larry French addressed the process moving forward, including deadlines and adoption.

5. Discuss comments received on GMA 12 Groundwater Availability Model Run PS2a, later renamed PS4

Steve Young of Intera, summarized comments from Curtis Chubb and Larry Hoffman and reviewed these points from a handout. Mr. Ausley inquired about the availability of a water budget. Steve Box also questioned whether a complete water budget would be available. Steve Young replied that it could be provided. Steve Box stated that water budgets provided by district would be a sufficient. Mr. Young then discussed Mr. Chubb's comments on depletion. Mr. Ausley asked a question concerning drawdown versus depletion. Mr. Young explained that depletion may be an appropriate term for the management of the Ogallala but not for the Carrizo-Wilcox. In the Ogallala aquifer drawdown is equated with desaturation (or depletion) of the aquifer because the aquifer is unconfined. In the Carrizo-Wilcox the vast majority of drawdown occurs in the confined aquifer where drawdown only decreases the amount of pressure on the groundwater and does not "deplete" or desaturate the aquifer. Mr. Young also noted there are significant differences in how the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer and the Ogallala aquifer is managed. Mr. Westbrook explained the use of correlative rights in Post Oak Savannah GCD. Mr. Young then covered comments received from Mr. Larry Hoffman and noted that all would be addressed when the GMA discussed the nine factors to be considered and contained in chapter 36.108.

John Siefert of LBG-Guyton presented a handout containing summaries of comments from Dr. Lyne concerning recharge, improvements to the GAM., and uncertainty with the GAM. He then presented a summary of comments received from Cathy Lazarus which raised questions of water level decline, data

collection, and how static water level declines are evaluated in her district. Mrs. Lazarus briefly commented. Alan Day then noted that he appreciated Mrs. Lazarus's input. Comment was then given by Larry French who complimented the ground water conservation districts of GMA 12 for participation in improvements to the groundwater availability model. Next Mr. Siefert presented a summary of comments from Dave Coleman of College Station, Texas. Mr. Coleman urged the GMA to retain the current DFCs for the Simsboro aquifer in the current cycle of planning.

Andy Donnelly then presented a handout containing a summary of comments received from ForeStar. Most of these would be addressed by the balance and evaluation of the nine factors. He noted their discussion of distribution of pumping in modeling and its effects on availability of production to landowners. Jim Totten noted that differences in thickness of sands can change results and should be considered as well. Mr. Donnelly also noted that some of the discussion raised in points to be addressed by individual district management, and some noted subjective terms. Mr. Donnelly then covered comments received from LCRA in a handout and noted their comments concerned the methodology of modeling, and their suggestion that it would be more appropriate to consider depletion of storage then drawdown. Comment was then heard from Mr. David Wheelock of LCRA for clarification. Mr. Donnelly then handed out a summary of points discussed by Environmental Stewardship. They noted some scenarios which exceeded the modeled available groundwater and encouraged the GMA to retain its current DFCs. Mr. Donnelly then noted that most of the concerns raised would be addressed in the evaluation of the balance of the nine factors. Steve Box then provided additional comment. He noted the need to understand the capability of the aquifer, and understand what it can provide without impacts to surface water bodies and water wells. Mr. Box was also concerned about property rights, and the relationship of impacts between aquifers due to pumping, as well as the use of a Total Estimated Recoverable Storage (TERS) in adoption of desired future conditions.

6. Updates to Pumping Files used in Central Queen City-Sparta/Carrizo-Wilcox Groundwater Availability Model

It was noted that this process was currently completed.

7. Receive comments on Demands and DFC options for GMA 12

Chairman Ausley asked if anyone desired to give comments on this item. No comments were offered.

8. Update from Groundwater Conservation Districts of GMA 12 on joint planning and compliance with Chapter 36.108, State Water Code

The GMA received a brief report from Monique Norman on this item.

9. Monitoring activities by Districts of GMA 12

POSGCD General Manager Gary Westbrook reported that the District had completed its annual monitoring and had given a report to the POSGCD Board at its April 14 meeting.

BVGCD General Manager Alan Day reported that the District had added several Simsboro and Hooper wells to its monitoring network, and was continuing its efforts to identify and locate wells in the Simsboro and Hooper formations to be used in development of an unconfined management zone and DFCs in each of these aquifers.

LPGCD General Manager Jim Totten stated that the District had added Simsboro wells in its unconfined area and would look for more as it moves toward development of a DFC for the unconfined area of the Simsboro aquifer.

10. Desired Future Conditions of aquifers in GMA 12

METGCD GM David Bailey presented preliminary DFCs for METGCD.

11. Process for addressing requirements of Chapter 36.108 in adopting Desired Future Conditions

After discussion, it was agreed that these would be addressed at the next 2-3 GMA 12 meetings.

12. Improvements to current Central Queen City-Sparta/Carrizo-Wilcox Groundwater Availability Model

Steve Young of Intera announced that Intera had been awarded the opportunity to negotiate a contract with the Texas Water Development Board to accomplish this task. Larry French of TWDB provided discussion of the process moving forward including stakeholder and public input.

13. Adopt form to be used to provide comment on DFCs of GMA 12

A form developed by the consultants of GMA 12 for the purpose of receiving proposed DFCs for the aquifers of GMA 12 was distributed and discussed. David Van Dresar moved and Alan Day seconded to adopt this form as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Public Comment

Chairman Ausley asked for public comment. None was offered.

15. Agenda items and date for next meeting

The next meeting date was set for May 28, 2015 in the Milano Civic Center. Agenda items are to include discussions of: aquifer uses or conditions within the management area, including conditions that differ substantially from one geographic area to another; and hydrological conditions, including for each aquifer in the management area the total estimated recoverable storage as provided by the executive administrator, and the average annual recharge, inflows, and discharge;

16. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.


THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 HELD ON APRIL 30, 2015 WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY GMA 12 AT A MEETING ON MAY 28, 2015.


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