
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/>

October 22, 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

Entity

Alan Day	Brazos Valley GCD
Amy Muttoni	
Andy Donnelly	GEO Logic
Andy Wier	
David Bailey	Mid-East Texas GCD
Doug Box	Post Oak Savannah GCD
Elaine Gerren	Post Oak Savannah GCD
Gary Westbrook	Post Oak Savannah GCD
George Rice	Post Oak Savannah GCD
JAMES BENE	R.W. Harden
Jean Perez	
Jennifer White	TWDB
Kathleen Jackson	TWDB
Larry French	TWDB
Liz Ferry	R.W. Harden
Natalie Ballew	TWDB
Robert Bradley	TWDB
Steve Box	Self
William Seifert	WJS Groundwater
Steve young	Intera

MINUTES

1. Invocation

The invocation was given by David Bailey.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Jim Totten 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 10:00 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. No Public comment was offered.

6. Minutes of September 18, 2020 Groundwater Management Area (GMA 12) Meeting

Mr. Westbrook asked for consideration of the minutes of the September 18, 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 roll 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. 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 and was 2/3 of the way complete. Mr. Day reported BVGCD has completed its late Summer round of water level measurements. Jim Totten reported Lost Pines GCD will finish their Fall measurements by the end of the month.

Mid-East Texas will do their measurements in November and December. Fayette county is installing static well monitoring systems.

8. 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. Alan Day asked for input from each district. Brazos Valley will maintain their current position. POSGCD will continue studies for the time being. Jim Totten said Lost Pines GCD will implement their DFCs

with drawdown areas where their exempt wells are located and looking at district wide averages as well. Fayette County GCD will continue the same as in the past. Mid-East Texas GCD will continue the same as in the past.

9. 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. Steve Box of Environmental Stewardship requested to speak but his sound was not understandable. Mr. Westbrook requested he call in using telephone to correct this issue. Mr. Westbrook stated that if Mr. Box could correct this issue the meeting would return to this agenda item.

10. Update on progress for updating the Sparta/Queen City/Carrizo-Wilcox Groundwater Availability Model (GAM)

Mr. Westbrook asked Larry French of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to provide an update on this item. Mr. French stated TWDB was very impressed with the information obtained from the Vista Ridge data and was able to incorporate that information into the update of the GAM. He also stated this information had been posted to their website and is available for public comment as required. Steve Young stated that the staff at TWDB has been very responsive. Mr. French stated that they are committed to make sure the State's GAMs include the best data available. Mr. Westbrook stated Post Oak Savannah GCD has funds in their Draft 2021 Budget to continue improvement to the GAM and encouraged other GCDs and stakeholders to join POSGCD in this effort.

11. 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

Dr. Young gave a presentation entitled, "Presentation to GMA 12: S-7 Results for GAM 2018 and GAM 2020." Dr. Young then asked for any additional comments from member GCDs. John Siefert stated his appreciation for this work. Mr. Day stated their work agreed with this presentation and noted that all GMA 12 consultants were checking each other's work. Mr. Westbrook asked for public comment on this item, and recognized Mr. Box and George Rice to provide comment. Neither could be heard, so Mr. Westbrook said he would return to them again in hopes they could address their technical difficulties. No further comment was made.

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

a. other socioeconomic impacts reasonably expected to occur;

Mr. Siefert gave a presentation entitled, "GMA 12- Socioeconomic Impacts Considerations." David Bailey stated that the Big Brown plant in his District no longer exists. Mr. Totten asked if the report provided a county by county breakdown. John Siefert stated that there is a county by county breakdown in the graphs. Mr. Westbrook reminded of the balance of considerations required in the deliberations of DFCs by GMA 12 members, and invited questions or comments from any in attendance. None was offered.

b. any other information relevant to the specific desired future conditions

Mr. Westbrook invited questions and discussion from the GMA 12 representatives, and then others attending the meeting on this item. No comment was offered. Mr. Westbrook then reminded this item would be on future agendas as well.

Steve Box was able to join the meeting to discuss Item # 9 stating he is finishing up his report on environmental impacts and request to have discussion on this during the next meeting.

13. Public Comment on non-agenda items

Mr. Westbrook invited comment from the public. No public comment was offered.

14. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Director Kathleen Jackson of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) thanked the GMA and the Districts for all their efforts in obtaining measurements and providing data and stepping forth and investing in getting additional data to update the models for making the best decisions moving forward. She then provided an update on State Flood Planning. She is excited that the information and science data is coming together. Gary Westbrook thanked the TWDB for all of their support. Natalie Ballew stated that Andy Weinberg had been hired. Alan Day asked Larry French for a schedule for TWDB to review comments received on the GAM update and finish the process for final adoption. Mr. French responded the process could be completed during the November-December time frame, and possibly extend into January.

15. Agenda items and Date for next meeting

Mr. Westbrook asked if a meeting would be needed before January, 2021. It was agreed the next GMA 12 meeting will be scheduled for mid-December, 2020. Agenda items will include standard items with any other information relevant to specific DFCs, as well as comments from stakeholders. Steve Box stated he would have comments to the GMA during the next two weeks. James Bene stated that he understands that Post Oak Savannah GCD is not happy with the simulation model predictions and he is suggesting that a December meeting will be good to consider substantial changes to the pumping model. Gary Westbrook suggested that Mr. Bene should address this with the District first, then at the GMA. Mr. Box stated that he thought a December meeting would be appropriate so that his data can be considered.

16. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 pm.

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2020, WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY GMA 12 ON DECEMBER 10, 2020.

ATTEST:

Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District

Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District

Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District

Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District

DRAFT