
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 MEETING
January 29, 2019 – 9:00 am
Post Oak Savannah GCD Offices
310 East Avenue C
Milano, Texas

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

Elaine Gerren	POSGCD
Bobby Bazan	POSGCD
Doug Box	POSGCD
John Seifert	GCI
Steve Young	Intera
Andy Donnelly	DBS&A
Natalie Ballew	TWDB
James Bene'	RW Harden
James Beach	WSP
Steve Box	Environmental Stewardship
David Coyer	Halff
Erin Atkinson	Halff
Shan Rutherford	Terrill & Waldrop
Bill Riley	Self
Rebecca Batchelder	LCRA
David Wheelock	LCRA
George Rice	Self
Eddie McCarthy	McCarthy & McCarthy
Steven Siebert	SAWS
Darren Thompson	SAWS
Amy Muttoni	BRA

Al Braden	Austin
Mike Thornhill	TGI
Jevon Harding	Intera
Becky Goetsch	POSGCD
Bob Harden	HHE
Meagan Haas	BVGCD
Mike McCloud	
Monique Norman	

MINUTES

1. **Invocation**

Invocation was given by David Bailey.

2. **Call meeting to order and establish quorum**

Gary Westbrook, serving as chair for this meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and noted that all voting members of GMA 12 were present.

3. **Welcome and introductions**

Each District voting representative introduced themselves.

4. **Minutes of October 19, 2018 GMA 12 Meeting**

The minutes of the October 19, 2018 meeting were presented for action. After brief discussion, a motion was made by David Van Dresar to approve the minutes. The motion was 2nd by Jim Totten. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Review of updated Central Carrizo-Wilcox Groundwater Availability Model (GAM)**

Andy Donnelly of Daniel B Stephens and Associates noted that discussion of the topic of Agenda item 6 would be included in his presentation, and he would cover Agenda item 5, 6, and 13 at this time. Chairman Westbrook noted that these items would be opened and discussed simultaneously. The presentation was entitled, "Summary of the Impacts of the Revised GAM and the Path Forward." During the presentation, Mike McCloud asked about the accuracy of predicted impacts by the new model. This was discussed at length, with explanations of the purpose of the original GAM, and work of the GCDs in GMA 12 working together to improve the GAM. This included evaluations and comparisons between the old and new versions of the GAM. Steve Box asked about the improvements to the groundwater-surface water features of the new model.

6. **Lost Pines GCD Report on Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) Evaluation Runs of Groundwater Management Area 12 (GMA12)**

This item was covered in Agenda item 5.

7. **Consider Update of Pumping Files to be used for Joint Planning in GMA12 and Evaluation of Compliance with DFCs and Protective Drawdown Limits (PDLs)**

Chairman Westbrook noted that the title and discussion included Protective Drawdown Limits as currently used by POSGCD in their Rules and Management Plan.

A presentation entitled, "POSGCD Monitoring Update" was then given by Jevon Harding of Intera, with assistance from Bobby Bazan of POSGCD. Ms. Harding then gave another presentation entitled, "POSGCD Update: DFC Compliance," which included a summary of the current POSGCD methodology for measuring water levels and for determining compliance with PDLs and DFCs. Mr. Westbrook noted the similarities between the adopted documents of POSGCD and BVGCD which govern these items in the two districts, and noted that all GCDs in GMA 12 follow the same methodologies for measuring water levels which are consistent with those used by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Mr. Day echoed those thoughts, adding discussion of the similarities of the Rules of the two districts.

Mr. Day noted that this same practice of review for compliance was performed annually by BVGCD, and that all results of monitoring could be found on the District's website. He also noted the winter water level measurements would begin in March.

Both Mr. Bailey of METGCD and Mr. Van Dresar of FCGCD stated that both used the same practice and methodology as discussed by POSGCD and BVGCD, and noted their annual measurements and evaluations would begin soon.

Mr. Totten briefly discussed the LPGCD monitoring efforts, and agreed that LPGCD followed the same methods for measurement of water level as discussed.

Mr. Westbrook thanked the representatives for their updates, and noted this item would remain on future GMA 12 agendas so each GCD could give updates as appropriate to them, and as this practice of discussion of DFCs and compliance is required by statute.

The representatives then discussed use of pumping files in the previous round of joint planning and efforts by each to update and evaluate those pumping files using the new GAM. Mr. Westbrook briefly discussed the recent decisions of the POSGCD Board to proceed in a similar fashion to the last round by updating the pumping files and then considering multiple model runs. Mr. Totten noted that LPGCD would prefer to use the same DFCs as adopted previously, noting the new GAM yielded more water available than the previous version. Mr. Day concurred that BVGCD preferred to begin using the same DFCs for the Wilcox Group and use numbers yielded by the updated GAM for the Carrizo, Sparta, Queen City, and Yegua-Jackson aquifers. This item was discussed at length with the consensus being that each GCD would continue to update their pumping files through 2018, and return that information to their consultant for inclusion in an updated pumping file to be used by the team of consultants for work moving forward, and this updated pumping information needed to be completed in the next 30-60 days.

8. Consider options for expression of DFCs and PDLs

Mr. Westbrook noted that past discussion at the GMA had included a possible future conversion in the way DFCs are expressed in joint planning. He offered that the POSGCD Board had approved moving forward with expressing DFCs in terms of water levels compared to Mean Sea Level (MSL) instead of water levels as a drawdown compared to previous water levels, as currently used. He provided discussion of the benefits to this approach, which included being able to use monitoring information from wells which were newly added to the POSGCD monitoring network much sooner than the current methods allowed. After discussion and questions about using this approach, it was determined no change would be considered at this time.

Mr. Westbrook also asked if the members desired to consider any other methods by which DFCs for GMA 12 might be expressed in future rounds of joint planning. The possibility of focusing on the shallow parts of the aquifers was discussed, which included discussion of the use of POSGCD's PDLs. Also discussed were methods used by other GMAs, including expression of DFCs as a percentage of saturated thickness. It was agreed no changes would be forthcoming at this time, and to continue these discussions at later GMA 12 meetings as more information was gathered.

Mr. Totten then discussed the adjustments approved by the LPGCD Board to change monitoring and expression of DFCs to a much narrower area than currently defined. Mr. Totten and Mr. Donnelly provided discussion on this new approach, which would be very similar in some respects to the PDLs used at POSGCD.

Mr. Day noted that BVGCD has re-adopted the use of reduction of artesian head averaged across the District as the means by which DFCs will be expressed, and this will be the starting point for this round of planning for BVGCD.

9. Possible Changes in GMA 12 DFCs

As a result of discussion under the previous agenda item, it was agreed no changes would be considered at this meeting, and that the current process would continue on schedule as outlined earlier in the meeting.

10. Texas Water Development Board Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) Run 17-030 MAG

A presentation entitled, "Simulated Surface water-Groundwater Interaction for Brazos River Alluvium" was then given by Dr. Steve Young of Intera. Mr. Young discussed the similarities and differences of surface water and groundwater interactions in the newly finished Central Carrizo GAM and the Brazos River Alluvium GAM. Questions of accuracy of pumping data and resulting Modeled Available Groundwater was also discussed. Mr. Steve Box encouraged moving forward with improvements to accuracy so aquifer contributions to rivers during drought might be maintained. Discussion followed concerning the necessary balance between these contributions and respect for the private property rights of landowners who would need that same water for crop production, as well as rule of capture. All agreed to the importance of continuing to improve the information and properly considering this balance.

11. GMA 12 Explanatory Report Organization and Technical Discussion

Mr. Westbrook provided a brief summary of how the last explanatory report had been organized, with each GCD using their consultant to respond to comments received and questions raised during the process, with all information compiled into one report. Mr. Box stated he desired more feedback from his comments given during this process during the last round of joint planning. This issue was discussed, and resolved, with all agreeing the tool developed by GMA 12 consultants for use by citizens in the GMA to file comment was well thought out and very useful.

12. Approach for Developing GMA 12 Explanatory Report for current round of Joint Planning

After further discussion of the success of the previous process for developing the Explanatory Report, a motion was made by Mr. Day for the GCDs in GMA 12 to follow the process for the current round of joint planning for development of the Explanatory Report. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Schedule for revision and/or adoption of DFCs for GMA 12 for current round of Joint Planning

Mr. Westbrook noted that Mr. Donnelly had covered this item in agenda item 5, and asked if anyone would like to revisit the draft schedule at this time. No one asked to return to the item.

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

Mr. Westbrook noted this item would be a mainstay on GMA 12 agendas so that updates could be given and discussed at necessary and appropriate. He then noted that this topic had been addressed earlier in the meeting during agenda item 7, and asked if any of the GCDs had any further discussion to offer at this time. No further discussion was offered.

15. Discussion on possible common website for GMA 12 to house all information and data

Mr. Day gave a brief summary of past discussions on this topic and invited Erin Atkinson with Halff, Inc. to provide discussion on this topic. All agreed there could be great value in creating and maintaining a single website to house all vital documents and records of GMA 12 as well as a single map providing water level measurements and additional science based information. After questions and discussion with Mr. Atkinson, it was agreed Mr. Atkinson would return to the next GMA 12 meeting with a scope of work, product description, and cost estimate to meet the needs of the GMA for this purpose.

16. Representation for GMA 12 to Region H Water Planning Group

Mr. Bailey explained the alternate for this position had retired from his Board and the METGCD Board had nominated Board member Jim Nash to fill this vacancy. Mr. Bailey further noted METGCD was the only GMA 12 GCD in Region H. A motion was then made by Mr. Bailey to nominate Mr. Nash for this position. The motion was seconded by Mr. Day. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Public Comment

Mr. Westbrook invited public comment from all in attendance. No Public Comment was offered. He then thanked all in attendance for their participation in the meeting, recognizing their cooperation and the orderly and considerate manner in which questions were asked and discussion had taken place on agenda items as the meeting progressed. He noted this participation had included no fewer than 8 of the public in attendance this day.

18. Agenda items and Date for next meeting

After discussion, it was agreed the next meeting of GMA 12 would be held May 14, with time and agenda items to be determined at a later date.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 HELD ON JANUARY 29, 2019, WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY GMA 12 ON _____, 2019.

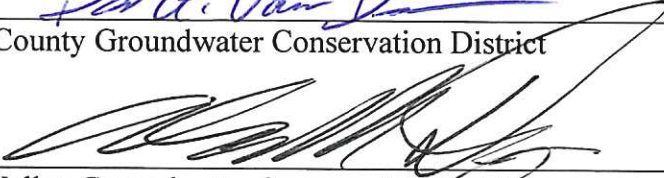
ATTEST:



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