
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/>

December 10, 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

George Rice	Environmental Stewardship
Steve Box	Environmental Stewardship
John Seifert	WJS Groundwater
Steve Young	Intera
Andy Donnelly	GEO-Logic
Bruce Nichols	SBC Global
Matthew Uliana	SAWS
Doug Box	Post Oak Savannah GCD
Elaine Gerren	Post Oak Savannah GCD
Gary Westbrook	Post Oak Savannah GCD
Blaire Parker	SAWS
JAMES BENE	R.W. Harden
Darren Thompson	SAWS
Jennifer Nations	CSTX
David Wheelock	LCRA
Larry French	TWDB
David Wheelock	
Liz Ferry	R.W. Harden
Natalie Ballew	TWDB
Micaela Pedrazas	LRE Water
Eric Allmon	
Blair Parker	SAWS
City of College Station	
Steven Siebert	
Ross Cummings	Blue Water
Shan Rutherford	
Barbara Boulware-Wells	Knight & Partners
Matthew Uliana	
Jim Mathews	
Steve Young	Intera
Andy Donnelly	GEO-Logic

MINUTES

1. Invocation

The invocation was given by Alan Day.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

David Bailey 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 October 22, 2020 Groundwater Management Area (GMA 12) Meeting

Mr. Westbrook asked for consideration of the minutes of the October 22, 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 ask 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 asked for updated from any other Districts. Brazos Valley GCD stated that they had just begun their late fall readings on our water levels and had installed one continuous sonic device on one of our wells and we are getting good data from that. Mid-East Texas stated that their annual measurements would be complete next week. Lost Pines GCD reported that their fall monitoring is completed and they will continue to getting back into the Northern Lee County to look at the Carrizo Wilcox, the Calvert Bluff, and the Simsboro. Wells that they have not picked up in the past with hoping to add 20 more wells. Fayette county has begun their fall winter monitoring of water levels and will continue for the next month. Post Oak Savannah GCD has wrapped up their quarterly measurements and are doing extra monitoring work by the Vista Ridge well field and North and West of there, finding wells in that area that were not registered with the District or that we did not have complete information on and it has been very interesting to see the model track what was predicted as far as production and monitoring. We have 280-290 Monitor wells with 50 devices sonic, acoustic or transducers installed. All of this information is on our website and we would be glad to share it with anyone interested. Mr. Westbrook ask for questions or comments. None was given.

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

Mr. Westbrook stated that the Post Oak Savannah GCD would like to stay with something consistent as the last round. Alan Day stated that they currently prefer for the variance to stay as they were for the last round which was 5% on the Simsboro, 10 on the other aquifers and no variance on the BRA. Lost Pines GCD stated they had not discussed variances that their focus has been model outputs and DFC's the variance is the last thing looked at. Fayette county wants to express the DFC's in the manner as the last round. Alan Day stated that they want to use the year 2000 as a beginning point for the expression of the DFC's and going through the year 2070. He thinks that soon we need to have an agenda items that discusses the variance.

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. Mr. Westbrook has received 2 that he knows of. Steve Box gave a slideshow presentation "Summary on Environmental Stewardship" on the interaction of the groundwater and the surface water in the GMA 12. Environmental Stewardship ask the GMA 12 to consider the below items:

- Monitor impacts of groundwater pumping on the mainstem of the Colorado River and its tributaries
- Perform certain hydrograph separation studies to evaluate groundwater flow contributions to the Colorado River and its tributaries under drought conditions;
- Seek to establish criteria to qualitatively and quantitatively evaluate the impacts of reduced contributions of groundwater to baseflows into rivers and streams;
- Seek to establish factors to be considered in evaluating whether impacts on surface water resulting from reduced contributions of groundwater have become unreasonable, requiring remedial action;
- Adopt DFCs which include the current DFC parameters, while adding DFC parameters specifically focused on surface water dynamics.
 - 1) Maintain subsistence flow in the Colorado River at the Bastrop Gage 100% of the time; and,
 - 2) Maintain base-dry and base-average flow in the Colorado River at the Bastrop Gage during the spring (March - June).
- Develop a DFC for the Colorado Alluvium Aquifer which includes a surface water component.

Environmental Stewardship requests that it be placed on the agenda for the next GMA-12 meeting, so that it may present a summary of these comments and respond to any questions about them. Gary Westbrook asked Mr. Trundal or George if they had anything to add and they did not, but will answer any questions. Gary Westbrook thanks for the presentation and ask for any questions. Alan Day asked whose responsibility at this time is it to manage the environmental stream flows as set by the committees? Steve Box comments that these are managed in the LCRA water management plan for the Highland Lakes. They can request to be exempt or relieved of those responsibilities. Colorado and Lavaca Bay Stake Holder Committee has an oversight responsibility and are tasked with establishing these standards. He thinks we need to look farther than that and the legislature set these standards to achieve or to move toward these targets and at that level TCEQ has a responsibility, but if you read the legislation, they request that others participate at a volunteer basis to make sure we do what we can to meet these standards. Joe Uliana said that sound right to him and that it is complicated and the standards are designed to be used by TCEQ in making decision in granting new water rights. Alan day asked if we have low environment flow at any of the gauges along the Brazos or Colorado river over this time would be a River Authority that has responsibility to release enough water for environmental flow? Joe states that for tributaries there is usually no place to release water into the tributaries so they are not protected by that type of action. We need to do more studies on the tributaries to understand the relationship with the groundwater. The tributaries are reliant on the groundwater flow. Alan Day agrees that more field studies are needed.

Andy Donnelly said we need to think about concepts that have been proposed and he needs time to formulate thoughts and questions.

James Bene filed comment with the Post Oak Savannah and these comments have been posted on the website. Shan Rutherford said the written comments speak for themselves. Blue Water Vista Ridge thinks

there seems to be a movement to modify the S7 to remove some of the know Carrizo Wilcox pumpage associate with the Vista Ridge Field and we feel that is inappropriate to remove this. It is a well know contracted public water supply and part of the state water plan and we have heard no good reason why that would be considered. Alan Day stated that the Carrizo wells were online and ask what is the estimated production for the wells? He asked if they will they use the complete 15000AF. Shan stated that they will use the 15,000 AF per year and that these were meant to be turned on and left on for decades. Mr. Westbrook ask for any additional comments from Stakeholders today. There were no additional comments.

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

Mr. Westbrook asked Larry French TWDB to provide an update on this item. Larry French stated that back in July you voted to request the TWDB consider revising the model in a small area associated with the Vista Ridge project and analysis of water level data and other data. The review was completed in early October and the draft report was posted to the TWDB website and asked for stakeholder comments. This initiated a 30-day comment period. They received two request one from R.W. Hardin and associates and from and the Brazos River Authority. These were referred back to Intera for evaluation of the comments. The comment period ended November 9th and by November 19th the responses and comments had been prepared and the responses were submitted to us and the final report was release by Intera and posted on the Post Oak website for review. The agency has decided to accept the proposed revisions to the model which would represent an improvement to the existing model. This will be beneficial to have a better representation and we are approving it and will provide written memo that documents that. They are commitment to make sure the models have the best data available. He thanks everyone for their participation. This leaves us with a better model than at the beginning of the year. Mr. Westbrook ask for questions. No questions were offered.

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

Brazos Valley GCD is good on their pump files as submitted and run through S7 with no changes or revisions. Lost Pines said they have no revisions pending on the S7 pump files. Mid-East Texas has no revisions and S7 looks to be accurate. Fayette County has not seen any differences so the current state of the cinereous is adequate for their needs. They will start discussing DFC's with their board in January. Post Oak Savannah GCD has had a Desired Future Conditions meeting. The recording and all of the presentations have been posted on the website and draft minutes will be available soon. Steve Young stated that in the Queen City Sparta we are looking at increasing the pumping. He also added that the District is looking at increasing the DFC. John Siefert said that schedule wise these have to completed by the first of May so in terms of additional simulations we need those done as quickly as possible to allow for time to get all of the data in. BVGCD is fortunate to have long historical pumping data to aid them. He thinks that if we have know pumping it is important to put that in the model. Mr. Westbrook states that this boils down to the balance of property rights and protecting existing users. Mr. Westbrook ask for further comments and there were none.

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

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

No information was offered.

13. Schedule and process moving forward for adoption of Desired Future Conditions

Andy Donnelly said the consultants wanted to have a schedule. He has put together a GMA 12 Timeline and offered that as a guide line for moving forward with looking at a May 1, 2021 deadline. Alan Day asked if we could nail down the variance that we will use before the January meeting.

14. Public Comment on non-agenda items

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

15. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Mr. Westbrook asked Natalie Ballew of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for comment and she stated that she has no further comments to add from Larry's previous comments.

16. Agenda items and Date for next meeting

Mr. Westbrook ask for January meeting to be after the POSGCD board meeting of January 12, 2021. Alan Day suggest January 15, 2021 for the next meeting. All are in agreement for this date. Agenda items for the next meeting will be the last 5 items that we have been through, items 11-15. Steve young ask for the tentative agreement for the model runs for the Brazos River Alluvium and the Yegua Jackson and consider adopting something for those 2 Aquifers and bring back for the Board to look at. John Siefert said we agreed on the Yegua Jackson simulations and DFC's already and we are close on the Brazos River Alluvium. Alan day stated that we have discussed but have not adopted the nonrelevant aquifers.

17. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2020, WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY GMA 12 ON JANUARY 15, 2021.

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

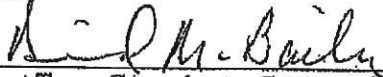
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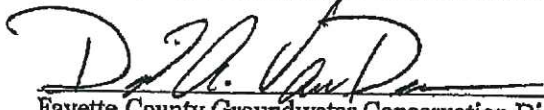
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ATTEST



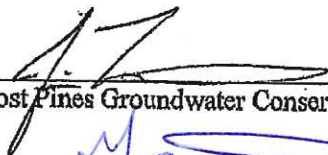
Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District



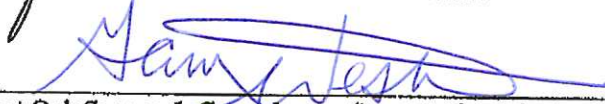
Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District



Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District



Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District



Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District