
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/>

August 24, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

GMA 12 Members Present in Person

Gary Westbrook	POSGCD
Jim Totten	LPGCD
David Bailey	METGCD
Alan Day	BVGCD
David Van Dresar	FCGCD

GMA 12 Members Absent

None

Others Present in person

<u>Others Present in person</u>	<u>Entity</u>
Virgil Blankenship	HCDC Hearne
Dana Altimore	HCDC Hearne
Cathy Gaas	Landowner
Brent Covert	TGI
Andy Wier	SAWDF
Jean Perez	TWDB
Courtney Gentry	POSGCD
Doug Box	POSGCD
Michael Redman	POSGCD
Kelli Timmerman	POSGCD
Gregory Perry	POSGCD

Others Present online

James Beach
619-723-8297
979-676-0523
Andy Donnelly
Blair Parker
Doug Box
Jim Briggs
John Hofmann
Leslie Soto Sanchez
Linda Bevis
Liz Ferry
Marie H
Mike Orosco
Monica Masters
Neil Blandford
Paul Kirby

Ryan Harmon
Steven Siebert
Vince Clause

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 called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and noted that all five voting members of GMA 12 were present in person.

4. Welcome and introductions

Mr. Westbrook recognized the District representatives by name and invited them to introduce any person they desired. Alan Day introduced landowners from Robertson County. Mr. Westbrook thanked everyone for their attendance.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Westbrook welcomed anyone attending online or in person to make public comment on agenda items.

Andy Wier made comment on Agenda item #17 and expressed concern about the use of the MAG Peak Factor.

6. Minutes of June 29, 2023 Groundwater Management Area (GMA 12) Meeting

David Bailey moved to approve the Minutes of the June 29, 2023 GMA 12 Meeting. He was seconded by Mr. Day. The approval of the June 29, 2023 GMA 12 Meeting Minutes was unanimous of all present.

7. Discussion on availability of alternative sources of funding, such as grants, for efforts in accomplishing the requirements by Chapter 36.108

The GMA 12 Members discussed available grants and funding. Mr. Westbrook asked if everyone would like to charge the consultants with exploring opportunities for funding. Mr. Totten stated that LPGCD is applying for the WaterSmart Science and Tech grant. It was decided not to move forward with exploring any funding opportunities at the GMA level at this time.

8. Discussion of process of development of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) in GMA 12

With the consent of all voting representatives present, Mr. Westbrook opened Agenda items 8-12 simultaneously for ease of discussion.

The GMA 12 Members discussed using GAM runs to help with DFCs. Mr. Westbrook stated that POSGCD would like to simply consider the condition of the aquifer without that consideration being driven by GAM runs. He also stated that POSGCD did not wish to see impact values of DFCs increase during this round of joint planning. Mr. Day stated BVGCD has been satisfied with the current process and would like to continue. David Van Dresar stated that the DFCs need to play out for a while instead of changing every 5 years. Allowing DFCs to play out longer gives an opportunity to see if they are working. Mr. Totten and Mr. Day agreed with Mr. Van Dresar.

Mr. Westbrook stated that in light of this conversation and since most of the improvements to the GAM had been accomplished and production from each GCD in GMA 12 had been verified, there would likely be no major improvements to the science or information to be considered. He also reminded that the GMA had decided at a previous meeting to encourage and accept comments throughout the planning cycle, so possibly the best way forward would be to start by considering the current DFCs as the DFCs to be evaluated in light of the nine factors required in statute and to take comments on those evaluations of the current DFCs. He also stated that by beginning with the current DFCs as the beginning place it would save both time and expense to all the GCDs in GMA 12. After discussions, all the voting representatives agreed.

9. Report from Hydrogeologic Consultants Regarding Possible Topics of Future Investigation

James Beach, on behalf of the team of GMA 12 consultants, gave a presentation entitled Options for Exploratory Investigations. After discussion, he answered questions from the GMA 12 Members, and committed to continue to meet with the other consultants to return additional information at the next GMA 12 meeting.

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

Mr. Westbrook discussed recent amendments to the POSGCD Rules concerning unreasonable impacts, fair share, and management of permitting. Mr. Day addressed BVGCD considerations for amendments to their Rules with respect to spacing and production, as well as to their Management Plan. Mr. Totten stated that LPGCD was considering amendments to their Rules concerning production limits, and to their Management Plan. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Van Dresar both noted that their districts were updating their Management Plans as well.

11. Discussion of requirements of Chapter 36.108 in adopting DFCs

After discussion it was agreed by all that a standardized description and methodology for each of the required factors should be established if possible. All agreed to return to the next GMA 12 meeting with direction from each Board towards that end.

Mr. Westbrook recessed the meeting for 5-minutes at 12:03 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:08 p.m.

12. 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

All discussion on this specific agenda item was included in the previous agenda items.

13. Discussion of possible groundwater summit for GCDs in GMA 12

Mr. Day stated that BVGCD is interested in doing a GMA 12 groundwater summit and that he will discuss the idea with his Board. Mr. Totten stated he would also discuss with his Board. Venues, dates, expense sharing, topics of interest and sponsorships were discussed. Discussion on this will continue.

14. Discussion of HB3059 the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature

Agenda items 14 and 15 were opened simultaneously. It was discussed at the last GMA 12 meeting that each GMA 12 member would have discussion with their respective Boards on how HB3059 would be interpreted and what it allows GCDs to do. Mr. Westbrook stated that POSGCD is still interested in working together with other Districts on common goals and development of a common program across the GMA. Mr. Totten stated LPGCD is developing a mitigation program for their district and they are interested in developing a common effort among the GCDs in GMA 12. Mr. Van Dresar stated FCGCD is in favor of a common program but there would be no fees available. Mr. Day agreed the idea of a common program was good but stated BVGCD thought legislation was needed to clarify the ability for the GCDs to work tighter in that manner. Mr. Westbrook discussed Sec. 791.001 and 791.011(c) of the government code as allowing for a common effort. It was agreed that two board members from each of BVGCD, LPGCD, and POSGCD would be invited to meet to discuss this issue further and POSGCD would host that meeting.

15. Discussion of assistance to landowners whose wells are impacted by regional pumping

16. Discussion on sharing of responsibilities and expenses of cost of work performed by each GCD in recent rounds of joint planning

Mr. Westbrook noted that he had sent out several documents used in other GMAs for discussion. After discussion, it was decided to table this agenda item for the time being. This topic will be revisited at a later date.

17. Discussion and possible action of use of MAG Peak Factor for water users during this and previous round of joint planning

At the last GMA 12 Meeting, Robert Bradley mentioned that DFCs that had been adopted for the Hooper aquifer might cause a lack of water availability for Bystone Water Supply Corporation. Mr. Westbrook asked Mr. Bradley to reach out to Bystone WSC for comment and provide discussion on this item because as Chairman of the Groundwater Committee for Region G, it is on their agenda to discuss and make a recommendation to the Brazos G planning group at the next Groundwater Committee Meeting. Mr.

Westbrook stated he has not received any information from Mr. Bradley or Bystone WSC at this time. There is no request to consider to take forward from GMA 12 to Region G.

18. Public Comment on non-agenda items

Andy Wier made comment stating he would like to see an expression of consensus of the definition of an aquifer. He asked the GMA 12 members if they are including the groundwater/surface water interactions in their definition or concept of the aquifer. He also would like to see a matrix developed to identify how each of the required factors is identified and weighted in decisions by the GMA.

Virgil Blankenship asked the GMA 12 Members about drawdowns and how they tie in to the amount of unusable water that is on top of the Simsboro aquifer. He stated that he heard there was about 20 feet of unusable water at the top of the aquifer. He asked if that unusable water depth increase as the drawdown raises. Mr. Westbrook advised Mr. Blankenship to discuss with his representative, Mr. Day, outside of the GMA 12 Meeting as this item was not included in the agenda for this meeting.

Cathy Gaas spoke to the GMA 12 members about how informational the 2023 Milam and Burleson Counties Groundwater Summit was, but asked that the language used in the future be simpler so as it is easier to understand. Mr. Westbrook thanked her and invited anyone desiring additional information to reach out to the POSGCD staff with any questions.

19. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Jean Perez, with TWDB, gave an update. The Groundwater Modeling Office is doing a study and are looking for scanned documents and digitized data for aquifer and well tests. The deadline for this request is September 30th. Data can be sent to Jean or Daryn Hardwick.

20. Agenda items and date for next meeting

The next GMA 12 Meeting will be held on October 26, 2023. Interlocal agreements, discussion for establishing a standardized description and methodology for the first 3 of the 9 factors, and start with current DFCs will be agenda items for the next GMA 12 Meeting.

21. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2023 WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY GMA 12 ON OCTOBER 26, 2023.

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
