
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/>

September 20, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

GMA 12 Members Present in Person

Gary Westbrook	POSGCD
Jim Totten	LPGCD
David Bailey	METGCD
Alan Day	BVGCD
Wendi Labus	FCGCD

GMA 12 Members Absent

None

Others Present in person

<u>Others Present in person</u>	<u>Entity</u>
Steve Young	Intera
Andy Wier	SAWDF
Mike Simmang	LPGCD
Herb Cook	LPGCD
Alan Gardenhire	SLR
James Beach	AGS
Paul Kirby	DBS & A
Jennifer Badhwar	TWDB
Courtney Gentry	POSGCD
Kelli Timmerman	POSGCD
Jaclyn Wise	POSGCD
Michael Redman	POSGCD

Others Present online

Jim Briggs
Ryan Harmon
Chris Drabek
Dacy Cameron
DL
John Seifert
Judge Scarpinato
Kaleigh Nuyttens
Liz Ferry
Megan Lamb
Michael Thornhill
Mike Keester
Neil Blandford
Nick Textor
Ye Hong

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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

Mr. Westbrook called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and noted that all five voting members of GMA 12 were present in person.

4. Welcome and introductions

Each GMA 12 Member introduced themselves. Jim Totten introduced LPGCD Board Members Herb Cook and Michael Simmang. He also noted that LPGCD Board President Elvis Hernandez was in attendance online.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Alan Gardenhire, SLR, made comment regarding region-wide mitigation and noted that it should be considered on a regional level.

6. Minutes of July 31, 2024 Groundwater Management Area (GMA 12) Meeting

Mr. Westbrook noted an edit submitted by Elvis Hernandez and stated that the change had been made to the July 31st meeting minutes. Mr. Totten moved to approve the Minutes of the July 31, 2024 GMA 12 Meeting, including Mr. Hernandez's edit. He was seconded by Mr. Day. The approval of the July 31, 2024 GMA 12 Meeting Minutes was unanimous of all present.

7. Correspondence between members of GMA 12 and producers within the boundary of GMA 12 not included in a GCD, and between members of GMA 12 and adjoining GMAs

Mr. Westbrook noted that this has been a topic of discussion at the last few GMA 12 meetings. David Bailey stated that he has attempted to contact Bi-Stone WSC by calling and leaving voicemails but has received no response at this time. He stated that he did look at their information on Region G and the majority of their water received has been from Lake Mexia and in 2060-2070, they plan to cease getting water from Lake Mexia and change to 301 acre-feet from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. In his voicemails to Bi-Stone WSC, he urged them to get involved in GMA 12 activity.

Mr. Westbrook reached out to the City of Hutto for the 4th time within three years. No response has been received at this time and he will continue to try to make contact.

Mr. Totten noted that LPGCD has a couple of Hutto wells in their District but also have had trouble getting into contact with them. Mr. Totten will also continue to have discussions with representatives of GMA 13.

8. Discussion of updates to S-19 pumping files by GCDs in GMA 12

BVGCD requested to have this item on the agenda. Mr. Day stated that BVGCD has been following what they have consistently done in the past. In January, BVGCD presented all of their permits and effects on GMA 12 with pumping completely stopped, fully ran, etc. He stated that the previous pumping files were over-stated and that BVGCD desires to be transparent and consistent.

James Beach gave a presentation entitled BVGCD "Best Estimate" Scenario Presentation at GMA 12. He noted that pumping in the file had been adjusted in POSGCD, including a reduction of pumping by the Vista Ridge Project in the Carrizo from 15,000 acre feet per year (A/F/Y) to 9100 A/F/Y, and an increase of a like amount in the Simsboro for the project. It was noted that a letter from Georgetown, dated June 17, 2024, is available on the BVGCD website. Mr. Beach answered questions from GMA 12 members.

Elvis Hernandez stated he believes projects that are not yet online but granted should be included in the analysis done by BVGCD.

Mr. Westbrook stated that POSGCD Board would like to continue performing the evaluations on the 9 factors with the current DFCs.

Agenda item 9 was opened simultaneously.

Jim Briggs asked when there might be an opportunity to discuss these issues.

Mr. Westbrook stated that would be discussed at appropriate times throughout the process and this meeting but he believes that for this round of planning POSGCD would like to continue with the action identified and previously by the GMA of considering the current DFCs under the nine factors. He also noted that the GMA will continue to accept comments throughout the entire process. He confirmed that if any changes are made, it will be posted and time will be allowed for comments to be made by the public.

9. 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

Agenda items 9, 10 and 11 were opened simultaneously to allow for a better flowing conversation.

Dr. Steve Young gave a presentation entitled Groundwater Management Area 12 Joint Planning Meeting; Presentation by Consultants. He answered questions from GMA 12 members.

Mr. Totten discussed a presentation entitled Use of Artesian Heads as an Alternative DFC Metric/Evaluation Tool.

Mr. Westbrook discussed previous methods of evaluation by POSGCD and stated that referring back to old methodology helped to develop current POSGCD Rules concerning Unreasonable Impacts.

Andy Wier made comment regarding DFC methods.

Dr. Young and GMA 12 members discussed the presentation. Further discussion between consultants will take place and information will be brought back at a later GMA 12 meeting.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding existing DFCs, alternate DFC methods and parallel tracks

11. Review of previously discussed programs and methodology for determining and calculating DFCs from GAM Runs and possible use of variances

Dr. Young reviewed and discussed slides on the purpose and use of variances in past rounds of joint planning with members of GMA 12. Differing viewpoints of the past practices and possible future considerations of variances were discussed. It was agreed the consultants of GMA 12 would collaborate and return to GMA 12 with possible options for this round of joint planning.

12. Discussion of factors of Chapter 36.108(d) to be considered in adoption of Desired Future Conditions:

- a. the impact of subsidence;**
- b. the feasibility of achieving the desired future condition; and**
- c. any other information relevant to the specific desired future conditions**

Mr. Beach presented a discussion of 3 factors.

Mr. Westbrook noted that Groundwater Districts have evaluating subsidence included in their management plans and all Districts in GMA 12 take subsidence very seriously by their individual districts as well as GMA. Mr. Day stated they are currently evaluating the 9 factors and using it for DFCs.

Mr. Day asked if anything had happened which would render the current DFCs as infeasible. There has been no change to the science used in the previous round in adoption of the DFCs and they were feasible then.

Andy Wier made comment regarding new water supply methods such as desalination, receiving water from out of state, etc.

GMA 12 Members will continue to accept comments on all nine factors in the current DFCs.

13. Discussion of requirements of Chapter 36.108 in adopting DFCs and GMA 12 future schedule and timeline for work to be completed during present round of joint planning:

- a. other environmental impacts, including impacts on spring flow and other interactions between groundwater and surface water;**
 - b. socioeconomic impacts reasonably expected to occur;**
-

- c. the impact on the interests and rights in private property, including ownership and the rights of management area landowners and their lessees and assigns in groundwater as recognized under Section 36.002;**

Mr. Totten proposed to push the presentation on property rights and socioeconomic impacts and environmental impacts to December of this year, with LPGCD consultant presenting those items to the GMA, which would conclude coverage of the nine factors. In early February of 2025, GMA 12 can look at any changes that need to be made based on evaluation of the 9 factors of the previous DFC and also consider development of bookend pumping files.

Mr. Westbrook noted that part of looking at the bookend values includes current production, future production and ways to schedule evaluations so that people know what to expect about how Districts are going to manage to the DFCs.

Mr. Totten stated in early 2026, DFCs will be taken to individual Districts and in April or May of 2026, comments will be accepted before adopting DFCs and be done around June of 2026.

14. Review and discussion on open GMA 12 action items list

No further discussion was needed on this agenda item.

15. Discussion on sharing of responsibilities and expenses of cost for work performed by each GCD in joint planning

Mr. Westbrook stated that the POSGCD Board is still agreeable with covering about 1/3 of the costs. Mr. Day stated that BVGCD Board is also okay with covering 1/3 of the costs. Mr. Totten stated that discussion on this topic was had at their previous board meeting. Some of his Board Members believe it should be split evenly between all five Districts, but they are willing to cover up to 30% of costs and have the remaining 4-10% split among the other two Districts. All were agreeable to this sharing of costs.

Mr. Hernandez asked if a cost estimate to prepare the Explanatory Report has been provided. A cost estimate has not been prepared at this time, but Mr. Beach will bring back an estimate at a future GMA 12 meeting.

16. Workshop on Brazos River Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions of December 9, 2024

Mr. Westbrook stated that this is a stakeholder driven workshop with three panels dealing with the uses of the Brazos River, science of understanding groundwater/surface water interactions and regulators. Everyone is invited and it will be held at JRG Farms near Snook. Additional information will be available soon from POSGCD, BVGCD, and Bluebonnet GCD, all of which serve as sponsors for this event.

17. Public comment on non-agenda items

No public comments were made on non-agenda items.

18. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Jennifer Badhwar, with TWDB, stated the Bryan McMath is the new Executive Administrator, Kathleen Ligon is the new Assistant Executive Administrator. George Peyton stepped down and Tanya Miller was appointed to the Board. In July, staff from Groundwater Division held an orientation meeting for GMA area reps and planning group chairs. A recording of the meeting is available. There is a new email address to submit Water Management Plans to at gwmplans@twdb.texas.gov.

19. Agenda items and Date for next meeting

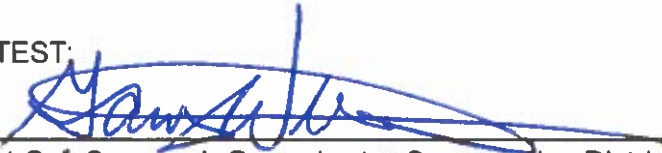
The next GMA 12 Meeting is scheduled for December 13th, 2024. Agenda items for the next meeting will be agenda item 13 from today's agenda regarding the last 3 factors of DFC planning, agenda item 11 from today's agenda regarding variances and recommendations from consultants and getting an estimate for the explanatory report. A discussion on environmental impacts will be on the next agenda as well.

20. Adjourn


The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY GMA 12 ON DECEMBER 10, 2024.

ATTEST:



Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District



Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District



Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District



Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District



Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District