
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/>

December 13, 2024 – 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

Entity

Mike Simmang	LPGCD
Herb Cook	LPGCD
Alan Gardenhire	SLR
Brent Cover	TGI
Robert Bradley	TWDB
Terry Blodgett	SLR
Liz Ferry	RWH & A
Pixie Parks	Landowner
Courtney Gentry	POSGCD
Jaclyn Wise	POSGCD
Michael Redman	POSGCD

Others Present online

Andy Donnelly
Andy Wier
Ryan Harmon
Chris Drabek
Dacy Cameron
James Beach
Neil Blandford
Blair Parker
Casey Cooper
Hernandez
Jaclyn Buck
JM
Leah
Leslie Soto Sanchez
Michael R. Thornhill
Stefan Schuster

Steven Siebert
Tom A
(512) 461-3179

MINUTES

1. Invocation

The invocation was given by Gary Westbrook.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

David Van Dresar 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 10:08 a.m. and noted that all five voting members of GMA 12 were present in person.

4. Welcome and introductions

GMA 12 Members were introduced. Jim Totten introduced LPGCD Board Members Herb Cook and Michael Simmang. Mr. Westbrook introduced Robert Bradley with Texas Water Development Board.

5. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Alan Gardenhire, SLR, made comment regarding private property rights and socioeconomic impacts.

Andy Wier, SAWDF, made comment regarding agenda items 10 and 11.

6. Minutes of September 20, 2024 Groundwater Management Area (GMA 12) Meeting

Mr. Day moved to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2024 GMA 12 Meeting. He was seconded by Mr. Totten. The approval of the September 20, 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. He stated that there was nothing to communicate regarding POSGCD's efforts with Hutto. Mr. Totten and David Bailey also noted that they had nothing to add from their efforts either.

8. 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

Mr. Westbrook opened agenda items 8, 9, 10 and 11 simultaneously in order to allow for free-flowing discussion on these topics.

Mr. Totten overviewed a presentation entitled GMA 12 – 9 DFC Factors Review: Property Rights, Socio-economic Impacts, Environmental Impacts. He discussed this presentation with the other GMA 12 Members. Discussions included property rights, proposed changes to DFCs, the planning process, socioeconomic impacts and mitigation, and environmental impacts. Since GMA 12 is evaluating the most recently adopted DFCs with the nine factors as required under Chapter 36.108, Mr. Totten's presentation focused on factors concerning these topics which have changed since the last round of DFCs were adopted. Otherwise, information contained in the most recently adopted Explanatory Report should still be current.

Agenda item 15 was also opened. Groundwater/surface water interactions and environmental impacts were discussed.

Mr. Day stated BVGCD began a study last year on the contribution of the Brazos River on the alluvium and that study will be completed at the end of this year. He will have the data from that study to present at the next GMA 12 Meeting. Mr. Totten noted that for this planning cycle, GMA 12 is on track with socioeconomic impacts refinement and property rights. He believes GMA 12 is still using the best available tool for interactions. Mr. Westbrook asked if there were any unresolved issues on these items at the end of the last planning cycle. All comments received during the last planning cycle were addressed in the Explanatory Report. Comments have been received to consider during this planning cycle and GMA 12 will continue to move forward with the best available science in considering those comments. He noted that comments on DFCs are encouraged and could be submitted at any time and will be evaluated.

- 9. Discussion and possible action regarding existing DFCs, alternate DFC methods and parallel tracks**
 - 10. Review of previously discussed programs and methodology for determining and calculating DFCs from GAM Runs and possible use of variances**
 - 11. Discussion of requirements of Chapter 36.108 in adopting DFCs 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;**
 - 12. Review and discussion on open GMA 12 action items list**

There was no update on this agenda item. Mr. Totten recommended removing this item from future agendas as all items had been addressed.
 - 13. Discussion and Review of efforts and costs associated with development of Explanatory Report for this round of joint planning for GMA 12**
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After brief discussion, Mr. Van Dresar moved to table this item until the next GMA 12 Meeting. He was seconded by Mr. Day. The motion to table this item passed unanimously of all present.

14. Discussion and possible action on Interlocal Agreement for sharing of responsibilities and expenses of cost for work performed by each GCD in joint planning

Mr. Day stated the BVGCD Board preferred to have equal payments between BVGCD, POSGCD, and LPGCD, and that since LPGCD had approved 30%, BVGCD would propose 30% each for these three districts with the remaining 10% shared by METGCD and FCGCD. No further action was taken as a total cost had not been established.

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

Mr. Westbrook and Mr. Day discussed this workshop noting it was made up of three panels providing discussions on science of groundwater/surface water interaction studies, regulation of groundwater and surface water, and uses of both groundwater and surface water in the Brazos River basin. Approximately 100 people were in attendance. GMA 12 Members discussed the topics covered and the benefits of having this workshop.

16. Public comment on non-agenda items

No public comments were made on non-agenda items.

17. Update from Texas Water Development Board

Robert Bradley stated that next Tuesday, there is a Board Meeting in which Natalie Ballew will present the final adoption of Chapter 256 Rules. He noted that hard copies of management plans are no longer required going forward. He reminded everyone that the new email address to submit a groundwater management plan is gwmplans@twdb.texas.gov.

18. Agenda items and Date for next meeting

The next GMA 12 Meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2025. Agenda items for the next meeting will include agenda items 13 and 14 from today's agenda, discussion of DFCs for the Yegua-Jackson Aquifer, model runs, expression of DFCs and general discussion of S-19.

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

THE ABOVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 12 HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2024 WERE APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY GMA 12 ON February 21, 2025.

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

David M. Bail