

Item 9d | GMA 12 DFC Planning Update | May 2023

GMA 12 members last met Friday, November 18, 2022 to continue planning for the fourth round of Desired Future Conditions. All voting members were present.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning regional impacts of large pumping projects and a possible need to address well assistance on a GMA wide basis. Each district has a different funding mechanism and different abilities based on each enabling legislation. A regional project causing regional problems will require regional solutions. He stated GMA 12 will need to look at what mechanisms would exist for a common type of mitigation.

Well assistance will be specific to each district and it will be difficult to address issues and funding when a district has no authority outside its boundaries other than voting for DFCs. A district cannot refuse to issue permits if the project or impacts do not violate DFCs. It was suggested a legislative solution and that districts need explicit authorization and a way to regionalize some mitigation activities.

Chapter 36 that an avenue for districts to mitigate pumping effects. Brazos Valley GCD will use export fees to help fund mitigation. GMA 12 members agreed this is a difficult issue to resolve and decided to gather information and continue discussions while monitoring legislative work on this issue.

During the 88th Legislative Session, Lost Pines GCD enabling act was amended to include increase in to fees up to \$0.20/1000 gallons for mitigation of inoperable wells and a provision requiring the LPGCD offer to enter into a reciprocal agreement with an adjacent groundwater conservation district or a groundwater conservation district located in Groundwater Management Area 12 to support a jointly managed mitigation program. This will be one of the agenda items on the upcoming GMA 12 meeting.

The next GMA 12 meeting will be held Thursday, June 29, 2023 in Milano, Texas.