

Item 8c | Legislative Update | January 2020

The “white paper” discussing “The State of Groundwater Management Area 12” to be used to educate legislators and the public about the cooperative DFC planning effort and how we achieve aquifer-wide groundwater management was adopted by are contained in the file browser folder.

The District Manager spent time at the Capital February 11, 2020 distributing the adopted paper to House Natural Resources Committee office and the Senate Committee on Water and Rural Affairs. Office visits with representatives of Brazos and Robertson counties will occur as well as other legislative office highly involved in and cognizant of groundwater issues. Offices visited included:

Rep. Kyle Kacal – met with Terra Willett (Chief of Staff) and Ben Utley (Legislative Director)

Rep. John Raney – met with Anna Hynes (Chief of Staff)

Sen. Charles Schwertner – met with Lola Fender (General Counsel)

House Natural Resources Committee Director – Met with Shannon Houston

Senate Water & Rural Affairs Committee Director – Met with Katherine Thigpen

Senate Interim Charges have been published. Joint Charge for Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee and Water and Rural Affairs Committee affecting groundwater is:

Groundwater Regulatory Framework: Study the state's groundwater regulatory framework and make recommendations to improve groundwater regulation, management, and permitting.

The Senate Committee on Water & Rural Affairs met jointly with the Senate Natural Resources Committee to hear invited testimony on produced water and the above stated charge. The vast majority of the meeting dealt with produced water. Leah Martinsson, Executive Director of the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts, gave invited testimony regarding contested cases, GCD litigation, and the issuing of permits.

Speaker Bonnen recently released the House Interim Charges. The charges related to the House Natural Resources Committee are in a separate folder within the File Browser for your review.