

Item 4 | Presentation & Adoption | 2021 District Annual Report

Pursuant to 31 TAC 356.5 (a)(6), an Annual Report is required to track District progress in achieving the goals set out in the approved District Management Plan:

7. Methodology to Track District Progress in Achieving Management Goals 31 TAC 356.5 (a)(6)

An annual report will be developed by the General Manager and District staff and provided to the District's Board of Directors. The Annual Report will cover activities of the District including information on the District's performance regarding achieving the District's management goals and objectives. The Annual Report will be delivered to the District Board within 60 days following the completion of the District's fiscal year, beginning with the fiscal year that starts on January 1, 2018. A copy of the Annual Report will be kept on file and available for public inspection at the District's offices.

The General Manager will present a summary of the 2021 Annual Report to the Board February 10, 2022. All management goals prescribed in the District Management Plan were met during FY2021.

It is the recommendation of the General Manager that the 2021 District Annual Report presented to the Board on February 10, 2022 be approved.

2021 Annual Report – Summarized

Regional Planning:

- The 2021 State Water Plan process began in April 2017 and slowly moved forward during 2018. Most of the work on the plan will begin during 2019 culminating with final adoption during the summer of 2020.
- GMA-12 met several times during 2021 working through the nine factors required by state law to be considered when setting desired future conditions, considering Groundwater Availability Model run scenarios, and adopting proposed Desired Future Conditions for all relevant aquifers. The five Districts involved are:
 - Brazos Valley GCD (Brazos, Robertson)
 - Mid-East Texas GCD (Madison, Leon, Freestone)
 - Post Oak Savannah GCD (Burlleson, Milam)
 - Fayette County GCD
 - Lost Pines GCD (Lee, Bastrop)
 - The adoption of the proposed desired future conditions occurred in March 18, 2021.
 - One public hearing was held within the District receiving comment on the proposed DFC for each aquifer. The meeting was held at the District Office in Hearne, Texas.
 - All comments were considered by the GMA 12 representatives with no changes to the DFCs occurring because of the public input.
 - Final adoption of the 2021 DFCs by GMA 12 occurred November 30, 2021.
 - Each comment is currently being addressed in an explanatory report that must accompany the final adoption of the desired future conditions. The Explanatory Report which accompanies the submittal of the adopted DFCs will be finally adopted January 28, 2022. Final adoption of the GMA 12 DFCs will occur once the Texas Water Development Board has determined feasibility of the submittal, developed modeled available groundwater values for each district, and determined the submittal to be administratively complete. District adoption of the relevant DFCs will likely occur during 2022.
- An updated Groundwater Availability Model was used during the 2021 planning round enabling GMA-12 to quantify the resource more accurately.

Monitoring Well Network:

- 167 wells are currently in the network 416 water level measurement were obtained in 2021 covering all eight aquifers.
- Water level measurements are the basis upon which the aquifers are managed. The average of the measurements across the District determines the rate we are approaching the DFC.
- The adopted DFC for the Simsboro aquifer is 262'. This simply means that the District desires the artesian head (static level) to be no more than an average of 262' lower (average across the District) in 2070 than it was in 1999. This measurement is achieved by averaging well measurements, up dip and down, and comparing that to the modeled amount for 2070. In April 2021 the District measurement was 34', well above our DFC. There has been a 13% reduction in artesian head pressure over the 21-year period.

Fees:

- 2021 fees were as follows:
 - Public water supply production fees were assessed at \$0.04625/1000 gallons produced
 - Agricultural rate was \$0.1875/acre foot
 - Steam electric rate was \$0.2941/acre foot
 - Industrial rates were \$0.04625/1000 gallons produced

Fees to be collected on 2021 production - \$648,369.08

Grant Program:

- Implemented in 2014.
- Anyone can apply for grant funds with a project that will demonstrably produce water conservation.
- BVWaterSmart Lawn Irrigation Network rolled out in February 2015. Involves a weather station/wireless rain gauge network that covers approximately 186 square miles in Brazos County. Entities involved include College Station, Bryan, Wellborn SUD, and Wickson Creek SUD. Bryan is a partner in the project but opted to self-fund their portion without using grant money.
 - Grant funds were used to establish a website/webmaster program to alert, via email push, homeowners as to the amount of water for lawn irrigation weekly throughout the year. This is also viewable over the internet.
 - KBTX Conservation Tips aired from year round to promote water conservation and promote the Irrigation Network. \$31,000 was dedicated to this effort in 2018.
 - During the March 15th to September 1st time period, the website received 200,000+ visits driven almost exclusively by the promotional advertisements.
 - The promotions are being done again in 2019 during the time frame mid-March through September with \$21,000 dedicated.
- Grant funding for remuneration of existing Agricultural Pivot Irrigation remote control systems was initiated in FY2020. 59 identified units were to be remunerated \$300/unit over a three year period as a one-time payment. At the end of 2021, 57 of 59 units had been remunerated. FY2021 cost to the District was \$11,100.00.
- Cost share grant funding for newly installed Agricultural Pivot Irrigation remote control systems was initiated in FY2020. During 2020, the District entered into cost share contracts on fourteen (14) units. Cost sharing is at a rate of 50% of the total cost of equipment and installation with a maximum of \$1,000.00/unit. FY2021 cost to the District was \$4,862.51.

Rules:

- There were not rules changes made during 2021.

Well Plugging:

- A well plugging protocol was adopted by the Board in August, 2015 and extended in February, 2019 that mirrors the plugging rules established by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) except for:
 - Brazos River Alluvium wells must be plugged under a more stringent protocol to avoid contamination of the aquifer.

This is a blanket well plugging variance for all Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer wells in both Brazos and Robertson counties. No variances fees are charged by the TDLR to drillers due to our establishment of a District variance. The variance will remain in effect as long as the TDLR rules relating to well plugging do not change.

- A more robust well plugging program was put in place to incentivize the plugging of abandoned or deteriorated water wells. The District now pays 75% of the cost of plugging up to a \$1000 reimbursement.
- 15 wells were plugged during 2021 under grant contracts totaling \$14,167.48.

Education:

- Taught approximately 4,900 4th, 5th, and 7th grade students about water conservation, protection of the aquifers, how to avoid contamination, the water cycle, and water quality during 2021. During the winter/spring of 2021, students were taught virtually due to schools limiting access to classrooms because of COVID 19. During the fall of 2021, schools allowed District staff to teach in individual classroom settings ranging in size from 12 to 40 students at a time.
- Distributed approximately 750 “Major Rivers” water curriculum packets for use in the 4th grade classrooms. The distributed number reflects the curriculum being readily available online.
- The annual “Water Field Day” at the Robertson County Fairgrounds solely for all Robertson County 5th grade students was postponed due to concern of COVID 19. The field day has been tentatively rescheduled for late May 2022.
- The annual Brazos County “Water Field Day” for 5th grade students at Pecan Trail Intermediate School was postponed due to concern of COVID 19. The field day has been tentatively rescheduled for late May 2022.
- Adult educational presentations by the District included BCS Home & Garden Show and the Tri-County Winter Crop Meeting (BRAA water levels) for agricultural producers.

District Management Plan Update:

- The District Management Plan was reviewed during 2018 as required under Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. Every five years, the Plan must reflect the updated goals and objectives of the District. The District initiated the review one year earlier than required in order to include the newly adopted Desired Future Conditions. The Plan has been submitted for preapproval and blessed for final adoption by the Board. Final adoption of the revised plan occurred on March 14, 2019.
- Following the adoption of the District DFCs, the board has two years to update the management plan with the new DFCs. A complete review and possible revision of the plan will be due by March 2024.

Other Information:

- 14 non-exempt permits were issued in 2018 (Ag – 8; Industrial/Commercial – 3; PWS – 3)
- 6,104.30 acre feet were permitted (Ag – 1,366.30; Industrial/Commercial – 500.00; PWS – 4,238.00)
- Acre feet permitted to metered non-exempt wells by aquifer:

Brazos River Alluvium – 70.00
Simsboro – 4,153.00
Hooper - 0
Calvert Bluff – 0
Carrizo – 25.00
Queen City – 399.00
Sparta – 1,457.30
Yegua-Jackson – 0

- Acre feet produced from metered non-exempt wells by aquifer:

Hooper – 918.22
Simsboro – 51,127.64 (Municipal use decreased slightly /Agricultural use decrease due to favorable conditions)
Calvert Bluff – 133.46
Carrizo – 955.61
Queen City – 45.30
Sparta – 3,161.20
Yegua-Jackson – 948.24

- 494 exempt well registered (Robertson – 152; Brazos – 335; Oil/Gas supply wells – 7)

Total number of wells by category (as of 12/31/2021):

- Domestic/Livestock (Exempt) – 3,803
- Gas & Oil (Exempt) – 1,197
- Historic Use (Permitted) – 619
- Operating (Permitted) – 203
- Drilling/Operating (Permitted) – 185