

Item 11 – Consideration of a GMA 12 Shared Database

GMA 12 members have been discussing some form of a shared database for the past five years. The ideas began as a simple website on which monitoring well data could be uploaded for districts and the public to use. At that time, Lost Pines GCD was the only GMA 12 member not using Halff Associates as their database provider. They have recently moved their data over to Halff.

This change makes it more feasible to move forward with the shared database concept. Halff Associates made a presentation to GMA 12 this past summer outlining what is possible and what one other GMA has already done. The primary data which districts would like shared are monitoring well measurements and locations, permitted wells, permitted amounts, actual water production data, etc. David Coyer, Halff representative, ball-parked the cost at approximately \$50,000 (one-time build out and deployment) and \$5,000/year for maintenance.

Districts are being asked to share in the costs, but some indicate the inability to share equally in the cost. There is a belief that the three districts with the most pumping (Lost Pines, Post Oak Savannah, Brazos Valley) would basically finance the project leaving Fayette County and Mid-East Texas to contribute as their budgets allow.

Halff Associates made a presentation with revised funding methods on November 18, 2022 as requested by GMA 12 representatives. The revised estimate did not vary from the original cost estimate but allowed both Fayette County GCD and Mid-East Texas GCD to join later at a cost of approximately \$2,000. The remaining three districts would split the cost of \$47,500.

I spoke with David Coyer about making the data available to the public via our current database and website. He indicated the District could certainly do that but costs would be associated with the those tasks. His thoughts were that it would not be much if any difference from the GMA 12 quote divided amongst the three districts.

The benefits of implementing a GMA 12 shared database:

- GMA 12 members can easily obtain needed information for DFC planning purposes
- The public can see information based on a GMA 12 wide perspective
- Shows the Texas Legislature GMA 12 is working to make the DFC planning process transparent and understandable

Both Lost Pines & Post Oak Savannah GCDs agreed to each pay 1/3 of the cost of implementing the shared database at the November 18, 2022 meeting. Regardless if the District decides to share in implementation of the GMA 12 database, BVGCD staff will continue to respond quickly to requests for information from other districts and the public and request needed information from other GMA 12 members.