

Item 7c | GMA 12 DFC Planning Update | March 2023

GMA 12 members 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.

David Coyer, with Halff, Inc., spoke to GMA 12 about the proposed shared database and answered questions from GMA 12 members. After discussion it was decided that Halff would develop an alternative to the plan presented so the GMA might be able to move forward with several districts participating in the near future, and other districts could join later. After receiving this information each District would discuss with their individual boards and return for further discussion.

The next GMA 12 meeting has not been scheduled.