

Item 9c | GMA 12 DFC Planning Update | December 2023

GMA 12 members met Thursday, October 26, 2023 to discuss a wide range of topics impacting the future adoption of the 2026 Desired Future Conditions. GMA 12 members adopted the position to begin the fourth planning round using the finally adopted Desired Future Conditions from the third planning round as an initial starting point. This facilitated the members' ability to begin discussions of the nine statutorily mandated factors related to the adoption of the fourth round Desired Future Conditions.

Along that vein, Carlos Rubenstein and Vanessa Puig-Williams presented information related to aquifer conditions and sustainable groundwater pumping. GMA members were asked to discuss with each of their boards how each would evaluate the first three factors listed in Chapter 36 TWC within their districts. These factors are:

- (1) aquifer uses or conditions within the management area, including conditions that differ substantially from one geographic area to another;*
- (2) the water supply needs and water management strategies included in the state water plan;*
- (3) hydrological conditions, including for each aquifer in the management area the total estimated recoverable storage as provided by the executive administrator, and the average annual recharge, inflows, and discharge;*

Further discussion of these factors will occur throughout the planning process.

Members of GMA 12 decided to push forward with planning a GMA 12 Groundwater Summit in late 2024. Two board members from each of the five groundwater conservation districts will be asked to participate in the planning process. Gary Westbrook will lead the planning effort. Location of the summit will likely be in Brazos County. As more specific information is developed, the General Manager will brief the Board and ask for approval to move forward.

GMA 12 members discussed the need to develop an interlocal agreement regarding financial obligations for each district during the fourth round of planning and what that might entail. The hydrogeologists were instructed to convert the current expression of DFCs based on individual district to a GMA-wide expression on artesian head remaining.

The general managers of each district were asked to gather information related to financial expenditures during the third planning period. Members are working toward an interlocal agreement detailing each district's financial responsibilities during the current planning round.

The next GMA 12 meeting has been cancelled for January 18, 2024 and will be rescheduled for February 2024 in Milano, Texas.