

Item 12d | GMA 12 DFC Planning Update | May/June 2024

GMA 12 members last met Thursday, May 23, 2024 to discuss a wide range of topics impacting the future adoption of the 2026 Desired Future Conditions (DFCs). 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.

Members discussed and compared management plans and strategies adopted by each district to deal with the impending reduction in artesian head pressure in the both the Carrizo and Simsboro aquifers due to large scale production projects across GMA 12. Both BVGCD and POSGCD agreed that DFCs have a two-fold purpose. They are both to be used for planning and regulatory purposes. Both districts have curtailment rules in place that will be used to manage the artesian head as it descends toward to the adopted DFCs.

Members of GMA 12 were encouraged to name two (2) board members to the GMA 12 Groundwater Summit planning committee by the August 2024 meeting. To date, only BVGCD had made selections. 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. BVGCD has appointed directors (Jayson Barfknecht & Jeff Kennedy) to serve on the planning committee. GMA 12 is currently waiting for the other members to make appointments.

GMA 12 members are becoming more comfortable with continuing to use the past template for meeting financial obligations without having to enter into an interlocal agreement. BVGCD will likely be the only member bringing additional modeling of water production to the GMA. The other four districts have shown no desire to alter the DFCs by adding newly permitted or actual production to their pumping files.

The hydrogeologists were instructed to convert the current expression of DFCs based on individual district to a GMA-wide expression on artesian head remaining. BVGCD has accomplished for the Simsboro artesian head but not all aquifers.

The general managers of each district were asked to gather information related to financial expenditures during the third planning period. With the lack of interest in altering the DFCs, members agreed to continue forward assessing the nine (9) statutory requirements using the currently DFC values. If present mindsets continue, the only real expense to be incurred by the GMA will be the Explanatory Report. My thought is the expenses related to the development of the report can easily be apportioned to each of the districts.

The next GMA 12 meeting is tentatively schedules for August 8, 2024.