

Groundwater Management Area 15

Meeting Minutes

The Groundwater Management Area 15 meeting convened in the Jackson County Services Building, 411 N. Wells, Edna, Texas 77957.

Members GCD Representatives Present:

1	Bee Groundwater Conservation District	Lonnie Stewart
2	Calhoun County Groundwater Conservation District	Tim Andruss
3	Coastal Bend Groundwater Conservation District	Neil Hudgins
4	Coastal Plains Groundwater Conservation District	Neil Hudgins
5	Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District	Jim Brasher
6	Corpus Christi ASR Conservation District	Esteban Ramos
7	Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District	Landon Yosko
8	Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District	David Van Dresar
9	Goliad County Groundwater Conservation District	Terrel Graham
10	Pecan Valley Groundwater Conservation District	Cindy Parma
11	Refugio Groundwater Conservation District	Tim Andruss
12	Texana Groundwater Conservation District	Tim Andruss
13	Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District	Tim Andruss

Agenda Item 1: Call to order and welcome guests.

Mr. Andruss called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. A quorum was present.

Attached to these minutes is a copy of the meeting sign-in sheet.

No action was taken.

Agenda Item 2: Receive public comment.

Mr. Andruss offered to accept public comment.

No action was taken.

Agenda Item 3: Consideration of and possible action on minutes of the previous meeting.

Mr. Andruss explained that the minutes of the previous meeting were sent to the GMA 15 representatives prior to this meeting.

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MOTION: Mr. Van Dresar moved to approve the meeting minutes as drafted. Mr. Hudgins seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 4: Consideration of and possible action on matters related to budget and financial reports of Groundwater Management Area 15.

No action was taken.

Agenda Item 5: Consideration of and possible action on reports and communication from GMA 15 member districts and GMA 15 representatives to Regional Water Planning Groups.

No action was taken.

Agenda Item 6: Consideration of and possible action on reports from Texas Water Development Board representatives to Groundwater Management Area 15.

Mr. Perez of the Texas Water Development Board provided an update on recent activities and developments at the Texas Water Development Board.

No action was taken.

Agenda Item 7: Consideration of and possible action on matters related to joint planning including the Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) and the Central and Southern Portions of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System in Texas.

Topic 1: New Model for Gulf Coast Aquifer

Mr. Andruss explained that on March 30, 2023, Natalie Ballew, TWDB Groundwater Directors, provided an update to GMA 15 and GMA 16 regarding the adoption timeline for the new model for the Gulf Coast Aquifer, which covers GMA 15. By the end of April 2023, the final numerical report is anticipated to be released. By the end of November 2023, the report comparing the MAG pumping scenario modeled using the to-be-developed predictive model to the MAG run using the current model is expected to be complete.

On April 5, 2023, Mr. Graham of Goliad County GCD began submitting messages to TWDB and GMA 15 regarding potential issues regarding the water balance of the new model.

No action was taken.

Topic 2: Management Plans

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Mr. Andruss explained that Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code identifies reasons an interested party may file a petition for an inquiring regarding district duties including " (5) a district fails to update its management plan before the second anniversary of the adoption of desired future conditions by the management area;". The desired future conditions for GMA 15 were adopted in December 2021. Representatives of GMA 15 are encouraged to coordinate with Stephen Allen of TWDB regarding management plan amendments and adoptions.

No action was taken.

Topic 3: GCD Achievements

Mr. Andruss explained that the representatives of GMA 15 last considered the achievements of member districts on April 14, 2022. As of April 11, 2023, annual reports for fiscal year 2022 from Victoria County GCD, Goliad County GCD, and Pecan Valley GCD had been received by GMA 15 and reviewed. Based on the review of each plan, it appears that each district has achieved the goals and objectives established by their respective management plans.

Mr. Van Dresar moved to accept and approve the review of the GCD achievements as presented. Mr. Ramos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Consideration of and possible action on administrative and organizational matters of Groundwater Management Area 15.

Mr. Andruss explained the following bills of the 88th regular session of the Texas Legislature address desired future conditions. Based on a review of the proposed legislation, it does not appear that the DFC adoption process is likely to be substantially revised.

- HB 3278 (LINK) - 04/11/2023 H Committee report distributed: Apr 11 2023 8:03AM (public access to DFC materials)
- HB 4532 (LINK) - 04/04/2023 H Reported favorably w/o amendment(s) (defines modeled sustained groundwater pumping)
- HB 4623 (LINK) - 03/22/2023 H Referred to Natural Resources: Mar 22 2023 11:54AM
- HB 4891 (LINK) - 03/28/2023 H Left pending in committee
- SB 156 (LINK) - 04/10/2023 H Referred to Natural Resources: Apr 10 2023 3:28PM (inclusion of DFC and MAG in MPs)
- SB 2397 (LINK) - 03/23/2023 S Referred to Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs
- SB 2540 (LINK) - 03/23/2023 S Referred to Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs

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Presently, the districts of GMA 15 are required to propose for adoption desired future conditions for the relevant aquifers within the management area by May 1, 2026 (TWC 36.108(d)). The district are required "finally adopt" subsequent desired future conditions and associated explanatory report before January 5, 2027 (TWC 36.108(d-3)). Given TWDB's anticipated completion of the new GAM for GMA 15 by December 2023, it appears the districts will have 36 months to complete the DFC adoption process.

To facilitate the timely completion of the DFC adoption process, draft revisions to the bylaws and cost sharing agreement adopted for the 3rd Joint Planning Cycle have been prepared for consideration by the representatives.

Mr. Hudgins moved to:

- 1) re-adopt the GMA 15 - Administrative Procedures - Rev 20180109;
- 2) approve the distribution of the By-Laws of the GMA-15 Committee - Rev 20230413, GMA15 - Interlocal Agreement for Cost-Sharing - Rev 20230413a, as drafted, for consideration and adoption by the member districts by October 12, 2023; and
- 3) request that the Victoria County GCD serve as the GMA 15 Administrator for the purposes of:
 - a) holding the GMA 15 Joint Planning Funds,
 - b) soliciting proposals from qualified entities to provide technical services to GMA 15 to support the development and adoption of desired future conditions and associated explanatory report for the 4th Joint Planning Cycle, and
 - c) negotiating terms of an agreement for consulting services from the preferred respondent(s) identified by the GMA-15 Committee Members.

Ms. Parma seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Consideration of and possible action on identification and scheduling of future agenda items and meetings.

Mr. Andruss explained that the next regular meeting of GMA 15 is scheduled to occur on July 13, 2023.

No action was taken.

Agenda Item 10: Receive public comment.

No public comment provided.

Agenda Item 11: Adjournment

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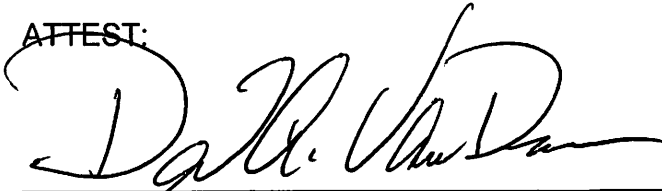
MOTION: At approximately 10:43 AM, Mr. Van Dresar moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Parma seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The above and foregoing minutes were considered and approved on this the
13th day of July a.d. 2023.



Groundwater Management Area 15 Representative

ATTEST:



Groundwater Management Area 15 Representative