

Use of Remote Meetings by Groundwater Management Areas

Since Governor Greg Abbott's suspension of certain open meetings provisions in March of 2020, Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) have had the option to hold remote meetings by video or telephone conference call as an alternative to in-person meetings. The ability to utilize remote meetings has been particularly important in that it allowed GMAs to continue the time-sensitive task of setting desired future conditions for the current 5-year planning cycle.

59

Remote meetings held

100%

of GMAs reported either increased or consistent levels of public participation compared to in-person meetings.

Positive aspects identified:

Improved public participation and accessibility

Time and cost savings

Easier to schedule

More consultants were able to participate

Easily able to record for later viewing

EVERY GMA

stated it may use remote meetings if the option was offered, and most said they would use them occasionally or frequently.

None of the survey respondents reported a negative perspective on remote meetings.

When asked to identify any negative aspects of remote meetings, GMA coordinators reported occasional technical difficulties and a lack of informal interaction.