

Item 12c – Update of GMA 12 Regional Planning Meeting

GMA 12 representatives met in Milano, Texas on Friday, November 15, 2019 to discuss:

- Joint planning efforts
- Results of the predictive scenario GAM run PS 8/9 submitted by POSGCD
- Declaration of non-relevant aquifers (Yegua-Jackson Aquifer | LPGCD, Wilcox Group | FCGCD)
- Result of model runs for the Yegua-Jackson (YJ) Aquifer using the same well files as the last cycle. Actual pumping for the 2010-2018 time-frame was updated.
- Result of model runs for the Brazos River Alluvium (BRAA) Aquifer. Location of pumping in the BRAA was more accurately placed based on pumping records. A misappropriated data file used by TWDB was discovered while running the model and will be corrected in subsequent simulations.
- GMA “white paper” for legislators and the public

Predictive Scenarios

The PS 8/9 GAM run was presented at the request of POSGCD. The district board wanted to determine what pumping it would take for the Desired Future Conditions across the GMA to stay the same as in the previous cycle. The model run clearly indicated that trying to compare the current DFCs generated by the old model and results obtained using the updated model is not appropriate. Keeping the same DFCs this cycle without the reduction in forecasted pumping may be an unattainable objective.

BVGCD has had a significant historical pumping footprint from an extensive period of time which was accurately input into the previous model. Both POSGCD and LPGCD have little historical pumping from the Carrizo-Wilcox but now have large permits and actual pumping projects coming on line immediately. This set of circumstances along with the model update has increased their DFCs while BVGCD DFCs have been decreased. The GMA panel will work through this issue to resolve any concerns among the GMA 12 partners beginning at a meeting in late January, 2020. In the interim, all of the representatives were encouraged to visit with their boards about the path forward.

While running the updated model, Intera consultants noticed that when pumping the BRAA a significant impact was seen in the Sparta and Queen City aquifers. The interrelationship is due to the exposure of these two aquifers to the Brazos River as it traverses across the two. BVGCD agreed to have the consultant for POSGCD make a model run in the specific aerial zone where the transection occurs. The identification of the extent of impact and the source location of the pumping causing the effect is central to the model run. The modeling results will be presented at the next GMA 12 meeting.

The GMA panel reviewed a draft “white paper” detailing how GMA 12 uses the best available science to determine DFCs, why DFCs can vary from district to district using this science, and how the DFCs are a regional effort to manage the shared aquifers. There has been apprehension expressed by some legislators about the disparate nature of DFCs in adjoining districts. It is the goal of the GMA members to educate these legislators and the public that the GMA process functions properly and is the regional aquifer management process that it was intended to be. Edits and comments are expected by December 15, 2019.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for late January, 2020 in Milano, Texas.