

Item 7 | DFC Planning for all Managed Aquifers

GMA 12 met to discuss Desired Future Conditions in Milano, Texas on January 29, 2020. All managed aquifers were discussed at length following thorough presentations by the hydrologists representing the various groundwater districts.

The Yegua-Jackson (YJ) Aquifer had been a source concern for Post Oak Savannah GCD. The initial pumping files submitted by POSGCD for the 2021 DFC planning round included a high level of water production associated with oil and gas production. That pumping no longer exists at those levels. Pumping from the YJ in BVGCD has not increased since the last round of planning. POSGCD has revised the pumping files first submitted from 14,000 ac-ft/yr down to 7,000 ac-ft/yr. The modeled results from the revised pumping files predict YJ water wells in Burleson County will not trigger well mitigation in the 5-year planning horizon. It was agreed that no more YJ model runs would be needed for DFC determination and adoption.

The Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer (BRAA) DFC will be developed by POSGCD and BVGCD because no alluvial deposits exist in the other member districts. Model runs have been completed using both the BRAA GAM developed by the Texas Water Development Board and the recently updated Central Carrizo-Wilcox/Sparta/Queen City GAM. Both GAMs developed similar results that were favorable to keeping the DFCs the same in both districts for 2021 planning purposes. It was agreed that no further BRAA model runs would be needed for DFC determination and adoption.

There was an extensive discussion among GMA 12 members concerning DFCs for primarily the Carrizo and Simsboro aquifers. Some districts are still struggling to come to grips with the model results produced by the S7 GAM run. DFC levels went higher for both POSGCD and LPGCD but down for BVGCD in the S7 run. The boards for both of the other districts do not want the DFC values produced from the old GAM to change. With ten additional years of pumping files and a vast number of new permitted and producing wells in both districts added to the model run, a massive hurdle now exists allowing for no change to the DFCs. No agreement was reached other than each district was tasked with bringing solutions to the next GAM 12 meeting on March 26, 2020.

GMA 12 members reviewed the revised draft of the “white paper” discussing “The State of GMA 12.” Members adopted both the white paper and an executive summary and authorized distribution of the document to the public and to state legislative representatives.

As detailed above, there are a number of hurdles to be overcome this DFC planning round. We will continue to work closely with our neighboring districts to find solutions to these issues.