

Item 3 | DFC Considerations for 4th Planning Round

GMA 12 planning group met February 21, 2025, to further discuss the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) of the shared aquifers. Paul Kirby, representing Fayette County GCD, gave a presentation focused on the Yegua-Jackson Aquifer and determining the DFC for future adoption. It was decided that each district will perform evaluations for information and provide comments and corrections by the end of March to produce additional model runs to consider.

GMA 12 members discussed past and future pumping files and scenarios using the Sparta/Queen City/Carrizo-Wilcox Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) and results, including predicted water levels, water budgets and DFC planning for the current round of joint planning and model runs previously presented and discussed. Alan Day reminded the members that BVGCD had presented results of their “best estimate” run and would like for the members to consider these results in their decisions. Mr. Westbrook stated the Post Oak Savannah GCD board desired to maintain currently adopted DFCs. During discussion Mr. Van Dresar, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Totten agreed with desires to maintain current DFCs if possible. Mr. Westbrook noted the limited time remaining to adopt DFCs in this current round of planning and recommended moving forward with current DFCs and evaluating comments received during the process as a possible way to get an early start on the next round of joint planning.

Mr. Day reminded that Brazos Valley GCD had submitted updated pumping files previously and asked about each GCD updating their pumping files to be used in the current process. Different ways to incorporate additional pumping into the model runs while still targeting results of current DFCs were discussed. Jim Totten agreed that curtailment of permitted amounts in pumping files was acceptable. The group discussed the potential of documenting level of curtailment in pumping files in the explanatory report. Details of the curtailment process were not discussed. The group also directed consultants to include pumping estimates for counties without GCDs.

After discussion, GMA 12 members agreed to update their pumping file from the S-19 Run and provide their consultants with the updated files and instruction to work with consultant team to update the S-19 file with the intent that overall DFCs are still the goal, with the updated file and GAM Run being designated as PS4-1. All comments are due by March 19, 2025.

Following up on the BVGCD DFC Workshop & Stakeholder meeting held Thursday, January 23, 2025, there are a number of DFC topics remaining to be discussed. Items which still need some attention and discussion are:

Question 1: What would the DFC look like if based on available drawdown?

Response 1: We can use existing runs to assess the available drawdown based on the top of aquifer, bottom of aquifer, top of well screen and bottom of well.

Question 2: What would the DFC look like based on determination of an 'economically feasible' water level?

Response 2: It can be difficult to define economically feasible based on different users. Well engineers can be engaged to determine the maximum pumping water level depth.

Question 3: What would a run look like to determine the pumping impact to public supply wells?

Response 3: A run could be developed similar to the GMA 8 example that analyzes pinch points in public supply wells.

Question 4: What could a multiple DFC metric for the same aquifer look like?

Response 4: A multiple DFC metric for the same aquifer could have a DFC for the outcrop area and a DFC for the confined area.

AGS will present information directly related to Question 3 during the March 13, 2025, board meeting.

Other matters that need to be discussed and decided upon include:

- Determination of aquifer relevance for planning purposes (Gulf Coast Aquifer)
- Pumping files to be updated for both GAMs (Yegua-Jackson & Sparta/Queen City/Carrizo-Wilcox)
- Guidance on what, if any, additional pumping scenarios the Board wants GMA 12 members to consider during Planning Round #4.
- Expression of DFCs for BVGCD in Planning Round #4
- Beginning date for model runs (2000 or 2010)
- Ending date for the DFC period (2080?)