

Item 6 | DFC Considerations for 4th Planning Round

GMA 12 planning group met April 23, 2025, to further discuss the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) of the shared aquifers. GMA 12 members discussed several pumping 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.

Each district was asked to provide pumping files that reflected all issued permits for use in the first GAM run for the 4th round of planning. Gretchen Miller (LRE), representing Lost Pines GCD, presented results of the “all permits” GAM run expressing the results in “percent of remaining available drawdown.” Steve Young (INTERA) gave a presentation examining the “Stable State” GAM run scenario extending out 500 years.

James Beach (AGS), on behalf of BVGCD, presented results of their “best estimate” run and would like for the members to consider these results in their decisions. It was suggested when districts are asked to provide modified pumping files to achieve as DFC that remains the same, BVGCD will provide the “Best Estimate” files for that run. The resulting values will be reflective of the impact of the “Best Estimate” pumping on each of the members districts providing each a platform to accept or reject BVGCD pumping files.

Mr. Westbrook once again stated the Post Oak Savannah GCD board desired to maintain currently adopted DFCs. The three (3) remaining districts remain persuaded to maintain current DFCs if possible. Mr. Day through AGS has provided each of the districts the pumping files associated with the “Best Estimate” pumping scenario.

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.

- Consultants made GAM Run PS4-1 for discussion at the GMA 12 meeting on April 23, 2025
- PS4-1 will be evaluated and discussed by GMA 12 members at that meeting
- Hydrogeologists will incorporate curtailed permits by the four (4) member districts for use in the follow up GAM Run PS4-2.
- BVGCD made clear that the “Best Estimate” pumping files would be used in PS4-2 in order for all member districts to understand the effects of pumping on each of their district aquifers

GMA 12 members discussed a proposal by LRE to organize and write the Explanatory Report using the same parameters offered by AGS. The cost would also remain the same. District-by-district cost breakdown would be:

- Brazos Valley 30%
- Lost Pines 30%
- Post Oak Savannah 30%
- Mid-East Texas 5%
- Fayette County 5%

Both Fayette County and Mid-East Texas are securing the authority from each board to enter into an interlocal agreement at the stated levels. This matter will be put on the agenda for the June 27, 2025 meeting to be finalized.

Other matters that continue to be decided upon for this planning round include:

- The General Manager asked AGS to perform a pumping scenario designated the “Bridge Run.” At least two districts made clear that some pumping scenarios are not sustainable and should be seen as a “bridge” until the State can bring on suggested alternative water sources. Presentation of this GAM run is on the next agenda.
- Expression of DFCs for BVGCD in Planning Round #4
 - Average Artesian Reduction across the District
 - % of Remaining Available Drawdown
 - Both
- Ending date for the DFC period (2080)

HB 2078, as enrolled states:

(d-1a) The district representatives shall:

(1) adopt desired future conditions under this section for each approximately 50-year planning period identified by the executive administrator for the preparation of state and regional water plans; and

(2) identify interim values for the desired future conditions adopted under Subdivision (1) for time periods not to exceed 10 years solely to assist the districts in monitoring interim progress in achieving the desired future conditions adopted for the approximately 50-year planning period.

The State Water Plan planning horizon for the next round has been established as 2080. That said, it is likely that our DFC planning period has already been set for GMA 12 and will be 2080.