



BRAZOS G WATER POLICY COMMITTEE
BRAZOS G REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP

August 12, 2020

9:00 A.M.

Virtual Meeting



- 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. INVOCATION**
- 3. NOTICE OF MEETING**
- 4. ATTENDANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 5. PUBLIC INPUT**



6.1. Discussion and possible action regarding recommending designation and/or re-designation of sites having unique value for reservoir construction.



Designation of Unique Reservoir Sites

Water Policy Committee
Agenda Item 6.1

August 12, 2020



Background

- TWDB comment regarding Initially Prepared Plan

Section 8.2, pages 8-1 and 8-2. Please ensure that Section 8.2 is updated to clearly document which unique reservoir sites have been previously designated by the legislature; which are being recommended for designation by the RWPG; and whether the planning group is recommending that the legislature re-designate a previously designated unique reservoir site. [31 TAC § 357.43(c); Contract Exhibit C, Section 8.2]



Background

▪ Current text of Initially Prepared Plan

Brazos G has previously identified the following sites as uniquely suited for reservoir construction. Each site was associated with a request by a potential local project sponsor to include the project as a recommended or alternative water management strategy in the 2016 Plan.

- Cedar Ridge Reservoir (City of Abilene),
- Turkey Peak Reservoir (Palo Pinto County Municipal Water District No. 1),
- Millers Creek Off-Channel Reservoir (North Central Texas Municipal Water District),
- Brushy Creek Reservoir (City of Marlin), and
- Coryell County Off-Channel Reservoir (Coryell County).

Brazos G does not designate any additional sites as uniquely suited for reservoir construction in the 2021 Plan.



Background

- Texas Water Code

Title 2. Water Administration, Subtitle C. Water Development. Chapter 16. Provisions Generally Applicable to Water Development, Subchapter A. General Provisions, Subchapter C. Planning, Section 16.051:

(g) The legislature may designate a site of unique value for the construction of a reservoir. A state agency or political subdivision of the state may not obtain a fee title or an easement that would significantly prevent the construction of a reservoir on a site designated by the legislature under this subsection.

(g-1) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a site is considered to be a designated site of unique value for the construction of a reservoir if the site is recommended for designation in the 2007 state water plan adopted by the board and in effect on May 1, 2007. The designation of a unique reservoir site under this subsection terminates on September 1, 2015, unless there is an affirmative vote by a proposed project sponsor to make expenditures necessary in order to construct or file applications for permits required in connection with the construction of the reservoir under federal or state law.



Recommendation

- Recommend re-designation of terminated sites
 - Millers Creek Off-Channel Reservoir
 - Coryell County Off-Channel Reservoir
- Make no recommendation regarding designation or re-designation for “active” sites
 - Cedar Ridge Reservoir
 - Turkey Peak Reservoir
 - Brushy Creek Reservoir
- Include additional language regarding “active” sites

“Brazos G recommends no change in designation for the previously-designed sites for Cedar Ridge Reservoir, Turkey Peak Reservoir and Brushy Creek Reservoir, as those designations have not terminated because sufficient action has been taken prior to September 1, 2015 regarding their development to meet the requirements of Texas Water Code 16.051(g-1).”



Questions/Discussion





6.2. Discussion and possible action regarding recommendations from and to the Drought Preparedness Council



Recommendations from and to the Drought Preparedness Council

Water Policy Committee
Agenda Item 6.2

August 12, 2020



Background

- August 1, 2019 – letter from Drought Preparedness Council – 2 recommendations
- Follow the outline template for Chapter 7 provided to the regions by Texas Water Development Board staff in April of 2019, making an effort to fully address the assessment of current drought preparations and planned responses, as well as planned responses to local drought conditions or loss of municipal supply. Find this template here:
http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2021/doc/current_docs/project_docs/RWP_Chapter7_Template.docx
- Develop region-specific model drought contingency plans for all water use categories in the region that account for more than 10 percent of water demands in any decade over the 50-year planning horizon.



Background

- The Initially Prepared Plan does not consider the Council's recommendations
- The Initially Prepared Plan does not offer recommendations to the Council



Additional Information

- Chapter 7 follows the template provided by the TWDB
- Irrigation (25-32%), Steam-electric (16-21%) and Municipal (36-50%) exceed 10% of the Brazos G demands
- Initially Prepared Plan includes 2 model drought contingency plans for municipal utilities
 - Thrall (sole-source groundwater)
 - Waco (sole-source surface water)
- Initially Prepared Plan includes link to TCEQ for model drought contingency plans
 - Retail Water Suppliers
 - Wholesale Water Providers
 - Irrigation Districts



Recommendation

- No recommendations to Drought Preparedness Council
- Response to Drought Preparedness Council recommendation to prepare region-specific model drought contingency plans for irrigation and steam-electric users

“Situations regarding water supply shortages caused by drought can vary widely across a regional water planning area as large and diverse as Brazos G. Therefore, no region-specific model drought contingency plan can be developed that would provide a useable set of recommended actions that would be applicable across the regional water planning area for irrigation or steam-electric water uses. Brazos G encourages local irrigators and operators of steam-electric generating facilities to evaluate the vulnerability of their individual water supplies and identify individual actions they should take when water supplies are reduced by drought.”



Questions/Discussion





6.3. Discussion and possible action regarding prioritization and scoring of recommended water management strategies.



Prioritization Scoring for the 2021 Brazos G Plan

Water Policy Committee
Agenda Item 6.3

August 12, 2020



Background

- All recommended projects with capital costs are assigned scores, based on uniform standards developed by RWPG Chairs
- Scoring mechanism is identical to 2016 Plan
- Score used by TWDB as one criteria for prioritizing SWIFT funding
- Spreadsheet provided by TWDB with 228 records (107 are conservation)
 - Based on Initially Prepared Plan
- Scoring methodology is largely prescriptive, i.e., little room for interpretation
- Today:
 - Present method
 - Decide on the “grey” areas requiring some interpretation



Overall Criteria Weightings:

Decade of Need	40%
Project Feasibility	10%
Project Viability	25%
Project Sustainability	15%
Project Cost Effectiveness	10%
	<hr/> <hr/> 100%



Scoring Template



Questions/Discussion





6.4. Discussion and possible action regarding identification of potential policy topics to consider at the next meeting.



- 7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON
NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT
NEXT MEETING**
- 8. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING
DATE**
- 9. ADJOURN**