

John Maurer

From: Sarah Lee
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 3:03 PM
To: Tony Smith - Carollo (tsmith@carollo.com)
Cc: wlwilsoncattlecompany@gmail.com; pamelahannemann@Brazos.org; 'james.beach@advancedgw.com'; bbuff@plummer.com; 'jjackson@carollo.com'; John Maurer; Temple McKinnon; Reem Zoun; Matt Nelson; David Harkins; Michael Pinckney
Subject: Follow up to Brazos G discussion on unmet needs

Tony,

Thanks for meeting with John and I last week to discuss unmet needs in the 2026 Brazos G plan. I have discussed this further internally, and below are expectations from TWDB that we ask the Brazos G planning group adhere to during the remainder of plan development.

- TWDB expects RWPGs to plan for **every** water user group in their region, to the best of their ability and with available information, regardless of their responsiveness to surveys. This is one of the key reasons that Texas' regional water planning exists and that two cycles ago, the TWDB increased the resolution of planning by expanding the number of water user groups to better address smaller rural entities that may not have their own resources to plan ahead 30 to 50 years into the future. That said, we do realize that there are limits to what is possible.
- RWPGs should not remove recommend strategies/projects for entities or decide not to recommend strategies/projects just because either 1) an entity has not been responsive to a survey, or 2) no action has yet been taken to implement the project or because an entity hasn't obtained a permit. Strategy implementation status is an important concept of the planning process: to identify what actions entities could/should take in the future to eventually address their water need. And many projects that are needed in future decades would, by the nature of their timing, not yet have actions taken anyway.
- That said, we do want the RWPGs to reflect realistic, economically viable strategies and projects with online dates that take into account lack of action to date. It is appropriate therefore, that the plans reflect the resulting *near-term* unmet needs that may arise as a result of inaction that, in the event of drought, could only be addressed through drought restrictions – until such time that a project can be brought online.

Wayne, please make sure that planning group members are aware of these expectations.

Please reach out to me or John with any additional questions or concerns.

Best,

Sarah Lee
Manager, Regional Water Planning
Water Supply Planning Division
Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711
512-936-2387 | sarah.lee@twdb.texas.gov
www.twdb.texas.gov