

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING

BRAZOS G REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP

Water Policy Committee

10:00 a.m.

May 1, 2019

**Brazos River Authority Central Office
4600 Cobbs Drive, Waco, Texas 76710**

AGENDA

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. INVOCATION**
- 3. NOTICE OF MEETING**
- 4. ATTENDANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 5. PUBLIC INPUT - Public questions and comments on agenda items or water planning issues (*limited to 5 minutes each; public must fill out a 'Request to Speak' form prior to the discussion of the agenda item*)**
- 6. PROGRAM**
 - 6.1. Discussion and possible action regarding the process for identifying and developing policy recommendations.**
 - 6.2. Discussion and possible action regarding the process for identifying Stream Segments of Unique Ecological Value.**
 - 6.3. Discussion and possible action regarding the process for identifying Unique Reservoir Sites.**
 - 6.4. Discussion 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**

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated and/or acted upon in a different order than set forth above.

Meeting agendas and materials are available online at www.brazosqwater.org

For additional information, please contact

STEVE HAMLIN @ 761-3172, Brazos River Authority, Administrative Agent

- 11) Summary of any other drought management measures recommended by the RWPG.
- 12) Preparation of tabular data for inclusion in chapter.
- 13) Review of the chapter document and related information by RWPG members.
- 14) Modifications to the chapter document based on RWPG, public, and or agency comments.
- 15) Submittal of chapter document to TWDB for review and approval; and
- 16) All effort required to obtain final approval of the regional water plan chapter and associated data by TWDB.

Deliverables: A completed Chapter 7 shall be delivered in the 2021 RWP as a work product. Data shall be submitted in the form of tables included in the chapter.

Task 8 - Recommendations Regarding Unique Stream Segments and/or Reservoir Sites and Legislative & Regional Policy Issues

The objective of this task is to prepare a separate chapter⁴¹ to be included in the 2021 RWP that presents the RWPG's unique stream segment, unique reservoir site, legislative, administrative, and regulatory recommendations.

Work shall include but not be limited to the following:

- 1) In addition to generally meeting all applicable rules and statute requirements governing regional and state water planning under 31 TAC Chapters 357 and 358, this portion of work shall, in particular, include all work necessary to meet all the requirements of 31 TAC §357.43 and §358.2.⁴²
- 2) Plans to be considered in developing this chapter include relevant plans referenced under 31 TAC §357.22.
- 3) RWPG consideration and discussion of potential recommendations for designation of ecologically unique stream segments within the RWPA, based on criteria in 31 TAC §358.2.
- 4) If applicable, prepare a draft memorandum recommending which stream segments in the region, if any, should be recommended for designation as ecologically unique stream segments. Evaluate and incorporate comments from the RWPG. Upon approval by the group, submit the draft memorandum to TWDB and TPWD for comments.

⁴¹ This shall be a separate chapter as required by 31 TAC §357.22(b).

⁴² Requirements are further explained in the guidance document *Second Amended General Guidelines for Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Plan Development*.

- 5) RWPG consideration and discussion of potential recommendations for designation of unique reservoir sites within the RWPA.
- 6) If applicable, prepare a draft memorandum recommending designation of unique sites for reservoir development. Evaluate and incorporate comments from the RWPG. Upon approval by the group, submit the draft memorandum to TWDB for comments.
- 7) RWPG consideration and discussion of potential regional policy issues; identification and articulation of recommendations for legislative, administrative, and regulatory rule changes; and negotiations toward RWPG consensus.
- 8) Review of the chapter document and related information by RWPG members.
- 9) Modifications to the chapter document based on RWPG, public, and or agency comments.
- 10) Submittal of chapter document to TWDB for review and approval; and
- 11) All effort required to obtain final approval of the regional water plan chapter by TWDB.

Deliverables: A completed Chapter 8 shall be delivered in the 2021 RWP as a work product.

Task 9 - Water Infrastructure Funding Recommendations

The objective of this task is to report on how sponsors of recommended WMSPs propose to finance projects as a separate chapter⁴³ to be included in the 2021 RWP.

Work shall include but not be limited to the following:

- 1) In addition to generally meeting all applicable rules and statute requirements governing regional and state water planning under 31 TAC Chapters 357 and 358, this portion of work shall, in particular, include all work necessary to meet all the requirements of 31 TAC §357.44.⁴⁴
- 2) Coordination and communication with sponsoring WUGs, wholesale water providers, and/or other water agencies.
- 3) Perform a survey, including the following work:
 - a) Contacting WMSP sponsors/WUGs.
 - b) Collection and collation of data.

⁴³ This shall be a separate chapter as required by 31 TAC §357.22(b).

⁴⁴ Requirements are further explained in the guidance document *Second Amended General Guidelines for Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Plan Development*.

models plans developed, but is recommended that RWPGs develop plans that would be of use to the types of water users within the RWPA.

These model plans may be included as an internet hyperlink in the RWP; however, the link provided must be an operational link to the document on the RWPG's or designated political subdivision's website.

7.7 RWPG Drought Management Water Management Strategies

For regional water planning purposes, drought management strategies are temporary demand management measures that reduce water use during times of drought by restricting normal economic and domestic activities. Examples of drought management strategies include demand reductions based on drought contingency plan triggers, economic impacts, and/or other factors determined by the planning groups; and pumping restrictions based on drought management plan triggers.

The RWP shall present all drought management WMSs that were:

1. considered and/or evaluated as potentially feasible (including those not recommended);
2. recommended in the RWP (including the associated triggers for implementing each recommended WMS); and,
3. included in the RWP as alternative WMSs (including the associated triggers for implementing each alternative WMS).

7.8 Other Drought-Related Considerations and Recommendations

The RWPG shall consider any relevant recommendations from the Drought Preparedness Council.

The RWPGs shall include, as appropriate, additional recommendations regarding:

1. any other drought management measures that were recommended by the RWPG (including the associated triggers, if applicable);
2. recommendations developed by the RWPG regarding the State's Drought Preparedness Council and the State Drought Preparedness Plan;
3. recommendations developed by the RWPG regarding development of, content of, and implementation of drought contingency plans in the region;
4. recommendations developed by the RWPG regarding current drought management preparation in the RWPA, including drought triggers and actions; and,
5. any other general recommendations regarding drought management in the region or state.

8 Unique Stream Segments and Reservoir Sites and Other Recommendations⁷⁰

Planning groups may make recommendations for designating river and stream segments of unique ecological value and unique sites for reservoir construction; however, the Texas Legislature is responsible for making the official designations of these sites. Planning group recommendations should be clear as to which Unique Stream Segments or Unique Reservoir Sites have been previously designated by the Legislature and which Unique Stream Segments or Unique Reservoir Sites are being recommended for designation by the RWPG, including whether the RWPG recommends that the legislature re-designate a previously designated reservoir site, or not.

⁷⁰ Primarily related to 31 TAC §357.43

8.1 Unique Stream Segments

RWPGs may recommend all or parts of river and stream segments in their respective regions as having “unique ecological values.” To recommend this designation, RWPGs must justify it based on the following criteria:

1. biological function measured as stream segments displaying significant habitat value including both quantity and quality considering degrees of biodiversity, age, and uniqueness including terrestrial, wetland, aquatic, or estuarine habitats;
2. hydrologic function measured as stream segments fringed by habitats that perform valuable hydrologic functions relating to water quality, flood attenuation, flow stabilization, or groundwater recharge and discharge;
3. riparian conservation areas measured as stream segments fringed by significant areas in public ownership including state and federal refuges, wildlife management areas, preserves, parks, mitigation areas, or other areas held by governmental organizations for conservation purposes, or stream segments fringed by other areas managed for conservation purposes under governmentally approved conservation plans;
4. high water quality, exceptional aquatic life, high aesthetic value and spring resources that are significant due to unique or critical habitats and exceptional aquatic life uses dependent on or associated with high water quality; or
5. threatened or endangered species and unique communities defined as sites along streams where water development projects would have significant detrimental effects on state or federally listed threatened and endangered species, and sites along streams significant due to the presence of unique, exemplary, or unusually extensive natural communities.

RWPGs seeking a designation shall forward a recommendation package to the TPWD, who will in turn provide a written evaluation of the proposal within 30 days. If the RWPG is recommending stream segments that were recommended in a previous plan but not designated by the legislature, the recommendation package must be submitted to TPWD for their written evaluation⁷¹. Recommendation packages shall contain a physical description giving the location of the stream segment, along with maps, photographs, and documentation with supporting literature and data that characterizes a site’s unique ecological value addressing criteria in 31 TAC §357.43(b).

Final adopted RWPs shall include the TPWD’s written evaluation. If the Texas Legislature designates a stream or river segment as unique; or if a RWPG recommends that a stream or river segment be classified as unique, each RWPG must quantitatively assess how recommended WMSs in a RWP would affect flows deemed important (by RWPGs) to the stream or river segment in question. Furthermore, assessments shall describe how a RWP would affect the unique features and criteria cited by a RWPG as the impetus for a legislative designation.

8.2 Unique Reservoir Sites

RWPGs may recommend sites for reservoir construction that have “unique value” by including a description of the site, reasons for⁷² the unique designation and expected beneficiaries of water supplies developed at a given site. The following criteria shall be used to determine if a site is unique:

⁷¹ 31 TAC §357.43(b)

⁷² The regional water plan should make explicitly clear whether a recommendation is for a new, additional designation by the legislature, or re-designation of a previously designated reservoir site.

1. site specific reservoir development is recommended as a specific WMS or as a unique reservoir site in a final adopted RWP; or
2. factors such as location, hydrologic, geologic, topographic, water availability, water quality, environmental, cultural, and current development characteristics make a site uniquely suited for either reservoir development to provide water supply for the current planning period; or where it might reasonably be needed to meet water needs beyond the 50-year planning period.

8.3 Other Legislative Recommendations

RWPGs may develop and include in the RWP regulatory, administrative, or legislative recommendations that will facilitate the orderly development, management, and conservation of water resources in Texas, and will facilitate more voluntary water transfers and help the state prepare for and respond to droughts. In addition, they may develop information regarding the potential impacts of recommendations enacted into law once proposed changes are in effect.

9 Reporting of Financing Mechanisms for Water Management Strategies

RWPGs shall assess how local governments, regional authorities, and other political subdivisions in the region would finance the implementation of WMSs and associated WMSPs. RWPGs shall also propose what role the state will have in financing projects identified in the plan, giving particular attention to proposed increases in the level of state participation in funding for regional projects to meet needs beyond the reasonable financing capability of local governments, regional authorities, and other political subdivisions involved in building water infrastructure.⁷³

The RWPG will provide information via an online survey administered by the TWDB and performed by each RWPG. The TWDB will develop a survey instrument and methodology. Each RWPG shall conduct a survey and report findings to the TWDB. The approach will be similar to how the infrastructure financing survey was conducted during the 2011-2016 Regional Water Planning cycle. The TWDB will provide additional instructions and documentation describing the survey methodology and formats for reporting resulting data.

10 Adoption of Plan and Public Participation

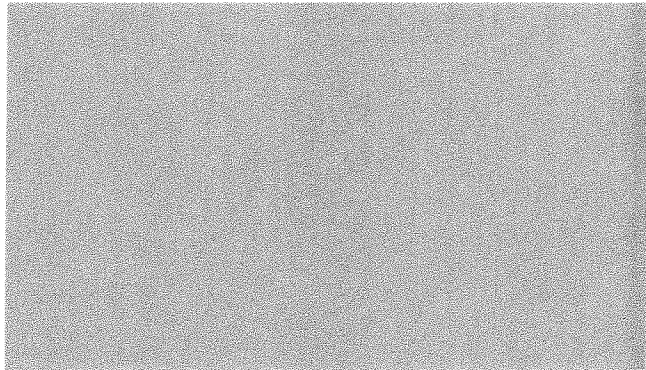
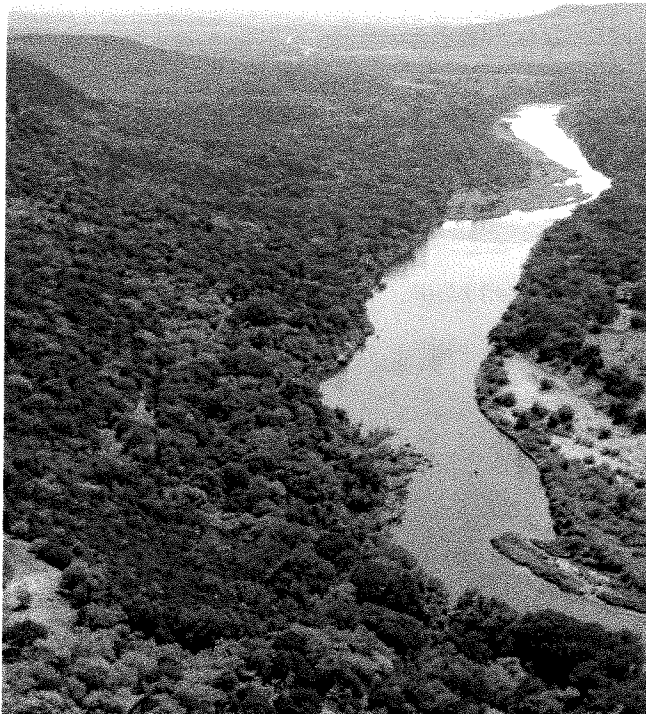
As required by 31 TAC §357.21, the RWPGs shall conduct all business in meetings posted and held in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551, with a copy of all materials presented or discussed available for public inspection prior to and following public meetings. Additional notice requirements referenced in 31 TAC §357.21 shall also be followed when applicable.

The RWPGs shall adopt RWPs and allow for public participation in the RWP adoption process in accordance with administrative rules, the Contract, statute and the RWPG bylaws. Please see the latest TWDB “Regional Water Planning Public Notice Quick-Reference” document for a summary of public notification requirements.

This task includes all work and eligible expenses required to hold meetings and include public input and participation in development of the RWP, including but not limited to:

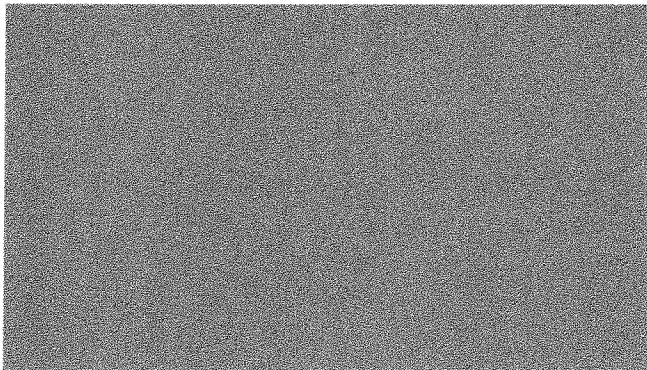
1. holding regular RWPG meetings;
2. posting public notices;

⁷³ TWC §16.053(q)(2)



8

Recommendations for
Unique Stream Segments,
Unique Reservoir Sites, and
Other Legislative Policy
Recommendations





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8 Recommendations for Unique Stream Segments, Unique Reservoir Sites, and Other Legislative Policy Recommendations

8.1 Recommendations Concerning River and Stream Segments Having Unique Ecological Value

Regional water planning groups are given the option of designating stream segments having “unique ecological value” within their planning areas. Five criteria are utilized to identify such segments:

1. Biological Function:

- Quantity (acreage or areal extent of habitat), and
- Quality (biodiversity, age, uniqueness).

2. Hydrologic Function:

- Water Quality,
- Flood Attenuation and Flow Stabilization, and
- Groundwater Recharge and Discharge.

3. Occurrence of Riparian Conservation Areas.

4. Occurrence of High Water Quality, Exceptional Aquatic Life or High Aesthetic Value.

5. Occurrence of Threatened or Endangered Species and/or Unique Communities.

The Brazos G RWPG has chosen not to designate any stream segments as having unique ecological value.

8.2 Recommendations Concerning Sites Uniquely Suited for Reservoir Construction

The Brazos G RWPG has chosen to identify the following five sites as uniquely suited for reservoir construction. Each of these sites is 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).

8.3 Legislative and Policy Recommendations

The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group (Brazos G) established a Water Policy Workgroup to discuss various issues concerning State water policy and to formulate proposed positions for the planning group to consider for recommendation to the TWDB and the Texas Legislature. As the population and economic demands grow, water supplies become more stressed. These developments coupled with recent drought conditions make it increasingly important for water planning groups to consider diverse water management strategies.

Regional water planning rules require use of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Water Availability Models in determining surface water supply availability. The period of record for most existing TCEQ Water Availability Models ends with the year 1997. In some parts of the State, and possibly in some portions of the Brazos River Basin, hydrologic conditions since 1997 may be worse than conditions experienced prior to 1997. Therefore, firm water availability from existing surface water supply sources and from new surface water supply strategies may be overstated. As a result, water shortages may exist that are not apparent in the regional and State water plans. Brazos G considers it prudent to explore alternatives to the historic drought of record for water planning purposes. As more diverse water management planning strategies are developed alternative water planning measurements may include firm yield, safe yield and/or operational yield as appropriate. In addition, the water planning process requires coordination with agencies such as the TCEQ and the TWDB. These agencies need sufficient funding and staffing in order to assist water planning groups in fulfilling their water planning mission. Also, funding should be provided for TCEQ to update the hydrology for all Water Availability Models (WAMs) to extend through 2016 to account for the ongoing drought with additional funding for regular maintenance updates.

Brazos G will promote water development policies that support efforts to protect both groundwater and surface water sources by encouraging sound practices that will not adversely affect water supply or quality. We support other agencies and organizations in their efforts to encourage responsible land management and will oppose any practice or action in our watersheds or recharge zones that could adversely affect our water resources. Maintaining our watershed health, economic sustainability, and community viability are all critical elements in our water planning efforts. Protecting source water and sensible stewardship of the areas adjacent to and around river basins, sensitive sub-basins, aquifers, and recharge zones is essential for maintaining these resources for present and future needs.

For the 2016 Plan, the Water Policy Workgroup revisited several legislative and water policy recommendations that had been incorporated into the 2006 Plan. The Water Policy Workgroup also reviewed the specific legislative and water policy recommendations that had been incorporated into the 2011 Plan. The Water Policy Workgroup offered specific revised recommendations to the full planning group for consideration.

Brazos G offers the following specific recommendations concerning State water policy to the TWDB and the Texas Legislature.

Issue #1: Streamlining the Permitting Processes for Project Implementation

“Brazos G recommends that the Legislature direct all State agencies involved in planning and/or permitting water projects to streamline the process of evaluating, approving, permitting, and funding in order to allow timely project implementation. The amount of time required to gain approval for surface water projects is just one example of the need for more streamlined processes.”

Issue #2: Plan Implementation

“Brazos G recognizes the need for expeditious implementation of the State Water Plan facilitated by the use of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT).”

Issue #3: Coordination between Regional Water Planning Groups and Groundwater Conservation Districts

“Brazos G is committed to working cooperatively with Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) when developing the Regional Plan. The GCDs are requested to review water demand, population projections, and water availability numbers for their respective Districts and comment accordingly.

Brazos G recognizes, pursuant to SB 660, that GCDs are statutorily required to determine the amount of groundwater that is available for use in the Regional Water Plan. SB 660, passed by the 82nd Texas Legislature (2011), outlines a process by which Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) figures are supplied to the GMA and its member GCDs. MAG is the amount of water that may be withdrawn while maintaining or achieving the Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) adopted by the GCDs within a GMA. "Desired future condition" means a quantitative description of the desired condition of the groundwater resources in a management area at one or more specified future times.

Regional water plans are required to use the MAGs in place at the time of adoption of TWDB's state water plan in the next regional water planning cycle or, at the option of the regional water planning group, established subsequent to the adoption of the most recent plan.

The use of DFCs to take a long term view of the health of aquifers and MAG to allow the use of groundwater for beneficial purposes without depleting aquifers is consistent with Brazos G's historical policy that does not allow the adoption of water management strategies that will substantially deplete the aquifers.

However, the strict use of MAGs can restrict the ability of planning groups to develop feasible regional water plans. Therefore, a planning group should be allowed to exceed a MAG within a tolerance agreed to by the applicable groundwater conservation district, recognizing that protection of local aquifer systems will be accomplished through oversight and management by groundwater conservation districts.”

Issue #4: System Operation of Water Facilities

“Brazos G recognizes the inherent benefit of system operations of existing water supply sources and recommends that State water planning as well as permitting continue to promote such water management strategies.

System operation involves coordinated operation of two or more water supply sources (including surface water reservoirs and run-of-river diversions, as well as groundwater aquifers) such that the system yield is greater than the sum of the individual sources.

System operation provides several significant benefits to the State, including: better utilization of existing infrastructure; efficient use of water supplies to meet needs; delay or avoidance of expensive new water supply infrastructure; and reduced environmental impact potentially occurring due to major new projects.”

Issue #5: Outdated Hydrology Used for Surface Water Supply Availability

“Regional water planning rules require use of the TCEQ Water Availability Models in determining surface water supply availability. The period of record for existing TCEQ Water Availability Models ends with the year 1997. In some parts of the State, and possibly in some portions of the Brazos River Basin, hydrologic conditions since 1997 may be worse than conditions experienced prior to 1997. Therefore, firm water availability from existing surface water supply sources and from new surface water supply strategies may be overstated. As a result, water shortages may exist that aren’t apparent in the regional and State water plans. The TCEQ should be adequately funded to update the hydrology for all WAMS to extend through 2016 to account for the ongoing drought and additional annual funding should be provided for regular maintenance updates.”

Issue #6: Interbasin Transfers of Surface Water

“Brazos G recognizes that Interbasin Transfers have been a critical component of water management in Region G and are a necessary component of overall State water management strategies. The automatic assignment of junior rights to an interbasin water transfer is a deterrent and suppresses the development of interbasin water supply projects. We recommend the re-evaluation of the junior water rights provision that is automatically assigned to interbasin transfers. We also recommend that statutory rules, policies and administrative code be reviewed and the permitting and review process be streamlined to eliminate any unnecessary obstacles to IBT’s.”

Issue #7: Rule of Capture

“While Brazos G recognizes that the Rule of Capture remains valid law in Texas, we also recognize that advances in science, changes in water marketing, recent Texas Supreme Court rulings, and increasing pressures on groundwater add complexity to this issue.

The State groundwater supply is being tapped to its limits, and in many instances, landowners risk loss due to depletion by over-pumping. Local control through checks and balances can most effectively and fairly regulate usage and protect individual property rights. Groundwater Conservation Districts are the appropriate mechanisms to provide local control of groundwater, to fairly preserve historic use, ensure future sustainability, and protect private property rights – both the rights of those pumping groundwater, and their neighbors.

As such, Brazos G supports the continued management of fresh, brackish, and saline groundwater by groundwater conservation districts.”

Issue #8: Conjunctive Use of Groundwater and Surface Water

“Brazos G recognizes conjunctive use as an important management strategy. Conjunctive use is the systematic utilization of groundwater and surface water to optimize the combined yield from both sources. Conjunctive use seeks to maximize the advantages and minimize the disadvantages of each source when both are utilized together. As conjunctive use projects are recognized, they should be included as management strategies for the regional water plan. Brazos G encourages development of conjunctive use projects. Construction of surface water reservoirs, which provide new sources of water, along with judicious use of groundwater resources, which can be a finite quantity, will provide an integrated solution for the water needs of the future.”

Issue #9: Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR)

“ASR projects have the potential to store large amounts of water, eliminate evaporative losses of stored water, and minimize the impact on surface owners when compared to large reservoir projects. While ASR projects could be beneficial, there are a number of questions regarding ownership of the injected water, percentage of injected water that is recoverable, impact to existing users, the appropriate degree of oversight for Groundwater Conservation Districts in the development and permitting of these projects, and the quality to which injected water must be treated. An improved legal/public policy framework is needed to address these issues and enhance adoption. We support groundwater conservation districts having the authority to monitor ASR projects and enact rules to regulate and protect ASR supplies and ensure there are no detrimental impacts to the existing groundwater supplies or private property rights or the entity injecting the water for the ASR. Further, we recommend that these water management strategies include sufficient hydrologic study to protect receiving aquifers.”

Issue #10: Municipal Per Capita Water Use

“Brazos G recommends the regional water planning process be changed to separate commercial and residential water use and look at both individually. The current practice of using a city’s overall gallons per capita/day unfairly characterizes some cities as water wasters. Cities with a vibrant commercial sector see an influx of workers and customers commuting in and raising water usage, which is then applied to the resident population. Also, there needs to be consistency in the calculations of GPCD, and better guidance as to whether regional planning groups are to use raw water delivered or treated water provided in calculating GPCD numbers.”

Issue # 11: Reservoir Water Management

“Brazos G recognizes that the primary purpose of conservation storage capacity in Texas reservoirs authorized for water supply is, in fact, water supply. Although recreational and aesthetic benefits of these reservoirs may provide economic impacts locally, these are secondary incidental benefits. Therefore, we recommend that appropriate State agencies and State legislative bodies uphold the critically important primary purpose of Texas water supply reservoirs to ensure long-standing agreements and contracts are met and deliveries are not jeopardized by secondary interests. Further, consideration of providing

educational programs regarding reservoir purpose and management and other appropriate assistance for businesses and others impacted is recommended.”

Issue #12: Support for Brush Control Projects as Viable Water Management Strategies

“Brazos G supports brush control projects as water management strategies and encourages the Texas legislature to instruct the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board to allow funding for these projects, via its Water Supply Enhancement Program, even if they are not included in a Regional Water Plan or the State Water Plan. Brush control projects are often not included in water plans due to the difficulty of assigning a specific amount of new water contributed; however, such projects may have a positive impact on aquifer recharge and stream flows.”

Issue #13: Watershed Planning/Source Water Protection

“Brazos G will promote water development policies that support efforts to protect both groundwater and surface water sources by encouraging sound practices that will not adversely affect water supply or quality. We support other agencies and organizations in their efforts to encourage responsible land management and will oppose any practice or action in our watersheds or recharge zones that could adversely affect our water resources. Maintaining our watershed health, economic sustainability and community viability are all critical elements in our water planning efforts. Sensible stewardship of the areas adjacent to and around river basins, sensitive sub-basins, aquifers and re-charge zones is essential for maintaining these resources. Through source water protection, Texas can promote equitable costs for present and future water sources.”

Issue #14: Water Pricing and Conservation

“Brazos G encourages retail water providers to seriously consider implementing appropriate rate structures that would be consistent with best management practices for conserving water. Properly designed rate structures allow a consistent price signal to the ratepayer, without resulting in over earnings to the utility. This increasingly favored approach heightens the interest in water conservation to the end users.”

Issue #15: Integrating Water Quality and Water Supply Considerations

“Brazos G continues to support existing efforts of regulatory agencies to protect current and future sources of drinking water, including both groundwater and surface water supplies. Brazos G, as well as the regulatory agencies, is committed to ensuring both the quality and quantity of water for our constituents. Furthermore, Brazos G encourage all governmental agencies, when making regulatory or permitting decisions or influencing decisions regarding land and resource use, to give preference to alternatives to protect or enhance the quality of water so that such water resources may be utilized for beneficial use. As a planning group, protecting and enhancing these resources and sustaining our supply will always be among Brazos G’s priority commitments.”



Issue #16: Education

“Research indicates that there is a strong relationship between knowledge of water sources and a willingness to conserve. Conservation is the most cost-effective means of securing future water supply. Brazos G believes strongly that water education is important and supports water conservation and public awareness programs at the state and local level.”

Issue #17: Effects of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) on Water Supply Systems

“Brazos G recognizes the difficulty in meeting the standards of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act for some water supply systems. Therefore, we encourage the regionalization of these systems, and/or education and proactive planning.”

Brazos G is one the most diverse regional water planning areas in Texas, covering 37 counties along the Brazos River Basin. The geographic area extends from Kent, Stonewall and Knox Counties in the northwest to Washington and Lee Counties in the southeast.

For sixteen years, Brazos G has been an important platform in regional water planning. Its central mission is to develop a regional water plan. The planning process is the true added value. Bringing together perspectives from agriculture, industries, municipalities, counties, small business, water utilities, the public, electric utilities, groundwater management representatives, environmental and river authorities has helped to enhance the overall water planning process.

Brazos G does not operate in a vacuum. We use resources such as our consultant, HDR Engineering, Inc., to collect reliable data to include in our regional water plan. We reach out to constituents in the 37 counties as we develop the regional water plan. We engage with other stakeholders in addressing water planning issues. Our planning group meetings are forums for vetting ideas for or against water planning ideas. This process encourages transparency.

Brazos G serves an important role as an entry point for public engagement in the water planning process. This role also makes it a good resource for the State Legislature as it grapples with the realities of an ongoing drought, a burgeoning population, and strong economic development.

We welcome such a role and stand ready to be of assistance.



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