



Water Policy Committee

Thursday, August 1, 2024

1:30 PM

Brazos River Authority

Lt. Gen. Phillip J. Ford Central Office

4600 Cobbs Dr. Waco, TX 76710



- 1. Call Meeting to Order and Notice of Meeting**
- 2. Invocation**
- 3. Attendance and Announcements**
- 4. Public Input - Public questions and comments on agenda items or water planning issues (limited to 5 minutes each)**



- 5. Discussion and possible action on policy items presented by Technical Consultant for potential consideration of the Brazos G RWPG**
 - 5.1. Review and discussion of proposed modifications to policy recommendations**
 - 5.2. Additional item(s) identified over current planning process**
 - 5.3. Discussion on path forward**

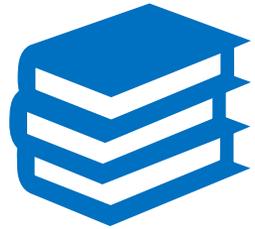
Brazos G Policy Committee

Item 5

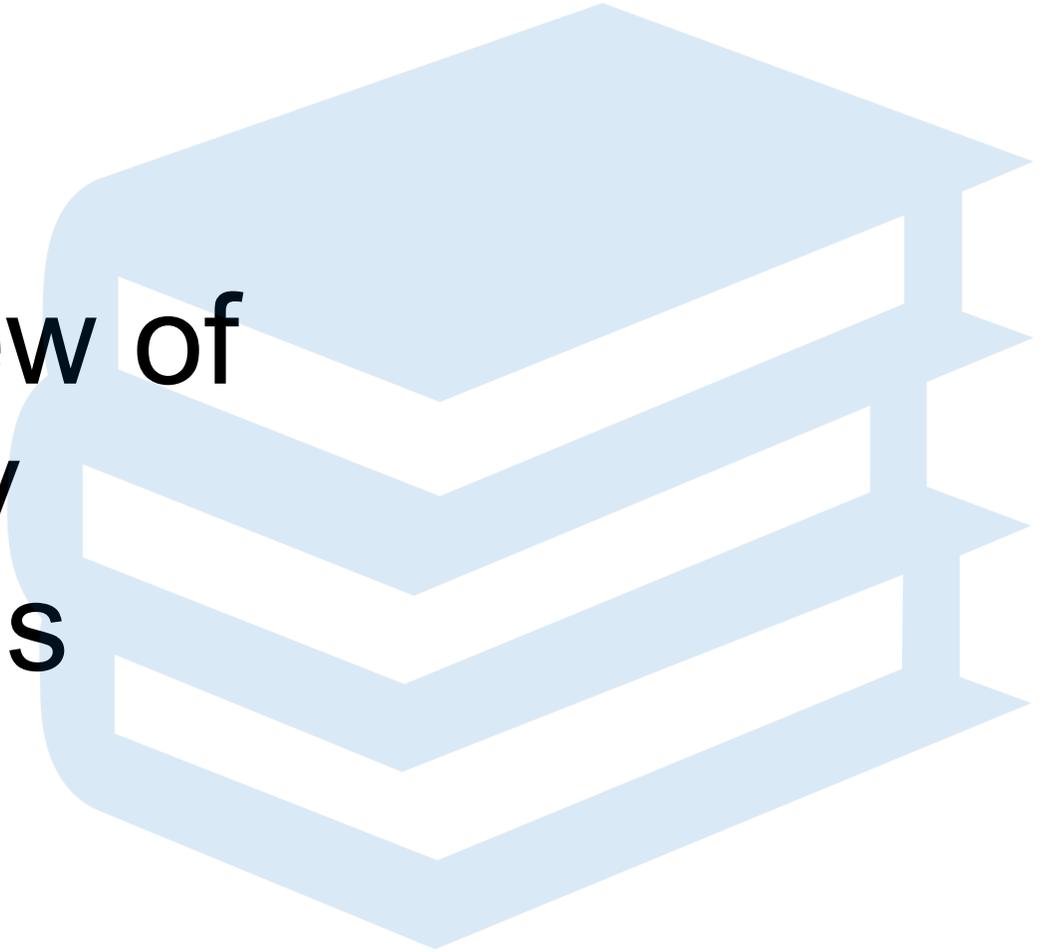
Discussion and Possible Action on Policy Language



WACO, TX AUGUST 1, 2024



Preliminary Review of Chapter 8 - Policy Recommendations



Item No.	Volunteer	Comments
4	Consultant	Include language on education materials available from TWDB (website). Consider proactive language regarding regional dissemination of information.
6	Gary Westbrook	Volunteered to provide language: Groundwater related, other groundwater participants (Zach and Lynn) were asked to coordinate if needed.
7	Kenny Weldon and Gary Westbrook	Volunteered to provide language to include water loss audit program & Asset management program
11	Lynn Smith	Volunteered to provide some language for this item (context: follow up on his previous email on aquifer storage recovery)
15	Gary Westbrook	Gary indicated Items 7 and 15 are correlated, volunteered to contribute to developing language for this item.
18	Kenny Weldon	Volunteered to draft language for this item
19	Consultant, Wayne Wilson, Kenny Weldon	2 nd bullet: Remove “through sub-regional planning.” Coordinate with Kenny to add language supporting continued funding for asset management for small systems.
20	Consultant	Remove as no longer applicable. Concern over regional planning groups being seen as regulatory entities.
24	Gail Peek	Volunteered to provide updated, revised language for “Brazos G A Valuable Resource”. (DONE)
NEW	Gary Westbrook	Volunteered to brainstorm some ideas with consultant and send email with some proper language. Related to MAGs

Number	Topic	Summary of Brazos G 2021 Recommendation
1	Recommendations Concerning River and Stream Segments Having Unique Ecological Value	Brazos G has chosen not to designate any stream segments as having unique ecological value.
2	Recommendations Concerning Sites Uniquely Suited for Reservoir Construction	<p>Brazos G has previously identified the following sites as uniquely suited for reservoir construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 Authority) ▪ Brushy Creek Reservoir (City of Marlin) ▪ Coryell County Off-Channel Reservoir (Coryell County)
3	Legislative and Policy Recommendations	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 Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and the Texas Legislature.
4	Streamlining the Processes for Project Implementation	Brazos G recommends the Texas Legislature direct State agencies to streamline approval process for water projects.

Number	Topic	Summary of Brazos G 2021 Recommendation
5	Plan Implementation	Brazos G recognizes the need for expeditious delivery of the State Water Plan through the use of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas.
6	Coordination between Regional Water Planning Groups and Groundwater Conservation Districts	Brazos G recommends (1) that GCDs review population and water demand projections and comment accordingly and (2) additional effort be made to incorporate regional water plan projects into the groundwater availability model pumping dataset.
7	System Operation of Water Facilities	Brazos G recommends that the State water planning process continue to promote water management strategies that include system operations of existing water supply sources.
8	<u>Interbasin</u> Transfers of Surface Water	Brazos G recommends review and streamlining of statutory rules, policies, and administrative code related to <u>interbasin</u> transfers (IBTs) to remove deterrents to IBTs. Particularly, Brazos G feels that the automatic assignment of junior rights to an IBT is a deterrent to developing these strategies.

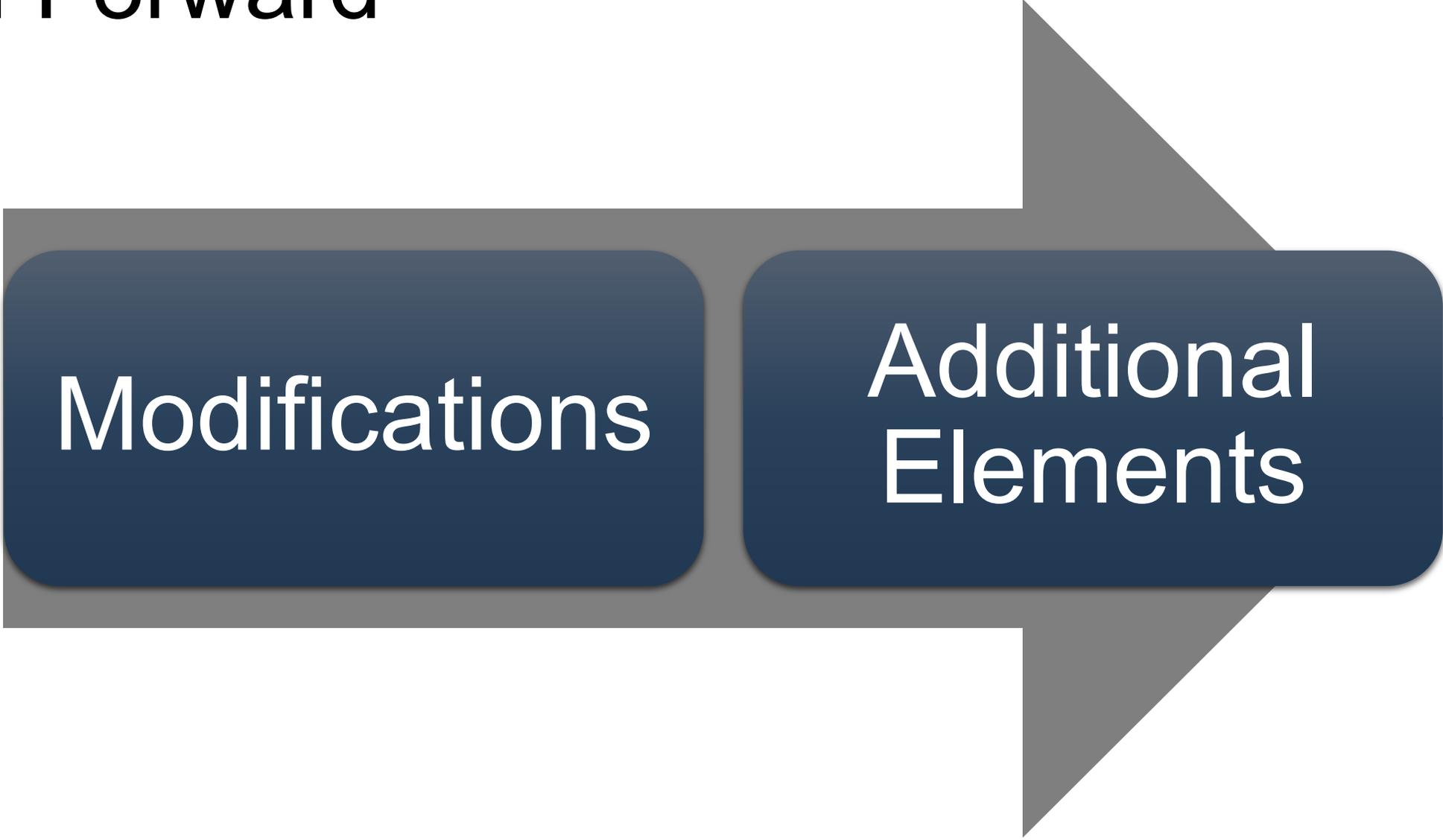
Number	Topic	Summary of Brazos G 2021 Recommendation
9	Rule of Capture	Brazos G recognizes the rule of capture, <u>and also</u> supports continued management of fresh, brackish, and saline groundwater by GCDs, including defining brackish groundwater zones.
10	Conjunctive Use of Groundwater and Surface Water	Brazos G encourages development of conjunctive use projects and applicable water quality and environmental issues related to conjunctive use.
11	Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) and Aquifer Recharge Project (ARP)	Brazos G recommends that water management strategies that include ASR include <u>sufficient</u> hydrologic study to protect receiving aquifers.
12	Municipal Per Capita Water Use	Brazos G recommends the regional water planning process be changed to separate non-residential and residential water use and look at both separately to account for variation of land use <u>or</u> density of water user group (WUG) service areas.
13	Reservoir Water Management	<p>Brazos G recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate State agencies and State legislative bodies uphold the primary purpose of reservoirs as water supplies over secondary incidental benefits of recreation and aesthetic benefits. ▪ Appropriate State agencies and State legislative bodies provide support for educational programs regarding reservoir purpose and management, as well as other appropriate assistance for businesses and others impacted by reservoir management ▪ Appropriate State agencies and State legislative bodies protect water supply reservoirs from future policies or rules that would convert reservoirs from water supply purposes to flood control purposes

Number	Topic	Summary of Brazos G 2021 Recommendation
14	Watershed Planning/Source Water Protection	Brazos G encourages all governmental agencies, when making regulatory/ 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.
15	Water Pricing and Conservation	Brazos G encourages water providers to consider implementing appropriate rate structures consistent with best management practices in the industry. Brazos G also encourages state agencies responsible for regulating rate structures to provide water providers with the ability to not only cover cost of service but allow rate structure to act as a tool in recovering known future costs of developing or acquiring water resources.
16	Reuse of Wastewater Effluent	Brazos G promotes development of municipal wastewater effluent as a water resource and supports state agencies' and organizations' efforts to develop this resource.
17	Education	Brazos G supports water education at the State and local level.
18	Effects of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) on Water Supply Systems	Brazos G supports regionalization, education, and proactive planning to aid some water supply systems in meeting Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Number	Topic	Summary of Brazos G 2021 Recommendation
19	Planning Process Improvements	<p>Brazos G recommends the Texas Legislature provide funding and direction to TWDB to adopt policies in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic initiatives: TWDB should provide funds for strategic initiatives as identified by regional water planning groups. ▪ Planning support for small systems: TWDB should provide support and funding for closer coordination with small systems through <u>subregional</u> planning. ▪ Mid-cycle legislative requirements: The Texas Legislature should not change the requirements of regional water plans after the current planning cycle has commenced without also providing additional funding.
20	Consistency of Water Planning Rules with Texas Administrative Code	<p>Planning guidelines promulgated by the TWDB often appear to exceed the requirements of the Texas Administrative Code, and planning funds might better be utilized focused on the development of plans to provide the water supplies necessary to meet projected demands during severe droughts and not on ancillary, albeit important, issues.</p>
21	Brazos G – A Valuable Texas Resource	<p>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 Texas 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 assist.</p>

Number	Topic	Summary of Brazos G 2021 Recommendation
NEW	Differences between MAG amounts and the realities of permitting	<p>Brazos G RWPG's Groundwater Committee recommended on Jan. 17, 2024, and the Brazos G RWPG adopted on Feb. 13, 2024 the following:</p> <p><i>“Encourage RWPG to look at including in the appropriate chapter and through our policy committee to raise the concerns expressed in this and prior discussions to the TWDB and ask that they revisit their rules on how they review the MAG and its use in SWIFT funding.”</i></p>

Path Forward



Modifications

Additional
Elements

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6. Consider Agenda Items and Date for the next Water Policy Committee public meeting, if needed.



7. Adjourn