

**BRAZOS G RWPG
WATER POLICY WORKGROUP
Recommendations
2/22-23/2005**

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

TOPIC:

GROUNDWATER: COORDINATION BETWEEN GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS AND REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUPS (Issue #1)

BRAZOS G RWPG POLICY RECOMMENDATION:

“The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group is committed to working cooperatively with Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCD’s) when developing the Regional Plan. Brazos G urges participation from the GCD’s early on in the process of planning. The GCD’s are requested to review water demand, population projections, and water availability numbers for their respective Districts and comment accordingly.

Brazos G is committed to the sustainable use of groundwater and will not adopt water management strategies that will substantially deplete the aquifers. Brazos G does recognize that there are several definitions of sustainability. The Brazos G Planning Group will determine the necessary philosophy of sustainability in accordance with aquifer conditions and any applicable state rules and regulations.

If there are disagreements between the Brazos G and a GCD, the GCD must notify the Brazos G Administrative Agency and consultants and then try to work out any differences. If the differences cannot be worked out, the issue will be referred to the Groundwater Committee of the Brazos G and they will consider and recommend to the entire Group any necessary action.”



TOPIC:

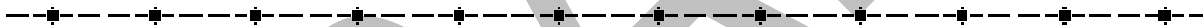
SURFACE WATER: SYSTEM OPERATION OF WATER FACILITIES (Issue #2)

BRAZOS G RWPG POLICY RECOMMENDATION:

“The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group 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 reservoirs and run-of-river diversions) 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; increased water supply to meet needs; delay or avoidance of expensive new water supply infrastructure; and, reduced environmental impact potentially occurring due to major new projects.”



TOPIC:

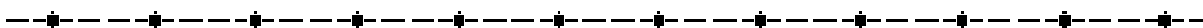
GROUNDWATER: RULE OF CAPTURE (Issue #4)

BRAZOS G RWPG POLICY RECOMMENDATION:

“While the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group recognizes that the Rule of Capture has a history of over 100 years in Texas, the Group also recognizes the advances in science and changes in water marketing that now face us.

The Group recognizes that the state groundwater supply is being threatened and, in many instances landowners risk loss due to depletion by unlimited pumping by their neighbors.

Local control through checks and balances can most effectively and fairly regulate usage. When the public chooses, groundwater conservation districts are the appropriate mechanisms to provide local control of groundwater. They should continue to develop policy and legislation to fairly protect both historic use and future sustainability.”

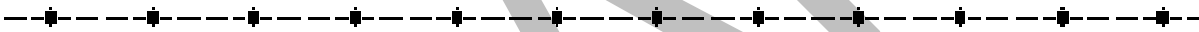


TOPIC:

GROUNDWATER: SUSTAINABILITY AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT (Issue #5)

BRAZOS G RWPG POLICY RECOMMENDATION:

“The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group is committed to the sustainable use of groundwater. The sustainable use of groundwater is an approach to the use of groundwater that does not result essentially in the total depletion of the groundwater resource or the deterioration of the environmental quality of the area dependant on the groundwater resource. There are several key benchmarks that may be used to determine the annual amount of sustainable groundwater use in an area (availability). The benchmarks that may be employed to determine groundwater availability include but are not limited to; the amount of draw down from current water levels that is allowable, the maintenance of spring flows or aquifer contributions to surface water systems or the amount of recharge occurring in the aquifer.”



TOPIC:

GROUNDWATER: CONJUNCTIVE USE OF GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER (Issue #6)

BRAZOS G RWPG POLICY RECOMMENDATION:

“Brazos G RWPG recognizes conjunctive use as an important management strategy. Conjunctive use is the systematic blending of groundwater with 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 blended together. As conjunctive use projects are recognized, they should be included as management strategies for the regional water plan. Water providers should explore resources and mechanisms which promote conjunctive use projects. Brazos G RWPG encourages development of conceptual modeling for alternative conjunctive use projects, including aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) operations as needed.”



TOPIC:

OTHER ISSUES: EDUCATION (Issue #10)

BRAZOS G RWPG POLICY RECOMMENDATION:

“Brazos G RWPG believes strongly that water education is important and recommends to the State Legislature creation of a Water Conservation Awareness Program through TWDB, and funding for ongoing water education programs through river authorities, and similar programs.”



TOPIC:

**CONSERVATION: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DROUGHT CONTINGENCY
PLANNING AND REGIONAL WATER PLANNING (Issue #11)**

BRAZOS G RWPG POLICY RECOMMENDATION:

NO POLICY RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKGROUP.

