



## WEST-CENTRAL-TEXAS-MUNICIPAL-WATER-DISTRICT

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July 11, 2006

Scott Diermann  
Chairperson, Scope of Work Committee  
Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group  
c/o Brazos River Authority (Attn: Teresa Clark)  
4600 Cobbs Drive  
Waco TX 76710

Dear Mr. ~~Diermann~~ *Scott*:

The Scope of Work Committee is scheduled to meet later this week. The primary agenda topic is the identification of tasks for Round 3 of the Brazos G Regional Water Plan. The City of Abilene and the District have collaborated to suggest several tasks that have priority for the West Central area, as well as the entire area of Brazos Region G. Representation will be provided at the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to urge the inclusion of these tasks in the list to be presented at the July 26<sup>th</sup> public hearing.

The purpose of this letter is to provide formal notice to you and your committee concerning the general content of our task recommendations. Additional details of our proposals have been sent to David Dunn at HDR Engineers so that he will also be prepared (at his technical level of detail) to consider the tasks we are recommending. We would like to recommend six (6) specific tasks which would enhance planning for our upper basin area, as well as the entire Brazos G Planning Region:

- 1) Our primary interest is that TWDB consider alternative growth measures or options beyond their single set of projections of census data from the year 2000 (see the attached District letter dated August 22, 2005). The task proposed will develop guidelines for alternative population projects and consider the consequences of those projections for water supplies and water strategies as contained in the Region G Water Plan for 2006. Such information can be beneficial to the entire Brazos G Planning Region.
- 2) A second interest of concern is about the Hubbard Creek Reservoir being a primary water supply source for the West Central Brazos area well beyond the end of the current 50 year planning horizon. Immediately east of the reservoir and extending across Stephens County to the Possum Kingdom Reservoir is an extensive network of ongoing oil production facilities. These oil facilities have been involved in significant leakage incidents over past years. This task proposes to increase the protection of reservoir water quality by analyzing the quantity, quality, and pressure of shallow groundwater in Stephens County at selected critical locations. Based on results, the potential to depressurize and re-inject brines into lower (safer) formations would be determined. A follow-up activity would implement this water quality protection effort if feasible.
- 3) The third interest in our review of needs focuses on those strategies within the 2006 Brazos G Regional Water Plan that include reuse (of wastewater effluents) as current and potential water supplies. Specifically in the upper Brazos Basin, the City of Abilene has an active reuse program. The West Central Brazos System Optimization Strategy in the 2006 Brazos G Plan includes reuse. This task proposes the collection and analysis of "baseline" data on the unique water quality parameters associated with reuse water, and in particular when reuse water is used to augment a water supply such as Hubbard Creek Reservoir or similar reservoirs within the Brazos G Region. Sampling

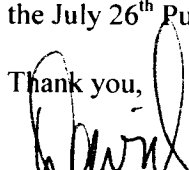
would likely be conducted at the discharge of the Abilene Wastewater Treatment Facilities, in the Clear Fork of the Brazos near the Highway 183 Bridge, which is adjacent to Hubbard Creek Reservoir, and in Hubbard Creek Reservoir. Study results would be analyzed to suggest best implementation strategies for the future use of Hubbard Creek reservoir when discharging (scalping) low-flows of the Clear Fork into Hubbard Creek Reservoir to augment the water supply of Hubbard Creek Reservoir.

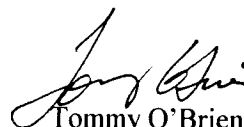
- 4) Our fourth interest is concerned with the increasing use of reverse osmosis water treatment facilities across the region. The disposal of brine concentrates from these facilities is a significant problem. This proposed task would inventory current and proposed strategies and uses of RO and the likely disposal method at each facility. Cost and design considerations for each disposal method would be determined and best practices recommendations developed. Specifically to be included in this task would be the potential for use of oil field secondary recovery sites as brine disposal options.
- 5) A fifth concern recognizes the basic element of the Texas Water Plan that encourages regional solutions. Numerous small water treatment facilities, those serving communities under 3300 persons, are just now forced to comply with the regulations set forth by the Safe Drinking Water Act and enforced by the USEPA and TCEQ. Similar regulations have already impacted larger treatment facilities. This task proposes to "benchmark" small water treatment facilities within the Brazos G Region and develop a best options guidance document for the decision makers (elected officials) responsible for these facilities. Options to be considered would include cooperative maintenance, purchasing, staffing, and ultimately complete regionalization of facilities and/or operations.
- 6) Finally, debate has increased over time concerning the impact of stock tanks on the declining yield of reservoirs. As allowed by previous legislation, individual land-owners are allowed to construct impoundments with volumes less than 200 acre-feet. This proposed task would inventory such impoundments (stock tanks) within specific Brazos G reservoir watersheds on a decade by decade basis. Hydrologic analysis would determine whether the yield impact of stock tanks on existing water supply reservoirs deserves further study and potentially new stock tank rules for consideration by the State legislators. Issues related to private property rights should not be ignored. Future phases of this type study should include invasive plant species and changes in land use.

The above ideas are a mixture of West Central Brazos issues and broader Brazos G Regional issues. The City and District are prepared to further work with BGRWPG, consultants, and other Region G participants to enhance, modify, and ultimately propose these tasks to be included within round 3 of the Texas Water Plan.

We will be glad to respond to questions from the Committee. Thank you for the consideration of these tasks. Based on available feedback from your July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will further support our proposals at the July 26<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing.

Thank you,

  
David Bell  
General Manager, WCTMWD

  
Tommy O'Brien  
Utilities Director, City of Abilene

Attached:  
August 22, 2005 Letter to Mr. Michael Morrison, BGRWPG  
October 7, 2005 Letter to Ms. Phyllis Thomas, TWDB

CC: Kathy Webster, Teresa Clark, Tim Fambrough, Mike McGuire, Dale Spurgin, David Vela, and David Dunn