

Agenda Item 6.4
Responses to Questions Posed by
TWDB in June 27, 2007 Letter

October 24, 2007



What we will discuss today:

- ✓ Highlights of TWDB letter sent July 27, 2007
- ✓ Responses suggested by Scope of Work Committee
- ✓ Discussion/approval of letter to TWDB



TWDB Letter, June 27, 2007

- ✓ TWDB received appropriations for regional water planning activities for fiscal years 2008 and 2009.
- ✓ TWDB seeks RWPG input prior to soliciting applications for planning funds.
- ✓ TWDB poses 4 questions.
- ✓ TWDB will use input from RWPGs to draft “appropriate” request for applications.
- ✓ Requests RWPG input by November 1, 2007.

TWDB Questions

1. What activities do you anticipate your region will need to accomplish in order to meet statute and rule requirements in adopting your 2011 Regional Water Plan?
2. What region-specific issues would your planning group like to address and incorporate into your 2011 Regional Water Plan?
3. What are your recommendations to the TWDB for allocation to the planning groups of the funding appropriated to complete the 2011 Regional Water Plans?
4. Would the planning group be willing to enter into one contract for the entire scope of work required to complete the 2011 Regional Water Plans with the last year of funding contingent on legislative appropriations?

Proposed Responses

1. What activities do you anticipate your region will need to accomplish in order to meet statute and rule requirements in adopting your 2011 Regional Water Plan?
 - What are new/changed requirements?
 - Need to incorporate new information:
 - ✓ Results of current studies
 - ✓ TWDB studies
 - ✓ **Ongoing 5 Brazos G studies**
 - ✓ Updated demands
 - ✓ Updated supply estimates
 - ✓ New directions by some WUGs and WWP
 - ✓ Results of recent or ongoing TWDB studies

Current 5 Studies

1. Impacts of drought on water supplies in upper Brazos G Region.
2. Re-evaluate water management strategies in the Nolan County area.
3. Regionalization strategies to assist small water systems in meeting new SDWA requirements.
4. Refine water management strategies for Johnson County.
5. Refine water management strategies for McLennan County.

In order to fully address this question, we will need to know what revisions to the statute and rule requirements will be made related to development of the 2011 Regional Water Plans. In addition, we believe the 2011 Brazos G Regional Water Plan should incorporate the following new information:

- Results from the current five studies. This will likely include updated municipal water demands in Johnson and McLennan Counties.
- Updated demands to address changing conditions in the region, especially related to electric generation, mining, and municipal uses.
- Updated supply estimates, specifically related to:
 - updated groundwater availability estimates resulting from the Groundwater Management Area process,
 - correct incorporation of the results of recent and ongoing water rights permitting activities by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,
 - incorporation of the effects of new environmental flow targets (instream flows) on available water supplies needs to be taken into account, and
 - accounting for the potential effects of global climate change.
- New or modified directions that some Water User Groups or Wholesale Water Providers may be taking related to future water supplies.
- Results of ongoing or recently-completed statewide and regional studies, including:
 - Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) study of the effects of small impoundments, and
 - TWDB study of water needs related to Barnett Shale energy exploration.

Proposed Responses

2. What region-specific issues would your planning group like to address and incorporate into your 2011 Regional Water Plan?

- **Information from current 5 studies**
- **Revised/updated demands – where are demands substantially different from 2006 projections?**
- **Other studies requested but not funded**
- **Effects of Barnett Shale energy exploration on Brazos G water supplies**

Requested Studies not Funded

- 1. Evaluate changes to municipal water demands, supplies and strategies due to accelerated or desired growth.**
- 2. Updated evaluation of sources and control of chloride pollution.**
- 3. Participate in HB1763 process to assist GMA's in establishing desired future conditions.**
- 4. Update effects of reservoir sedimentation on supply and identify strategies for control.**
- 5. Augment water supplies in tributary areas.**
- 6. Impacts of stock tanks and small ponds on reservoir yields.**
- 7. Water quality aspects of indirect reuse as a water management strategy.**



The 2011 Brazos G Regional Water Plan should include the results from the current five studies, all of which address region-specific issues. In addition, the plan should include the following information. Several of these are items for which the Brazos G RWPG requested funding, but are not currently funded by the TWDB:

- Evaluate changes to municipal water demands, supplies and strategies due to accelerated or desired growth. Water demands for many Water User Groups in the Brazos G Area appear to be greatly accelerated over the projections utilized in the 2006 Brazos G Plan. This indicates that growth rates in certain portions of Brazos G are greater than assumed in the TWDB projections.
- Updated evaluation of sources and control of chloride pollution. This study would identify and quantify the impacts of proposed upper basin chloride control projects on the need for desalination of water diverted from the main stem of the Brazos River at Possum Kingdom Reservoir and points further downstream.
- Augmentation of water supplies in areas of the Brazos Basin that are tributary to the main stem. Many of the reservoirs in these areas are fully committed to existing contractual customers of the Brazos River Authority and others, but continued population growth is increasing demands beyond what current supplies can meet.
- Evaluate the water quality aspects of indirect reuse as a water management strategy.
- A detailed analysis of the effects of the Barnett Shale energy exploration on Brazos G water supplies in those areas.

Proposed Responses

- 3. What are your recommendations to the TWDB for allocation to the planning groups of the funding appropriated to complete the 2011 Regional Water Plans?**

The Brazos G RWPG believes a formula funding arrangement similar to how funds were distributed for the 2006 plans would be appropriate.

Proposed Responses

- 4. Would the planning group be willing to enter into one contract for the entire scope of work required to complete the 2011 Regional Water Plans with the last year of funding contingent on legislative appropriations?**

Yes, with specific contractual language that protects the planning group, administrative agent, and technical consultant on the chance that insufficient funds are provided by the legislature to develop regional water plans that meet all of the statutory and rule requirements. The regional water planning groups should not be expected to complete the final tasks of developing the regional water plans with insufficient funding.

Discussion and Action
