

To: Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group	
From: David Dunn, PE	Project: Brazos G 2011 Regional Water Plan
CC: Trey Buzbee, Brazos River Authority	
Date: June 8, 2009	Job No: 00010489-001

RE: Suggested Process for Identifying, Evaluating and Selecting Water Management Strategies

Introduction

Regional water planning rules require each regional water planning group to document the process by which water management strategies are identified, evaluated and selected. This memo documents the process by which the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group has identified potential feasible water management strategies and will evaluate and select water management strategies for the 2011 Plan. This process is required to be presented at a regularly-scheduled public meeting and the public is to be allowed to comment on the process. This public meeting is not required to be a full, formal public hearing.

Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies

Potentially feasible water management strategies are identified through three primary means:

1. Continuation of water management strategies already evaluated (but not necessarily selected) during the development of previous 2001 and 2006 regional water plans.
2. Identification of potential strategies during the development of the scope of work. This was done during a series of public meetings of the Scope of Work Committee and during regular planning group meetings as the scope of work was deliberated upon. During Scope of Work Committee meetings, several water management strategies and necessary modifications to existing strategies were identified and brought to the planning group's attention, and were specifically included in the scope of work to be evaluated during development of the 2011 Plan. The proposed Coryell County Reservoir is an example of a strategy that was identified by local interests, who requested that the strategy be evaluated by the planning group for possible inclusion in the 2011 Plan.
3. Ongoing communication from local interests as they inform the planning group of their water supply plans. Some of these have come in the form of requests to amend the 2006 Plan to add specific projects for which State funding is being pursued. The scope of work for development of the 2011 Plan includes specific funding to evaluate a small number of additional strategies that may be brought to the planning group's attention during development of the 2011 Plan.

Evaluation of Water Management Strategies

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has established procedures and standards by which water management strategies are to be evaluated. These procedures include methods of hydrologic and engineering analysis, evaluation of environmental impacts, and a consistent basis for the evaluation of costs. The details of these evaluations are too numerous to be included in this memorandum, but examples of typical evaluations can be reviewed in Volume II of the 2006 Brazos G Regional Water Plan. Water management strategies considered for inclusion in the 2011 Plan will be evaluated in a similar fashion, with the cost basis updated to reflect recent prices.

Selection of Water Management Strategies

Generally, each water management strategy was identified with a specific Water User Group (WUG) or Wholesale Water Provider (WWP) in mind. Often, these are the only options identified for a specific WUG or WWP because that entity has communicated its preferences directly to the planning group, the administrative agent (Brazos River Authority) or the technical consultant (HDR Engineering). When a specific preference is communicated by a WUG or WWP, the planning group typically has included that specific option in the plan for that WUG or WWP. When preferences have not been communicated to the planning group, the technical consultant will propose a strategy based on regional knowledge of available options, cost and environmental considerations. Each WUG and WWP has the opportunity to comment on and request modification to strategies included in the plan on several occasions:

1. During regularly scheduled planning group meetings as the plan is developed;
2. Directly to the technical consultant, administrative agent, or individual planning group members as the plan is developed;
3. At one of the three subregional meetings scheduled to present the draft Initially Prepared Plan (IPP), prior to submission of the IPP to the TWDB; and
4. During the public comment period on the IPP following submission to the TWDB, during which written comments can be provided to the planning group. This period also includes a public hearing where verbal comments can be provided.

HDR recommends that the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group formally confirm the process for identifying, evaluating and selecting water management strategies for inclusion in the 2011 Brazos G Regional Water Plan, as described above.