

***What is regional water planning?***

Previous statewide water plans prepared by the Texas Water Development Board go back to 1968. Up to 1997, water planning for Texas was essentially a top down process coordinated by the Texas Water Development Board. The top down approach to development of water plans limited input from stakeholders. That changed during the 1997 Legislative Session, when then Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock established planning at the local level through Senate Bill 1.

Local stakeholders now drive water planning for the 16 planning regions in Texas and identify potential projects to meet future water demands up to 50 years in the future. Regional water plans are prepared every five years to reflect adjustments in population and water demands as well as changes in proposed water supply strategies. The collective of all 16 regional water plans form the basis of the State Water Plan prepared every five years.

What is Brazos G?

Brazos G is one of the 16 water planning regions in Texas. It covers a significant portion of the Brazos River basin from the Abilene region to the Bryan/College Station area. It includes water demands and management strategies for **Water User Groups (WUGs)**ⁱ and **Wholesale Water Providers (WWPs)**ⁱⁱ from 37 counties including Bell, Bosque, Brazos, Burleson, Callahan, Comanche, Coryell, Eastland, Erath, Falls, Fisher, Grimes, Hamilton, Haskell, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Jones, Kent, Knox, Lampasas, Lee, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Nolan, Palo Pinto, Robertson, Shackelford, Somervell, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, Throckmorton, Washington, Williamson, and Young.

The first Brazos G Regional Water Plan (Brazos G Plan) was submitted to the state in January 2001 and became part of the 2002 State Water Plan. The 2006 Brazos G Plan was also accepted, becoming part of the 2007 State Water Plan. Brazos G is currently working to complete the 2011 Brazos G Plan that, when approved will become part of the 2012 State Water Plan.

Who coordinates regional water planning activities for Brazos G?

Brazos G selected the Brazos River Authority (BRA) as the political subdivision charged with day-to-day administration of Brazos G. The BRA is also a stakeholder in the regional water planning process. HDR Engineering, Inc. was selected by Brazos G as its lead consulting firm.

Is Brazos G another state agency?

No, Brazos G is not another state agency. It is an administrative body created by the Texas Legislature to plan for future water needs. Regional water planning groups such as Brazos G have no ability to develop projects identified in the plan and have no eminent domain authority.

Who serves on Brazos G?

Local stakeholders that represent a variety of interests as defined in the Texas Administrative Code serve as voting-members. Interest categories include Public, Counties, Municipalities, Agriculture, Environment, Small Business, Electric Utilities/Power Generation, Water Districts, Water Utilities, and Groundwater Conservation Districts. Other than some reimbursement for travel expenses, Brazos G members are not compensated for their work on regional water plans.

How are Brazos G members selected?

As vacancies come open, anyone can apply to fill the position. Current Brazos G voting-members select candidates to fill positions based on an applicant's ability to represent the interest category vacancy. Other factors considered in the selection process include gender, ethnic, and geographic diversity.

How can I get involved in regional water planning?

Brazos G welcomes and encourages public participation in the regional water planning process. All Brazos G meetings are subject to open meeting rules and agendas are posted at least three days in advance of its meetings – the public is always welcome to attend. Brazos G also maintains an e-mail notification list that you can sign-up for. Additionally, all meeting notices and planning documents are posted at www.brazosgwater.org.

What is the timeline for approval of the 2011 Brazos G Regional Water Plan?

- **Brazos G Sub-regional public meetings to present** Initially Prepared 2011 Brazos G Regional Water Plan (2011 IPP):
 - January 12, 2010 – Abilene, Texas
 - January 13, 2010 – Waco, Texas
 - January 14, 2010 – College Station, Texas
- **February 3, 2010**
 - Brazos G approved submission of the 2011 IPP to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) by March 1, 2010
- **March 1, 2010** – Submitted 2011 IPP to TWDB
- **March 15, 2010** – Published 30 day legal notice for April 21, 2010 public hearing
- **April, 21 2010** – Public hearing on 2011 IPP followed by 60 day public comment period
- **June 25, 2010** – Public comment period on 2011 IPP ends
- **July 21, 2010** – Brazos G Group reviews all comments received on 2011 IPP; each comment will be addressed in final plan submitted to the TWDB
- **September 1, 2010** – Submit final 2011 Brazos G Regional Water Plan to the TWDB

Questions on Brazos G

For additional information, call Trey Buzbee, Brazos G Administrator at (254) 761-3168 or via e-mail at info@brazosgwater.org or visit the Brazos G website at www.brazosgwater.org.

i Water User Groups (WUGs) – Retail water utilities serving populations of 500 persons or greater, as well as non-municipal water demands (irrigation, manufacturing, livestock, steam-electric, mining) aggregated on a county-wide basis.
ii Wholesale Water Providers (WWPs) – Any person or entity, including river authorities and irrigation districts, that has contracts to sell more than 1000 acre-feet of water wholesale in any one year during the five years immediately preceding the adoption of the last regional water plan. The regional water planning groups shall include as wholesale water providers other persons and entities that enter or that the regional water planning group expects or recommends to enter contracts to sell more than 1000 acre-feet of water wholesale during the period covered by the plan.