



Water Planning Services for the Eagle Ford

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Texas A&M Water Conservation & Technology Center

Introduction

Water Conservation and Technology Center

Goal: To serve as focal point for water conservation activities at Texas A&M

Priorities

- Water Conservation
- Reuse Water
- Water Use in Energy Production
- Brackish Groundwater

Recent and Current Programs

- Coordinate the RWCP for Edwards Aquifer HCP funded by EAA, direct fees
- ASR—Funded with legislative funds from TEES(Engineers)
- Drought Survivability Study—funded by Austin, Georgetown, SARA, SAWS, NTMWD
- Analyses for SAWS and Coastal Conservation Association
- Identified as entity that will study the San Antonio and Fair Oaks Water situation in terms of long term growth and development plans

Darrell Brownlow and I have been promoting the idea
of Water Planning Services for the Eagle Ford

Darrel Brownlow PhD Geologist, Landowner

- Active in Hydraulic Fracing Activities (water and drilling),
Former Evergreen Water Conservation District Board Member,
Current San Antonio River Authority Board Member

Our Thoughts

- There is a basic sympathy for the benefits of economic development and the need for oil and gas.
- Also a nervousness about environmental issues complicated by a difficulty in communications
 - We imagine it is especially difficult for elected officials—reassuring constituents with less than complete access to information from neutral sources.
- That is where the WCTC comes into play
 - neutral, objective, technical source

Issues Project Would Address

- Communications
- Local Water Planning
- Regional Water Planning
- Encourage Alternative Water Source(brackish, recycled, etc)
- Applied Research Topics

Communications

Communication links between industry, elected officials, regulators, landowners, citizens, and environmentalists.

Be able to navigate Railroad Commission website, etc.

Local Water Coordination

- Work with industry, water sources, and agriculture to maximize efficiency,
- Long term health of agriculture, communities, the industry
- Have grasp of local water supplies and alternate sources to minimize conflict, maximize efficiency and achieve overall satisfaction

Regional Water Supplies

Provide modeling services to groundwater districts to help insure accurate long term planning to allow the Region to take advantage of the opportunity but not permanently affect water resources in a negative way.

Alternative Water Sources

- Inventory of technology
- Encourage use of alternative supplies
- Brackish, Recycled, etc

Conduct Applied Research

- One example is fracing ponds. There are approximately 30,000 acres of fracing ponds that lose approx 25,000 acre ft to evaporation and leaks. Can they be better constructed to reduce water loss and to increase long term value after fracing value diminishes?

How would it be organized?

Part of Calvin's Time, Part of Darrell's Time

- Full time Water Planner
- Modeler/Researcher
- Program Assistant
- Contracted expertise as Needed

Cost approx \$300,000

How it will be Funded:

- We believe the best way would be for a split between industry and local governments

Contact Information

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