

TCEQ Interoffice Memorandum

To: Commissioners

Thru: Bridget C. Bohac, Chief Clerk
Richard A. Hyde, P.E. Executive Director

From: L'Oreal W. Stepney, P.E., Deputy Director, Office of Water

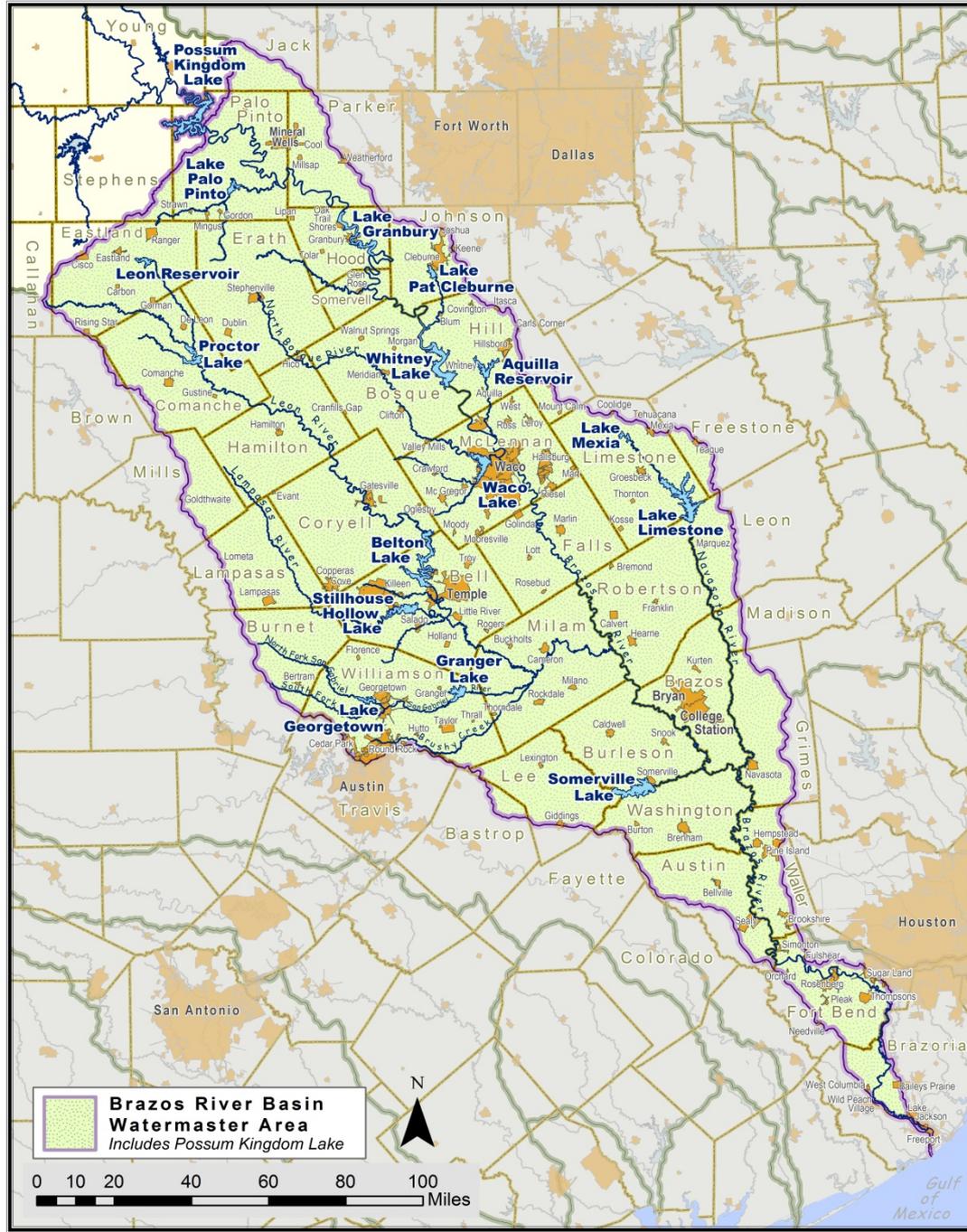
Date: August 19, 2015

Subject: Update on Brazos Watermaster Implementation

On April 9, 2014, the Commissioners ordered that a Watermaster should be appointed in the Brazos River Basin, downstream of Possum Kingdom, including said reservoir. The Brazos Watermaster program began on June 1, 2015. The following is an update on the current status of the program.

Brazos Watermaster Program

Brazos Watermaster Area



Water Rights in the BWM

- How many water rights are there?
 - 930 water rights in the watermaster area
- What types of water rights?
 - Municipal
 - Industrial
 - Irrigation / Agricultural
- Unique Aspects of the Brazos Program
 - Large number of reservoirs and contractual diverters
 - Industrial users, power generators
 - Large cities

Brazos Watermaster Offices

- Waco – TCEQ Regional Office
 - Watermaster
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Two Watermaster Deputies
- Stephenville – TCEQ Regional Office
 - Two Watermaster Deputies
- Lake Jackson area
 - One Watermaster Deputy

Meet the Staff



Initial Outreach Activities

- Two mailouts providing information on the program
- Held 7 stakeholder meetings throughout the basin
 - *College Station, Lake Jackson, Rosenberg, Killeen, Waco, Stephenville, Mineral Wells*
- Met with water right holders
 - River authority, cities, industries, agricultural users
- Performed meter certifications and spoke to water right holders

Brazos Watermaster Advisory Committee (BWAC)

- WAC can include between 9 and 15 members
- We solicited and received nominations in early 2015
 - WAC members appointed by E.D. on March 10, 2015
- Committee Composition:
 - 15 members on the WAC
 - WR interests represented include: a water authority, municipalities, industries, and individual agricultural water right holders.

BWAC (cont.)

- BWAC Meetings to Date:
 - April 2, 2015
 - May 21, 2015
 - July 16, 2015



- BWAC must meet at least once each year to discuss annual budget.
 - The BWAC has discussed meeting more frequently since this is a new program.

Active Program Activities

- Officially began operations on June 1, 2015
 - 204 diversion requests for water
 - 6 complaints/inquiries
 - 6 temporary permit reviews
- Meter certifications are an ongoing effort as continued outreach occurs.



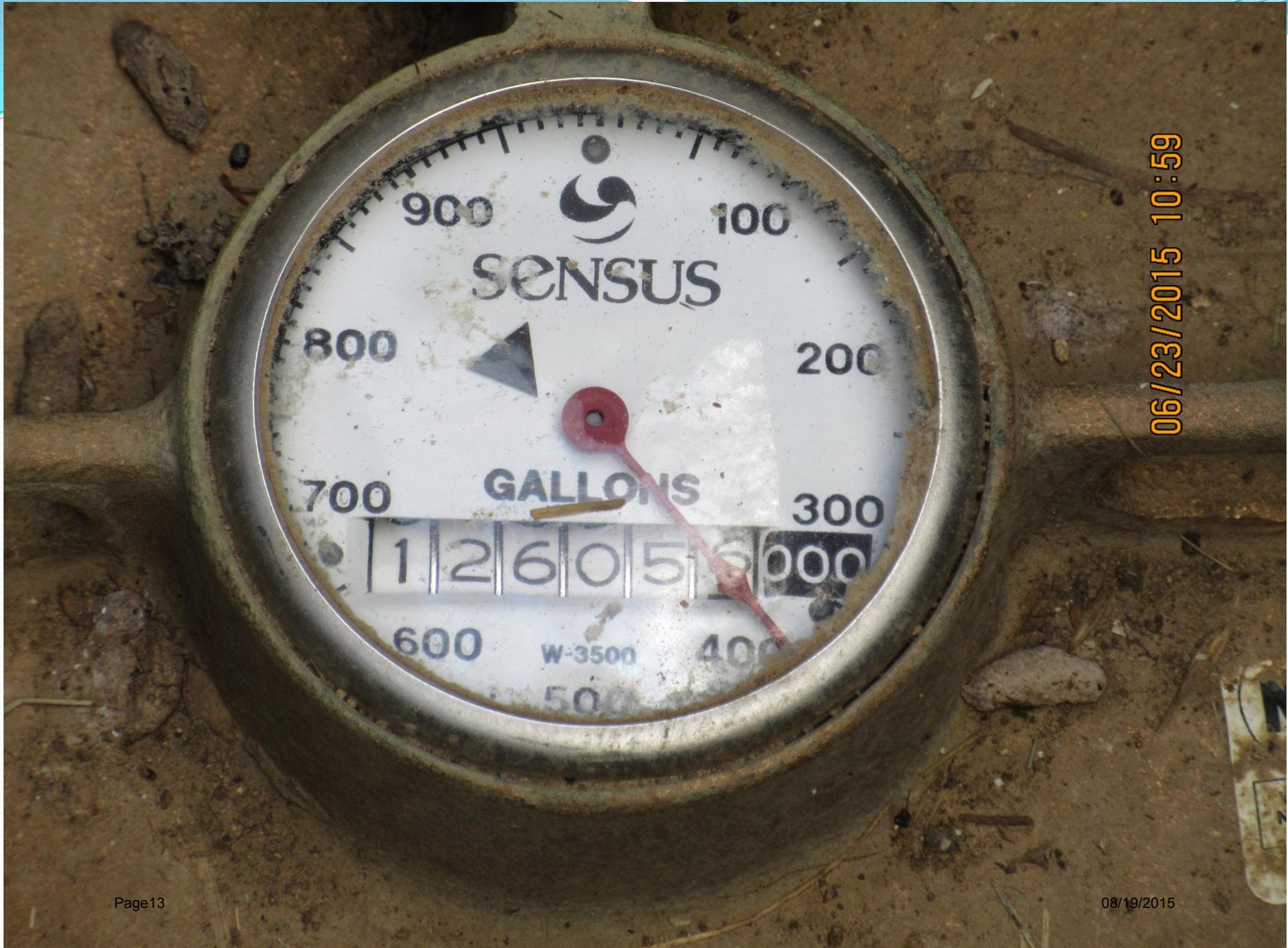
PUMP HOURS



STOP



03/30/2015 09:20



06/23/2015 10:59



05/20/2015 10:22



04/21/2015 10:31

Program Status

- Staff have personally communicated with 60% of the water right holders within the watermaster's jurisdiction.
 - Staff continue to look for methods of reaching the remaining 40% of water right holders.
 - Challenges include lack of contact information and current addresses for water right holders
- The 60% contacted represent approximately 90% of amount of the water in the program's jurisdiction.

Program Status (cont.)

- Staff help water right holders understand the permit requirements, such as the diversion location
- Out of 930 water rights in the Brazos Watermaster area:
 - 426 not currently using water right
 - 101 actively using their water right and meter certifications have been completed
- Remaining 33 meter certifications are either scheduled or pending installation of equipment.







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Ongoing Issues & Next Steps

- Continue outreach and education
- Ensure accurate diversion measurements
 - Primarily metering
- Identify differences between water rights and practice
 - For example, the location of permitted diversion points
- Contact water right holders
 - Continue to work with water rights permitting to ensure accurate ownership information
 - Reach out to as many people as we can locate contact information

Ongoing Issues & Next Steps (cont.)

- Budget for all watermaster programs will be considered at Commission Agenda on September 9.
 - First assessments for annual fees will be mailed in October
- In 2017, we will evaluate the upper portion of the Brazos River Basin.

Brazos Watermaster Information

- Molly Mohler, Brazos Watermaster
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- Toll-free Number: (844) 828-6424
- Watermaster Email: brazoswm@tceq.texas.gov
- Web Page:
 - www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wmaster/brazos-river-watermaster/

Questions?