

"Techniques for Mapping and Characterizing Brackish Aquifers through the Mining of Existing Geophysical Data"

Brackish Groundwater Characterization System (BRACS)

by Andrea Croskrey

NGWA Groundwater Summit

March 17, 2015



The following presentation is based upon professional research and analysis within the scope of the Texas Water Development Board's statutory responsibilities and priorities but, unless specifically noted, does not necessarily reflect official Board positions or decisions.



Who are we? Why do we study brackish aquifers? How do we study brackish aquifers?



Innovative Water Technologies Team



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Matthew Webb



Andrea Croskrey



Nathaniel van Oort





Groundwater Salinity Classification



Source: modified from Winslow and Kister, 1956

BRACS: Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System

- collect well logs
- build geologic datasets
- compile aquifer properties
- map aquifer extent
- map key desalination water quality parameters
- estimate volumes of water
- provide all data to stakeholders

each aquifer will require unique analysis based on data availability and local hydrogeology





Study Deliverables

Published reports •

> Geologic Characterization of and Data Collection in the Corpus Christi Aquifer Concernon in the Corpus Caristi Aquiter Storage and Recovery Conservation District and Surrounding Counties

Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System Database Data Dictionary

Open File Re September 2014 John E. Meyer, P.C.



Queen City and Sparta Aquifers, Ataseosa and McMullen Counties, Texas: Structure and Brackish Groundwater

GIS Datasets •

Pecos Valley Aquifet, West Texas Structure and Brackish Groundw

- **BRACS** Database •
- Well logs •

The real value is in the data:

Stakeholders can use this to evaluate potential groundwater exploration areas.



Brackish Groundwater in the Gulf Coast Aquifer, Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas

TWDB Web Page: www.twdb.texas.gov



Home Board Meetings SWIFT Financial Assistance Water Planning Groundwater Surface Water Conservation Innovative Water

Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS)



Estimated at more than 2.7 billion acre-feet, brackish groundwater constitutes an important desalination water supply option in Texas.

One challenging issue - and a potential roadblock to the more widespread development of brackish groundwater - is the lack of detailed information (especially on parameters relevant to desalination) on brackish aquifers. A 2003 TWDB-funded study laid the foundation for estimating brackish groundwater volumes. However, the study was by design regional in scope, limited in areal extent, and narrow in its assessment of groundwater quality. To remedy this situation, TWDB requested and received funding from the 81st Texas Legislature in 2009 to implement the Brackish Resources Aquifers Characterization System (BRACS) to more thoroughly characterize the brackish aquifers.

Goals of Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System:

- Map and characterize the brackish aquifers of the state in greater detail using existing geophysical well logs and available aquifer data;
- Build replicable numerical groundwater flow models to estimate aquifer productivity; and
- Develop parameter-screening tools to help communities assess the viability of their brackish groundwater supplies.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Brackish Resource Aquifer Characterization System

- FAQs
- Studies
- Projects
- BRACS Database
- BRACS GIS Data
- BRACS Well Logs
- TWDB Documents
- Useful Links
- BRACS Projects

Desalination

Rainwater Harvesting

Water Reuse

State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)

Texas Innovative Water



TWDB Databases: wiid.twdb.texas.gov

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he Te	exas Water Development Board Applications Links Help											
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	Welcome to the WIID Portal											
	WIID Mission											
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& Disse	Overview of WIID System The WIID currently consists of 3 applications:											
tion	1. Crowndwater Database											
B	2. Submitted Driller's Report											
Ĕ	3. Brackish Groundwater Database											
<u>.</u>	4. Click here to go the USGS National Water Information System											
mat	5. Click <u>here</u> to go the ICEQ water well Report viewer											
Ę	Click here to go the a detailed description of the applications.											
later I	Please be sure to turn Pop-up Blocker OFF for *.state.tx.us											
	For more help with navigating through this system, please review the "quick tutorial" above or the WIID "Help" file.											
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TWDB WIID: Water Information Integration and Dissemination

BRACS Public Database: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/bracs/database.asp

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BRACS Database, Navigation to Forms
1: Select a form to display
PRACS Database Master Well Form
TWDB Report 382, 2012, Pecos Valley Aquifer, West Texas: Structure and Brackish Groundwater
O Pecos Valley Aquifer Study: Aquifer Determination Form
O Pecos Valley Aquifer Study: Net Sand Form
TWDB Technical Note 14-01, 2014, Queen City and Sparta Aquifers, Atascosa and McMullen Counties, Texas: Structure
and Brackish Groundwater
Queen City and Sparta Aquifer Study: Aquifer Determination Form
Queen City and Sparta Aquifer Study: Net Sand Form
TWDB Open-file Report 12-01, 2012, Geologic Characterization of and Data Collection in the Corpus Christi
Gulf Coast CCASBCD Study: Aquifer Determination Form
C Gulf Coast CCASRCD Study: Net Sand Form
TWDB Report 383, 2014, Brackish Groundwater in the Gulf Coast Aquifer, Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas
O Gulf Coast Lower Rio Grande Valley Study: Aquifer Determination Form
◯ Gulf Coast Lower Rio Grande Valley Study: Net Sand Form
O Gulf Coast Lower Rio Grande Valley Study: Salinity Zone Form

2: Press Button

Open Form



BRACS Database Tables



- Microsoft Access Database
- Available on the TWDB web site (with data dictionary)
- Relational table design •
- All wells are assigned a unique well id, linking (red line) records together Texas Water • Development Board

BRACS Supporting Databases



BRACS Database: Water quality tables

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BRACS Database: Static water level table

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BRACS Database: Well construction table

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What is a Geophysical Well Log?

A tool or combination of tools lowered into a borehole on a wireline and retrieved to the surface.

Tools are designed to record specific parameters.

Also known as: electrical logging; wireline logging.

Logs must be corrected for a number of parameters.

Tool response recorded in left and right tracks.



BRACS Database: Location and Foreign Key tables

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Refer to Brackish Groundwater Resources of the Pecos Valley Aquifer, West Texas for Pilot Project Description



BRACS Database: Geology table

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Development Board



Stratigraphic Picks: Link map to log to database

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8	Stratigraphic		2460	Wilcox Group			-
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9	Stratigraphic		4790	Midway Formation		-	-
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BRACS Database: Digital log tables

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Digital geophysical and water well logs



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BRACS Geophysical Well Log Collection



- → Obtain oil, gas, and water well logs
- → Scan into digital TIFF image files



- → Logs must be non-confidential
- → Entire collection available to the public

Total BRACS well control > 47,000 wells



BRACS Database: Log analysis to interpret Total Dissolved Solids

-8	TWDB WSC IWT BRACS Geophysical Log Search Task	
	1737 Close Form	
E	RACS Well ID	
	ocation and Well IDs Lithology and Stratigraphy Digital Well Logs TDS Analysis using Geophysical Well Logs Aquifer Test Information Water Quality Static Water Level Well Construction	0
	GL NUMBER: 1014 GL FILE TYPE TIF IMAGE GL Co Baker Hughes	
	GL FILE NAME G0310152A Remarks no BHT on GL header; use Gg from BRACS	
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	Temperature Bottom Hole 81 Rm 0.9	
	Rm Temperature 75 Mud Type water base	
	TDS Interpreted 0 TF 77	
	Consensus TDS Method N/A RmfTf 0 Remarks: N/A	
	Thickness Lithologic Unit: 12	
	TDS Method: Rwa Method Rwe 1.08 Rw 0.92 Rw75 0.94 Cw 10638.3 TDS 5638	
	Geophysical Log Used: INDUCTION	
	Correction Factors	=
	SP 0 K (Temperature): SP Method	
	Rxo 0 1.17 Rwe Rw: Sp, Alger Harrison, and Rwa Minimum Methods	
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BRACS Database: Aquifer properties table

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	Specific Yield	-99999					
	Specific Capacity	10.17 gpm/ft					
	Pamarks	Units					
	NCMURUS						
	Analysis Remarks						
	Report 98 Page No						
Re	cord: I4 4 1 of 2	🕨 🕨 🕷 No Filter 🛛 Sear	rch				



Link aquifer properties to the source of information



BRACS Database: Project aquifer determination table

TWDB WSC IWT BRACS Aquifer Determination CCASR							
State Well Numbe BRACS Well ID	er 8850305	er Determination nde Valley BRA	on Code ACS Study		Close Form		
Well Owner	ner NORTH CAMERON REGIONAL WATER Aquifer TREATMENT FACILITY Aquifer (New)			•	Remarks		
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	Depth Well Depth Hole	601 600		Beaumont Fm.	B_B_D: 406		
	Screen Top Screen Bottom	290 531	Chicot Aquifer	Lissie Fm.	L_B_D: 732		
	Multiple Scree	ns Yes	Yes	Willis Fm.	W_T_D: 732 W_B_D: 1137	Caq_B_D: 1137	
	ELEVATION	43			UG T D: 1137		
→ Cor	mpare wells comple	eted in		Upper Goliad Fm.	UG_B_D: 2251	Eaq_T_D: 1137	
san	ne aquifer	c	EvangelineA auifer	Lower Goliad Fm.	LG_T_D: 2251 LG_B_D: 3270		
→ Cor aqu	nsistent evaluation lifer water quality a	No	Upper Lagarto Fm.	UL_T_D: 3270 UL_B_D: 4080	Eaq_B_D: 4080		
pro → Ma	perties ny new wells do no	ot have	Burkeville Confining Unit	Middle Lagarto Fm.	ML_T_D: 4080 ML_B_D: 4936		
TW	DB aquifer code		Jasper	Lower Lagarto Fm.	LL_T_D: 4936 LL_B_D: 5660	Jaq_T_D:4936	
→ Sor TW	ne wells have incor DB aquifer code	Aquifer No	Oakville Fm.	OK_T_D: 5660 OK_B_D: 6906	Jaq_B_D: 6906		

BRACS Database: Project net sand determination tables

TWDB WSC IWT BRACS Net Sand Determination													
BRACS Well	D 1737		Low	er Rio Grande Va	alley BRAC	S Study							Close Form
				Net Sand Gulf	Coast Aqu	ifer							
Net Sand	Processing Table	Тор			Formation	Formation		Aquifer	Aquifer				
Record	Simplified Lithologic Description	Bottom	0.000		Net Sand	Present	Partial	Net Sand	Present				
Number		Thickness	Sand %		Sand %	Well Partial Penetration	Desc	Sand %	Well Partial Penetration	A	quifer Deter	mination Table	:
23	Sand with Clay	· 65	4	Beaumont Fm	200	Yes		Chinatia		Depth Well	601	B_T_D:	0
		105			-99999	No	Yes	Chicol Aq	luijer	Depth Hole	600	B_B_D:	406
		40	0.65	Lissie Fm	100	Yes		200	Ves	Screen Top	290	L T D:	406
25	Sand with Clay	125			-99999	Yes	No	25	Vec	Screen Bottom	521	L_B_D:	732
		175		Willis Fm	0	Ves	100	20	Tes	Screen Bottom	551	WTD:	732
		50	0.65		-999999	Yes	No					W_B_D:	1137
27	Sand with Clay	191											
		205						Evanaelir	ne Aquifer				
		14	0.65	Upper Goliad Fm	0	Yes	No	Lvungenn	ic Aquijei				2251
28	Sand	205			-999999	res	NO					00_0_0.	2251
		215		Lower Goliad Fm	0	Yes		0	Yes			LG_T_D:	2251
		10	1		-999999	Yes	NO	0	Yes			ю_в_р.	3270
29	Clay with Sand	215		Upper Lagarto Fm	0	Yes						UL_T_D:	3270
		285			-999999	Yes	No					UL_B_D:	4080
		70	0.35					2.11.12					
30	Sand	285		Middle Lagarto Fr	n	Yes		Burkeville	e Confining Unit				4080
		349			-999999	Yes	No					WIL_D_D.	4530
0		64	1										
				Lower Lagarto Fm	0	Yes		Jasper Aq	quifer			LL_T_D:	4936
					-99999	Yes	No	0	Yes			LL_B_D:	5660
				Oakville Fm	0	Yes		0	Yes			OK_T_D:	5660
					-99999	Yes	No					OK_B_D:	6906
				5.									
										22			

Estimated Groundwater Volumes

Five TDS Ranges (mg/L):

- Fresh 0-999
- Slightly 1,000 -2,999
 Saline
- Moderately 3,000 9,999
 Saline
- Very Saline 10,000 35,000
- Brine > 35,000







Who are we?

Texas Water Development Board

Why do we study brackish aquifers?

Groundwater Desalination is part of the Texas Water Plan

How do we study brackish aquifers?

Well Logs, Databases, Geospatial Data

www.twdb.texas.gov



Conservation and Innovative Water Technologies Division

www.twdb.texas.gov

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