

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REGION A PANHANDLE REGIONAL PLANNING GROUP (PWPG) TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO SEEK FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR THE IMPORT OF WATER RESOURCES TO THE HIGH PLAINS REGION AND AN UPDATE TO THE 1982 SIX-STATE HIGH PLAINS-OGALLALA AQUIFER REGIONAL RESOURCES STUDY

WHEREAS, the Texas Panhandle region is highly dependent on groundwater coming from the Ogallala aquifer which is the primary water source; and

WHEREAS, groundwater withdrawals outpace recharge causing depletion of the Ogallala aquifer; and

WHEREAS, farmland in the High Plains region, which includes the Texas Panhandle, produces nearly 1/5 of the wheat, corn and cotton in the United States each year; and nearly 1/2 of the sorghum and cattle in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, the High Plains region produces approximately \$35 billion in crops every year; and

WHEREAS, despite aggressive efforts to conserve water in the region, depletion continues and without a new source of water, the region will eventually be without a source of water, including for agriculture; and

WHEREAS, a Six State High Plains-Ogallala Aquifer Regional Resources Study of depleting water supplies in the region was approved in 1976 by the United States Congress; and the study was completed in 1982 and updated in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the 2015 update was to evaluate the various merits and impacts such a project would have for Kansas identified as Route B in the 1982 Study which could possibly be extended to the lower High Plains states; and

WHEREAS, diverting Missouri River flood waters, which has a long history of severe flooding, could be an effective strategy to mitigate Missouri River flooding and offset the depletion of the Ogallala aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the 1982 Study further examined the feasibility of water transfer from the Missouri River basin to the High Plains region; and as early as 1967, water transfer plans were proposed to divert flood water to supply the foregoing High Plains states.

WHEREAS, a project of this nature could help to solve the Missouri River basin flooding by diverting the flood water to the High Plains and, thereby mitigate the High Plains aquifer depletion issues; and

WHEREAS, such a project is important to the Texas Panhandle because, if determined to be feasible, moving water from the Missouri River Basin to the High Plains will help ensure the continued economic and social viability of the Ogallala region and, specifically, the Texas Panhandle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Region A Panhandle Regional Planning Group Board of Directors supports the efforts to seek federal legislation to improve the water resources available to the Texas Panhandle region, including an update to the 1982 Study and if determined to be feasible to seek federal funding to implement a surface water import project for the High Plains.

CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THIS 19th DAY OF APRIL, 2023.

Ben Weinheimer
Region A Panhandle Regional Planning Group
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Region A Panhandle Regional Planning Group
Board of Directors