

**COMMENTS TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
RE: 2007 STATE WATER PLAN**

**BY RICHARD LeTOURNEAU, VICE CHAIR, REGION D WATER PLANNING GROUP
AT PUBLIC MEETING, GILMER CIVIC CENTER, GILMER, TEXAS
SEPTEMBER 21, 2006**

The North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region D) requests that the Texas Water Development Board provide funding for Region D to commission a study of Wright Patman Reservoir to assess the water supply potential and the most economical method of developing, storing, and conveying water from Wright Patman to large water suppliers in Region C.

Assuming the following facts, I would also personally encourage this study:

1. The current conservation pool elevation of Wright Patman is 220.6 feet msl. The flood pool is 259.5 ft msl.
2. An average of 60,000 acre-feet of water storage is obtained for every foot of increase in elevation of the conservation pool.
3. An increase of conservation pool level to 239.5 ft msl would increase the yield of Wright Patman by approximately 1,134,000 acre-feet per year (AFY).
4. The elevation at which water would enter the lowest wetland control structure at White Oak Creek Wildlife Management Area is approximately 239.5 ft msl.

In 1998 -1999 as the regional water planning groups were beginning discussions of possible water management strategies, the Region D Water Planning Group identified approximately 15 potential water reservoir sites in the region. Among these was the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir site. It is interesting to note that there were reservoir sites discussed that, because of opposition by group membership, were not included in the Region D Plan as potential reservoir sites. In the 2002 State Water Plan Marvin Nichols was listed as a proposed reservoir site. As the public became aware of this designation and of the intent to build Marvin Nichols, public opposition to the reservoir increased dramatically. Region D board members, responding to their constituents, set about to demote the status of this reservoir site. Although the Region D Board changed the status of the Marvin Nichols Reservoir from "proposed" to "potential" in December of 2002, Region D board members soon learned that this was just a play on wording and did not result in removal of Marvin Nichols from the Region D Plan. Opposition to this reservoir from within Region D and across the state continued to increase. In May 2005, the Region D Water Planning Group adopted language in the draft Region D Plan removing Marvin Nichols Reservoir completely from the Plan, citing their findings that Marvin Nichols would be inconsistent with protecting the agricultural, natural, and water resources of the state. In January 2006, the Region D Water Planning Group, by a vote of 22 to 1, passed this revised Plan with Marvin Nichols Reservoir completely removed.