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Ethics, Professionalism and Politics

Ronald Kaiser
Texas A&M University

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ETHICS, PROFESSIONALISM AND POLITICS

Ronald Kaiser

Texas A&M University

Professor and Chair of Graduate Water Program

<http://waterprogam.tamu.edu>





Politics and Water Issues

Competing users

Agriculture Urban and Environmental

Transfers between users and basins

New reservoirs vs conservation

Consumption variance between users

Reservoir reallocations

Urban/rural growth





Politics and Water Issues

Population growth & agriculture

Surface groundwater interactions

Instream and environmental flows

Agency competition (fed-state/state-state)

Water quality

Drought (apportioning burden)





Political considerations and Compacts

Negotiation stage

Legislative approval stage



Political Considerations

**Party Affiliation: Executive & Legislative
Governor and Legislative Leaders Accord
Time Remaining in Office
Changing Administration
Is it only about water—other issues
Stakeholders Access to Political Leaders**

Agricultural

Urban

Environmental

Industrial



Negotiator Knowledge of Political Considerations

Governor position

Legislative leaders positions

Agency positions

Stakeholder positions

*Query: How does the negotiator
balance these positions*



Political Pitfalls

Maximization vs. Optimization of Parties

Maximizing attributes:

- Reliance on rights/power positions

- Strong anchoring—amounts or process

Optimization attributes

- Interest seeking

- Pain sharing

- Flexibility

More Political Pitfalls

Failure to incorporate stakeholders

Discounting stakeholders

Stakeholder alliances

**Stakeholder access to political
process and power**

Consultant interests

BATNA's and Bargaining

Best Alternative to Negotiated Agreement

Status quo

Legal options

Political options

***Query: Is it bad faith to fail to reveal your
BATNA?***

Negotiating Water Agreements

Improved science & models (biophysical & social)

More stakeholders/ greater sophistication

Complexity greater

Optimizing still a struggle

Greater emphasis on social vs engineering process

Environmental concerns added to mix

Interest based vs rights based bargaining

More political involvement

**** ask political leaders to ratify solutions rather than to solve problems****