ETHICS, PROFESSIONALISM AND POLITICS

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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**