There's No Accounting for Water – Water Accounting Plans in Texas

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Water Accounting: General

- **Accounting Plans**
  - May be required for water rights
  - Track water diverted, stored or released
  - Ensure that operations match water right
  - Protect against impacts on senior water rights.

Texas Water Rights

- Surface water property of state
- Right of use granted by permit
- Overseen by TCEQ
- Prior appropriation – “First in time is first in right”

History of Water Accounting Plans

- Some older rights require accounting
- First modern plan Lake Grapevine (2000)
- Required for some older rights
- Required during priority call response

Description of Accounting Plans

- Generally developed by water right holder
- Typically include:
  - Text File – Description of water right and computations
  - Spreadsheet with computations

Functions of Accounting Plans

- Tracking developed water and reuse
  - Reuse
  - Imported water
- Tracking multi-priority reservoirs
- Tracking multi-owner reservoirs
- Tracking environmental flow compliance
- Tracking operation in priority calls

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