

**Minutes of the North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
April 13, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.**

The North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (NETRWPG) – Region D met in an open meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. The meeting was held at the Region 8 Education Service Center, 4845 US 271 N, Pittsburg, TX 75686. Notice of the meeting was legally posted.

Jim Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made and a quorum was present. Nineteen members of the planning group were present in person or represented by a designated alternate.

The following voting members were present:

Allen Beeler	Brandon Belcher	John Brooks	Joe Bumgarner
Andy Endsley	Nicolas Fierro	Cindy Gwinn	Billy Henson
Conrad King	Richard LeTourneau	Janet McCoy	Fred Milton
Sharron Nabors	Lloyd Parker	Bob Tardiff	Jim Thompson

The following alternates were present:

Alton Bradley	Greg Carter	Howdy Lisenbee
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The following voting members were absent:

Russell Acker	Bruce Bradley	Joe Coats	Donnie Duffee
Richard Garza	Rolin McPhee	Ned Muse	Harlton Taylor

The public was provided an opportunity for comment prior to any action being taken by the planning group. There were no public comments at this time.

Sharron Nabors made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2021 meeting. Fred Milton seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

There were no updates from GMA #8 or #11 nor from Region C or Region I.

Ron Ellis with Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provided an update on TWDB. They have been working on rule updates since the end of 2021 as the result of legislative changes and stakeholder input. The final rule package was adopted on Monday, April 11, 2022. A presentation of those changes will be made at the next Region D meeting. This Board has taken action on the Interregional Planning Council and they will take an item to the TWDB in July to appoint the council. The draft technical report on the Mining Water Use Study is posted on the TWDB website. The final report and dashboard are anticipated to be released in June of 2022. Contract amendments for the regional water planning groups will be presented to TWDB this summer. These amendments will include the total funding for the entire 5-year cycle. The full funding for a planning cycle is not known at the beginning of each cycle. The initial contracts include partial scopes of work and planning costs. The amendments identify total costs and what funds are available. Demand projections is what will be worked on for the next year. Katie Dahlberg, TWDB and Tony Smith, Carollo

Engineers, will present information on those projections. July of 2023 is the deadline to submit requests to change the draft non-municipal demand projections. August of 2023 is the deadline to request changes to the population and municipal demand projections. For more information, please visit the TWDB website and navigate to 6<sup>th</sup> planning cycle page. There is a new webpage for the 6<sup>th</sup> planning cycle. It can be found here: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/index.asp> This page will be updated throughout the cycle with important documents, the working schedule, task organization, newsletters, as well as contract and administrative documents. The email address for the broadcast communications for the planning group is [regionalwaterplanning@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:regionalwaterplanning@twdb.texas.gov).

Jim Thompson, Chair, opened the discussion on the election of officers. Current officers are Jim Thompson as Chair, Richard LeTourneau as Vice Chair, Rolin McPhee as Secretary, Joe Bumgarner as an At Large Member and John Brooks as an At Large Member. Rolin McPhee is considering stepping down as Secretary if there is interest from others to replace him. Kyle Dooley provided that Mr. McPhee's term on the board goes through September of 2022. Billy Henson nominated Cindy Gwinn for the position of Secretary and Fred Milton seconded the nomination. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Jim Thompson, Chair, provided information on Sharron Nabors representation as liaison for GMA #8. Mrs. Nabors has asked if there is anyone else that would like to represent GMA #8 due to the nature of the duties included, she would like to step down from that role. There was no interest from other board members to fulfill that role. John McFarland has stated that he will continue to represent GMA #11 and Region I. John Brooks made a motion to keep the two representatives for Region C, Region I, GMA #8 and GMA #11 as they are. Cindy Gwinn seconded that motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Jim Thompson, Chair, provided a reminder to the board that Bruce Bradley, a board member representing Marion County, is resigning his position on the board. Judge Leward LaFleur nominated George Otstott to replace Mr. Bradley. The executive committee voted unanimously to recommend Mr. Otstott to replace Mr. Bradley. Mr. Thompson opened the floor for discussion. Fred Milton made a motion to accept the nomination of George Otstott to the Region D board. Sharron Nabors seconded the motion. The motion carried, all present voting aye.

Jim Thompson, Chair, reminded the board on the number of reviews completed on the Region D Bylaws. Kyle Dooley provided that the version of the Bylaws that is in the packet is the final version and is ready for approval. Mr. Thompson opened the floor for a motion. Billy Henson made a motion to approve the Bylaws. Fred Milton seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Jim Thompson, Chair, opened the floor for discussion regarding authorizing Riverbend to negotiate and execute amendments to the TWDB contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 Regional Water Plan. Kyle Dooley provided details related to Ron Ellis's earlier report regarding necessary updates to the contracts. Bob Tardiff made a motion to authorize Riverbend to negotiate the amendments to the TWDB contract. John Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Katie Dahlberg, TWDB Manager for Projections & Socioeconomic Analysis, presented the water demand projections methodologies and the released demand projections for livestock, manufacturing, and steam electric. Ms. Dahlberg's presentation covered an overview of the projections process, the projections data release schedule, and the projections methodologies for non-municipal water demands (Irrigation, Livestock, Manufacturing, Mining, and Steam Electric Power), population, and municipal water demand. Katie also provided a link to the projections. [www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/2027/projections.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/2027/projections.asp). She also provided clarity on the following topics: which animals are considered a water user for the purpose of this study and why; the lower numbers of reported water use from 2015-2019 are reflective of how entities are responding to the Water Use Survey and that there was a large water user that closed down; there is a list that totals the number of manufacturers in each county by NAICS code; she clarified the water sources that are included in a municipal classification-it includes residential, commercial, and institutional and other users are reflected in the study as they are reported to TWDB; TWDB does work with the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council; there is not a cap on the Gallons Per Capita Daily (GPCD) but there is a minimum for reporting; GPCD does decline over time unless there is such growth in an area that it offsets the losses that the GPCD calculates; there is a point where a county or geographical area is no longer able to sustain current growth and when a county gets to that point, the population projections are capped and held constant; clarification was also provided on how Water User Groups (WUG) are classified as either municipal or non-municipal.

Tony Smith, Carollo Engineering, provided information on compiling information on water demand projections and how data is collected. There are multiple lines of communication open between the WUGs, the regions' boards of directors, and consulting firms. His presentation was similar to that of Katie Dahlberg regarding how data is collected to determine projection demands for municipal utilities, non-municipal WUGs. He presented the 2026 Water Planning Schedule and Budget Process. He summarized the non-municipal user data that has been received. This includes livestock, manufacturing, and steam-electric power generation. The draft non-municipal data for irrigation and mining will be coming out later this year. He elaborated on where the changes in livestock water users are projected for the current planning cycle. The methodology for collecting data for livestock use has resulted in the decrease in per capita usage for livestock. Historically, the manufacturing usage numbers were predicted and held constant. For the current cycle, the estimated numbers indicate a steady increase. Mr. Smith clarified that Region D is not using the possibility of a strategy becoming a definite project to adjust projections for water demands. The planning does not include development of a scenario that looks at potential strategies that could be implemented, what would the ramifications be on the projected demand. The overall methodology did not change for steam electric projections. There are fewer proposed facilities compared to the previous planning cycle and the removal of retired facilities resulted in decreases in projected demands. Last planning cycle, Region D recognized that when a steam electric facility went offline in Titus county, that the water rights held by that facility should not be impacted. The discussion that may come up with the TWDB is that this facility, along with the associated water rights, may be handed over or sold to another entity and how that would affect the current planning cycle. Five new Water User Groups (WUG) have been identified for this planning cycle bringing the total number of WUGs to 259 in

Region D. Mr. Smith also covered the review and approval process for the planning projections between Region D and the TWDB.

Kyle Dooley provided a financial update. Two invoices totaling \$4,699.16 have been received from Carollo Engineering for work completed on regional water planning. Richard LeTourneau made a motion to pay these two invoices. Sharron Nabors seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

The public was provided a second opportunity for comment. There were no public comments.

With no further business to discuss, Jim Thompson adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

*Cindy Swin*

*6/29/2022*

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Secretary

Date