

**Minutes of the North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group
June 29, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.**

The North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (NETRWPG) – Region D met in an open meeting on Wednesday, June 29, 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. Eighteen members of the planning group were present in person or represented by a designated alternate.

The following voting members were present:

John Brooks	Joe Bumgarner	Donnie Duffie	Nicolas Fierro
Richard Garza	Cindy Gwinn	Billy Henson	Richard LeTourneau
Janet McCoy	Fred Milton	Sharron Nabors	George Otstott
Bob Tardiff	Jim Thompson		

The following alternates were present:

Don Hightower	Bill Kirby	Kevin Chumley	Newman Browning
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The following voting members were absent:

Russell Acker	Allen Beeler	Brandon Belcher	Joe Coats
Andy Endsley	Conrad King	Rolin McPhee	Ned Muse
Lloyd Parker	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.

Kathleen Jackson, Texas Water Development Board Director, expressed gratitude for the time, talent and effort of those involved in Region D planning that leads to the State Water Plan. When the Texas Legislature reorganized the TWDB after the drought of 2011, \$2 Billion was committed from the Rainy-Day Fund and put in the State Water Implementation Fund of Texas. This was to motivate movement in large regional projects to create water supply to ensure Texans have water in times of drought as well as plan for those that want to move to Texas. Since the inception of the SWIFT fund, \$9 billion dollars has been committed to projects across the state creating over 1-million-acre feet of new water supply for Texas. These include the integrated pipeline project in Dallas, Bois d' Arc Lake is the first major reservoir to be built in Texas in 30 years, the Luce Bayou connection project in Houston that is meeting 25% of the State's population needs in the Houston area. This project is taking water from the Trinity River and moving it to Lake Houston and then building a new water plant to process that water. Texas receives federal funding through the State Revolving Fund. This fund provides low interest financing or grant money to upgrade aging infrastructure, build new water plants and complete wastewater projects. Please have your officials reach out if you know of a community in need of a State Revolving Fund project. A new role that the Texas State Legislature has given to TWDB is that of creating

the first ever State Flood Plan. There are 15 regional flood planning groups structured similarly to the Regional Water Planning Groups. The goal is to have the statewide flood plan complete by 2024. TWDB has provided \$400 Million to the groups to begin the flood planning process and the total in funding should reach \$800 Million. Additional funding will be put into the flood infrastructure fund to continue to assist in flood mitigation. The requirement has been made clear that we can not continue to do things as they were done in the past. We can't wait for a flood to happen before we get prepared. Flood planning needs to be more forward-looking as regional water planning groups have been. About half of the funding was for base level engineering. This provides better maps based on LIDAR which is the use of light detection and ranging technology. This measures the shape of the bowl, hydrology, which is how much water goes into the bowl and how the water moves once it is inside the bowl. This sophisticated mapping helps not only with flood planning, but also mitigation. There is still work to be done but, Texas is making great strides in water planning and flood planning. Ms. Jackson thanked everyone for their efforts and leadership.

Sharron Nabors made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2022 meeting. John Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Ron Ellis with Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provided an update from TWDB. The draft Water User Group (WUG) is set to be approved at this meeting. It is historical data and it a list of the water users in the region. It is based on the final WUGs used last planning cycle plus additions, mergers, and some name changes. Tony Smith will present the list today. July 29, 2022 is the deadline for this group to request changes and return it back to TWDB. This list will be used for municipal projections for this planning cycle. Contract amendments are on the agenda for the July 7, 2022 board meeting. The contract amendments will include the anticipated full project cost, full scope and update contract guidance. The Interregional Planning Council (IPC) will be appointed at the July 7th meeting as well. Once that is done, meetings will be scheduled for the IPC to begin their work. On April 11, 2022 the TWDB adopted amendments to the planning rules in chapters 357 & 358. These proposed rules were published on December 31, 2021 in the Texas register. There was a public comment period until January 31, 2022. The public comments received regarding Chapter 357 caused TWDB to pull back 2 of the proposed revisions. There were no changes to Chapter 358 as a result of public comments made. The TWDB board item with the approved detailed changes are available on this site:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/board/2022/04/Board/Brd04.pdf>. For more information, please visit the TWDB website and navigate to 6th planning cycle page. The new webpage 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.

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

Kyle Dooley provided information on the process of certification of administrative expenses. Per the regional water planning rules, there is a requirement that, during a public meeting,