

**Minutes of the North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group
October 19, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.**

The North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (NETRWPG) – Region D met in an open meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 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 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made and a quorum was present. Twenty-one members of the planning group were present in person or represented by a designated alternate.

The following voting members were present:

Russell Acker	Allen Beeler	Brandon Belcher	John Brooks
Joe Bumgarner	Andy Endsley	Nicolas Fierro	Richard Garza
Cindy Gwinn	Billy Henson	Conrad King	Richard LeTourneau
Janet McCoy	Fred Milton	Ned Muse	George Otsstott
Bob Tardiff	Jim Thompson		

The following alternates were present:

James Brooks	Kevin Chumbley	David Nabors
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The following voting members were absent:

Joe Coats	Donnie Duffie	Rolin McPhee	Sharron Nabors
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.

Jim Thompson provided that the positions open for reappointment are currently held by Conrad King, John Brooks, Joe Bumgarner, Nicolas Fierro, Cynthia Gwinn, Rolin McPhee, Lloyd Parker, and Richard LeTourneau. There were nine nominations for the eight open positions. They included all of the current voting members minus Rolin McPhee and adding Newman Browning, David Akin and Kevin Chumbley. After approval by the Executive Committee, the appointees are as follows: Conrad King, John Brooks, Joe Bumgarner, Nicolas Fierro, Cynthia Gwinn, Richard LeTourneau, Kevin Chumbley, and David Akin. Terms for each of these positions is for 3 years commencing on October 1, 2022. A motion was made by Bob Tardiff to accept the slate of appointees as presented. David Nabors seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

David Nabors made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 29, 2022 meeting. Fred Milton seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Ron Ellis with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provided an update. His presentation will update the Board on contract amendments. The contract will route through DocuSign through to Kyle Dooley as the representative for Region D soon. The changes will

include anticipated total project cost, full scope of work, and updated contract guidance documents (exhibits C and D). The first meeting of the Interregional Planning Council is scheduled for November 9, 2022 both in person in Austin, Texas and virtually. There has been a one-page document published related to water planning. This document covers water supply and flood mitigation strategies. It can be found here:

http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/education/WaterSupply_and_FloodMitigationProjects.pdf

The current project timelines were also presented. The timelines are tighter for this cycle due to the pandemic occurring during 2020 which was the census year. Once the draft numbers have been released, the Board will request revisions to that data. The revision requests need to be submitted by August 11, 2023. That leaves approximately a 6 month window to submit the draft population projections and draft municipal water demand projections. All data that has been released so far is on the interactive dashboard on the TWDB website. There are a few steps the Regional Planning Boards need to take to get these deadlines met. Boards should meet soon after the release of those projections and develop strategy for meeting the deadline. Regions are strongly encouraged to submit non-municipal revision requests before municipal data is released. Historical declines in population will be reflected in the draft population projections. Mr. Ellis reminded the board that planning groups must take official action to approve submitting revision requests. Planning groups are encouraged to coordinate with TWDB as early as possible on recommended revisions. Guidance for requesting revisions is lined out in Exhibit C of the contract amendments to be covered later in the presentation. Water Development Board staff is available for assistance any time. The process for data collection and revisions is: TWDB presents draft data, the planning group requests revisions, and then negotiations and discussions lead to final numbers to be presented to TWDB for adoption. Once the data is adopted planning funds cannot be used to revise the projections. The contract between TWDB and Riverbend provides the funds from the State of Texas for each Region to complete the planning process. Documents related to the 6th cycle of regional water planning can be found at the link below. Documents included are Working Schedule, Draft Projections, Recommended Water Management Strategies, and Contract Documents.

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/documents.asp>

Exhibit C is the guidance document on how to put together the plan. In Section 2.3 of this exhibit, which addresses water availability and existing supplies, the new requirement is that the technical memorandum and Regional Water Plans (RWP) must include methodology for calculating anticipated sedimentation rate and revising the area-capacity rating curves. This change was addressed at the last meeting. Reuse availability will now be presented as a separate subsection in Chapter 3. Hydrologic variance requests for surface water must use template checklist. Task 4B in Exhibit C, Section 2.11 requires that there is identification of infeasible water management strategies (WMS) previously presented in the 2021 RWP. This board will need to look back at the last plan and determine if any of the strategies in the last plan are infeasible. At a minimum, the strategies slated for coming online in the 2020 decade need to be reviewed. The infeasibility of a water strategy is determined by action taken by the project sponsor to file permit applications or spend money on planning the project. Analysis must be completed prior to March 4, 2024. Results must be presented at a planning meeting. In addition, the methodology for identifying potentially infeasible WMSs in 2026 RWP must also be presented. If any WMS are identified as infeasible, this board will amend the Region D 2021 RWP to either remove those strategies or projects, revise them, or incorporate new WMS or WMSP. The strategies could be revised by changing its “online

decade,” which means, changing the decade in which the project could be online. Removing a strategy could result in unmet regional water needs in the plan. Regional water planning groups must adopt amendments to the 2021 Region D RWP by June 4, 2024. Section 2.12.1 the technical memo now requires inclusion of a summary of region’s interregional coordination efforts to date as well as a list of infeasible strategies resulting from the new task as presented in Task B. Section 2.5 regarding evaluation and recommendation of strategies and projects contains additional guidance to address requirements in HB 807(ASR assessments and GPCD goals). Planning groups for ASR if there are significant needs the planning group needs to consider ASR. Planning groups also need to identify GPCD goals for municipal WUGs. Conservation WMSs required to be split out for water loss mitigation vs water use reduction. New subsection documenting implementation status of certain WMS types. Section 2.7 contains new guidance related to HB 807 regarding unnecessary or counterproductive drought responses. There is a new subsection required to address how the planning group is addressing uncertainty and droughts worse than drought of record (if applicable), and what additional measures not included in the plan could be available during a drought worse than drought of record. Section 2.9 addresses new guidance added to address HB 807 related to progress in achieving economies of scale. Sections 2.10, 2.13, and 2.14 state that the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) and the final RWP must document a summary of the region’s interregional coordination efforts. In addition, the State Database Reports (DB27) needs to be included in the IPP and the final RWP via hyperlinks to the Water Development Board’s Database Reports application in lieu of hard copies. Final reminders: the infrastructure finance survey and related chapter have been removed and the priority of the planning group should be to recommend projects to be removed. Documents that are now available on the 2026 RWP Document page are: the General copy of the first amended scope of work, the first amended Exhibit C and the summary of major revisions to Exhibit C. 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 reports from Region C, Region I or GMA 11.

David Nabors provided that GMA 8 plan is moving forward.

Tony Smith, Carollo Engineering, working with Stan Hayes with Hayes Engineering, provided information on ongoing work during the 2026 water planning process. Mr. Smith presented the 2026 Water Plan Schedule. We are moving towards the end of year 2 of a five-year cycle. In February 2023 the draft municipal numbers will be available and that’s when work will kick up significantly. There are 200+ water user groups (WUGs) to engage with that will involve mailing surveys and making phone calls to gather accurate data. So far, the budget usage is at about 15% and there are a few invoices to be approved today. During the first half of 2022, we received numbers on livestock, manufacturing and steam-electric power generation. The current task at hand is addressing the Non-Municipal Data summary on draft mining and irrigation projects. Mr. Smith provided updates on the methodologies and draft

non-municipal water use projections for irrigation and mining released for the RWPG's review. Mr. Smith discussed the methodologies for irrigation. The 2030 baseline is based on an average of recent annual irrigation water use using data reported between 2015 and 2019. Irrigation usage is assumed constant over the planning period from 2030 to 2080 unless groundwater availability over the planning period is projected to be less than the groundwater-portion of the baseline irrigation demand projections. If so, irrigation demand is commensurately decreased starting in 2040 or later. He presented a comparison of draft 2026 irrigation projections to the 2021 plan and these numbers are quite consistent. Geographically there are more decreases across the area. That means the projected irrigation demand is likely to decrease by roughly 2000 acre feet. During the first quarter of 2023, his team will be reviewing those numbers to ensure any adjustment that needs to be made are made. The assessment regarding the irrigation methodology is that irrigation is relatively small portion of the region's projected use numbers. However, Lamar county does warrant particular attention because it was most impacted by the 2021 plan. For previous planning, received from Daisy Farms and Hon. M.C. Superville, Jr. (Lamar Co. Judge) requesting increase in demands by 15,000 ac-ft/yr, which was approved by RWPG and TWDB. Mining is critical in Texas. The availability of adequate water is essential to mining process. The TWDB through a grant from the USGS, funded a mining study through the UT Bureau of Economic Geology. It evaluated two principal components: oil and gas and the plays that are currently in the state and what is projected to occur in those plays over the next 50 years. Over the next 20 to 30 years those plays will slowly start tapering down. The study also looked at the present aggregate use by the various mining industries county by county. The level of aggregate development they're using and how much water for that development is being used. They set that water demand for 2020 and then they looked at population growth for the next 50 years. Then they apply the recent growth rate over the past 10 years to the mining aggregate water use to come up with the projected mining use. They combine that with the oil and gas projections and come up with the updated picture of mining projections. This methodology results in a slow but steady increase in projected mining water use. He also presented a comparison of the mining use between the current and previous planning cycles. The study yielded an overall reduction in mining demands except for Bowie, Harrison, and Wood counties. The mining numbers are relatively small compared to other larger demands in Region D. The majority of the non-municipal water use is coming from Lamar, Cass, and Harrison counties. For the 2021 planning cycle, in Region D, manufacturing and steam-electric make up the lion's share of the non-municipal water demand projecting out to the 2030 decade. That remained consistent when the numbers are projected out to 2070. The percentage increase close to 50% for manufacturing for the 2026 planning cycle, cutting into the steam-electric projection numbers. Overall, the non-municipal demand projections are lower this cycle. Keep in mind, these are draft numbers. TWDB process is now to incorporate information from local sources. These numbers must be submitted by July 2023 but should be submitted sooner. The path forward is contract amendments, continue engagement with local entities and seek action on proposed demand revisions during the first quarter in 2023. No action taken.

Kyle Dooley presented five invoices from Carollo Engineers for approval. The invoices are for work spanning from March of 2022 to August 2022. The total for the five invoices is \$20,388.36. David Nabors made a motion to authorize Kyle Dooley to pay the invoices to Carollo. Russell Acker seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Kyle Dooley also provided that the language giving him the approval of signing the funding contract with TWDB accounted for the assumption that the approval carried over to approving any necessary amendments to that funding contract. The next meeting date is to be determined to ensure that Tony Smith with Carollo has all the necessary data compiled for the Region D board to approve on the water demand projection numbers.

With no further business to discuss, Jim Thompson adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.


Secretary


Date