

**Minutes of the North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group
May 29, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.**

The North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (NETRWPG) – Region D met in an open meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 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 10:01 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:

David Aikin	Brandon Belcher	John Brooks	Joe Bumgarner
Greg Carter	Kevin Chumbley	Nicolas Fierro	Cindy Gwinn
Hattie Hackler	Billy Henson	Robert Hurst	Conrad King
Richard LeTourneau	Janet McCoy	Fred Milton	Sharron Nabors
Jim Thompson			

The following alternates were present:

Doug Skinner	Howdy Lisenbee
--------------	----------------

The following voting members were absent:

Russell Acker	Joe Coats	Richard Garza	Andy Endsley
Cory Moose	Ned Muse	Harlton Taylor	

The public was provided with an opportunity for comment prior to any action being taken by the planning group. No comments were made.

Fred Milton made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2024 meeting. David Aikin seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Jim Thompson opened the discussion regarding the appointment of a successor for the unexpired term of the voting member position currently held by Cory Moose. Mr. Moose replaced Bob Tardiff at the meeting held in October 2023. Mr. Moose is no longer employed by the City of Lindale and has moved out of the area. Howdy Lisenbee and James Jordan were the only two nominees for the open position. The Executive Committee recommends to the board to accept the nomination of Howdy Lisenbee as the new board member. Mr. Lisenbee has been very interested in the ongoings of Region D and meets the open representative sectors. Mr. Thompson opened the floor for discussion, motions, or other nominations. Greg Carter made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to appoint Howdy Lisenbee as the successor to the board member position held by Cory Moose. Brandon Belcher seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye, with one abstention.

Jim Thompson opened the discussion on board representation status for each board member. Kyle Dooley did not receive any contact regarding the areas of Region D that they represent. Therefore, this item will be tabled today but will remain open. No action taken.

Ron Ellis with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provided a report. The Texas Water Fund webpage has been updated here:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/twf/index.asp>. There is a link to sign up for email updates as well as a link to frequently asked questions as well as a link to the video of the March 20, 2024 stakeholder meeting. The Interregional Planning Council has issued their report, and it is available here: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/>. In the adoption of their final report, the IPC made recommendations to approve three statutory charges. One is to improve coordination among the regional water planning groups, and between each regional water planning group and the Board, in meeting the goals of the state water planning process and the water needs of the state as a whole. Another is to facilitate dialogue regarding water management strategies that could affect multiple regional water planning areas. Lastly, they are charged with sharing best practices regarding operation of the regional water planning process. They also made recommendation to the legislature, to TWDB and to future regional planning councils. To the legislature they recommended that they appropriate additional funds to the planning process. They listed the need for more funding to support planning groups' task to identify and facilitate interregional coordination, to accommodate tasks associated with long-range, visionary planning, to fund better methods of disseminating information for the regional water planning process, and lastly, funds are needed to accommodate labor costs for administering RWPGs. Other recommendations made to the legislature include asking them to provide financial incentives for local sponsorship of innovative, visionary, multi-benefit projects; provide initial sponsorship of projects by the State without guarantees from local sponsors; they would want them to establish a coordination process amongst state agencies for installation of infrastructure during planning and construction of large-scale projects; they asked them to strike simplified planning from the statute; and they'd like the authorization of the use of one-way conferencing or webinars. The recommendations they made to TWDB included asking the Board to develop protocols to include annual discussions to evaluate and document best practices for regional water planning in Chairs' conference calls. The recommendations they made to future planning councils include monitoring the effectiveness of efforts to promote interregional coordination and review how best to utilize interregional liaisons in the development or use of shared water resources; utilize state agencies' expertise to assist regions in developing a vision of planning resources for the state as a whole; consider holding work sessions as needed to "deep dive" into more complicated topics; review materials and meeting notes from the TWDB's "lessons learned" technical meetings with RWPG consultants; and review progress on all recommendations in the 2027 SWP Council's report and submit its assessment to the TWDB. The IPC also included several observations on topics not related to its statutory charge. They made recommendations around water loss, unaccounted water use, and long-range visionary planning. Cindy Gwinn asked if Mr. Ellis had examples of more complicated topics they recommended a "deep dive" into. Mr. Ellis stated that the IPC's take on a more complicated project could be an interregional project that affects multiple regions that allows resources to be shared among the regions. For example, in the southwestern part of Texas there are several small cities that are not near a major water source and they're having trouble with the groundwater they do have access to. None of those small cities have the resources to create a regional project to help themselves or those around them. The planning council or multiple planning groups

could combine efforts to make a multiregional project happen. Mr. Ellis also provided information on Conservation Resources for 2026 Regional Water Plan Development. Information on that topic can be found here:

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

This page contains conservation resources available for regional water planning groups to consider during development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans. Mr. Ellis included the presentation of a table that includes the type of data reported, who is required to report this data and when it should be reported. This table includes the reporting requirements for water use surveys, water loss audits, water conservation plans, and water conservation plan annual reports. Different types of entities are required to report this data and each report has a specific due date. This data can be used to develop conservation strategies, to review target GPCDs, to summarize the types of BMPs included in the conservation plans in the region as well as summarize the BMP implementation results. The Texas Water Development Board created a Conservation Information Dashboard for Water Supply Planning. It can be found here: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/dashboard/conservation.asp>. It will provide historical WUG planning GPCDs by region, water use, loss, and conservation reporting requirements, GPCD trends and targets, municipal conservation BMPs and recommended projects and recently implemented BMPs by region. The planning group is tasked with setting GPCD Goals. The resources that planning groups can access in addition to the water conservation dashboard for setting those goals are the Secure Agency Reporting Application (SARA) Report that calculates baseline planning GPCDs adjusting for water efficiency and water management conservation savings. There is also a spreadsheet of the 2026 RWP baseline GPCDs and WUG Adjusted GPCD based on WCAC methodology. Mr. Ellis also provided a link to materials for planning groups as follows:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/outreach/index.asp>,

John McFarland, Region I and GMA 11 representative, reported that Region I had no update. GMA 11 met Wednesday, May 15th. They are in year 2 of planning and they're looking at desired future conditions more in relation to the actual static levels that we are reading. Our ground water districts are monitoring their wells now, more than ever. Mr. McFarland is turning in 80-100 readings. The more data they have, the more accurate they will be with regards to where the water levels are. Investors out of the Dallas/Fort Worth area visited GMA 11 and they stated their plan is to come to east Texas and drill well fields and pipeline it back to Dallas and to the Hill Country. There were no reports from Region C or GMA 8.

Tony Smith, Carollo Engineers, reviewed the Draft on Chapter 1 for the 2026 Region D Water Plan. Mr. Smith provided a reminder that we are targeting March of 2025 to prepare the Draft Plan called the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). That will mean we will likely meet in January or early February to approve the Draft Plan for Region D. This Draft is sent to the state for review, then there is a public comment period, and there is still time to work with the technical consultant to finalize it and make changes. The final plan must be submitted by October 2025. He began with an update that we are still in line with and we're staying in budget for planning. TWDB also gave Carollo the go ahead for Task 5B Scope of Work. That means we can begin executing the work on evaluating water management strategies. Mr. Smith reviewed details of what the draft of Chapter 1 looks like. It will be updated as approved and the changes made will be tracked in the document and double checked. Chapter 1 describes the physical, economic, and geography of the region. It also includes the water characteristics, supplies, resources, ground

water and surface water. It touches on threats to agricultural and natural resources, wildlife and vegetation. This is a very high level overview of the description of Region D. In subsequent chapters, there will be rigorous detail on each section reviewed in Chapter 1. He also covered highlights of the 2022 State Water Plan including the approximate water supply need of 117,000 acre feet per year with water management strategies equaling 221,000 acre feet per year for a total capital cost of \$730 million. In the 2022 State Plan, there are recommendations that include a designation of 3 stream segments of unique ecological value, and designation of Parkhouse II in the Sulphur River Basin as a unique reservoir site. And lastly, Region D proposed two kinds of water management strategies for its water shortages, including new groundwater wells and new surface water purchases. Mr. Smith asked that if there are any details that anyone has questions or concerns with or if anyone would like to add any details that are missing, please reach out to him. Other planning efforts include a modification to Task 5B Scope of Work to include an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) scope item and the budget will not increase. Carollo's rural outreach efforts must be summarized in Chapter 10. They must document public meetings, things of that nature. Carollo has already been doing that given the makeup of Region D. TWDB has compiled a list of 154 Rural WUGs that meet the rural political subdivision definition per TWC 15.001(14). The Drought Preparedness Council (DPC) put out a letter to Region D with an offer assistance and made recommendations. The administrative code sites that the planning groups are required to consider any relevant recommendations from the DPC. The DCP made the following recommendations: 1. The regional water plans and state water plan shall serve as water supply plans under drought of record conditions. The DPC encourages regional water planning groups to consider planning for drought conditions worse than the drought of record, including scenarios that reflect greater rainfall deficits and/or higher surface temperatures. 2. The Drought Preparedness Council encourages regional water planning groups to incorporate projected future reservoir evaporation rates in their assessments of future surface water availability. 3. The Drought Preparedness Council encourages regional water planning groups to identify in their plans utilities within their boundaries that reported having less than 180 days of available water supply to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality during the current or preceding planning cycle. For systems that appeared on the 180-day list, RWPGs should perform the evaluation required by Texas Administrative Code Section 357.42(g), if it has not already been completed for that system. The path forward will include an evaluation of Water Management Strategies; then the development of Chapters 2 and 3; then policy recommendations will be made. Mr. Smith agreed with a comment made by Cindy Gwinn Region D needs to be aware of what is in all the Drought Contingency Plans and Water Conservation Plans so as to include them in the Region D planning efforts. Fred Milton asked if there is a policy in place to control the encroachment into the ground water in our area? Mr. Smith provided that it would be a Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) which Region D does not have. John McFarland, as the representative of GMA 11 stated that the right of capture is also known as the "law of the largest pump." Meaning if you have the land and the pump, you can pump the ground water out. He stated that part of the purpose of Groundwater Management is to monitor groundwater levels and issue permits based on what is available and ensure everyone gets what they need. That means that without a GDC and someone wants to come in and decides to pump the water out, they can. The GMA won't stop them from pumping, but they will impose limits on the amount pumped based on the science they're using to determine what is available. No action taken.

Kyle Dooley presented invoices from Carollo Engineers for payment approval. The invoices are for work from January and February 2024. The total for the invoices is \$119,348.72. Greg Carter made a motion to authorize Kyle Dooley to pay the invoices to Carollo. Fred Milton seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

The public was provided with a second opportunity to make comments. No public comments were made.

Kyle Dooley provided that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-August 2024 and have another in September or October 2024. He also stated that the board should expect a notice for expiring terms to be mailed and posted online in late June or early July.

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


Secretary

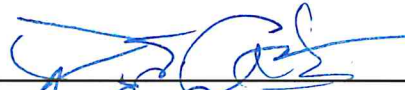

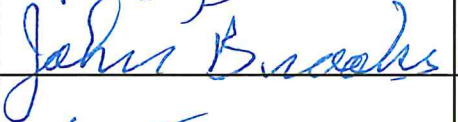



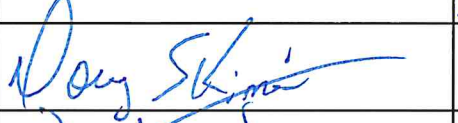
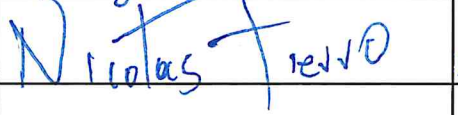



Date

VOTING MEMBER SIGN-IN

NORTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP - REGION "D"

MAY 29, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Region 8 Education Service Center 4845 US Hwy 271 N. Pittsburg, Texas 75686


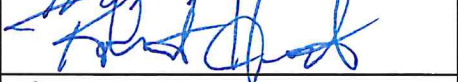






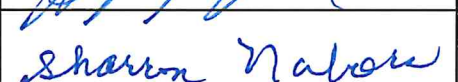
VOTING MEMBERS	SIGNATURE	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADDRESS	CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL	OCCUPATION/ PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
1 RUSSELL ACKER		racker@mywoodcounty.com	PO Box 938, Quitman, TX 75783		
2 DAVID AIKIN		DWAIKIN@YAHOO.COM	PO Box 375, Mt. Vernon, TX 75457		
3 BRANDON BELCHER		brandon.belcher@tnc.org	528 CR 1035, Cooper, TX 75432		
4 JOHN BROOKS (AT LG)		johnbrooks68@gmail.com	PO Box 26, Celeste, TX 75423		
5 JOE BUMGARNER (AT LG)		jbumgarner@eastman.com	12351 FM 909, Boata, TX		
6 GREG CARTER		WGCARTER@AEP.COM	PO Box 7444, Longview, TX 75607-7444		
7 KEVIN CHUMBLEY		KCHUMBLEY@LONGVIEWTEXAS.GOV	503 Greenwood ST., Queen City, TX 75572		
8 JOE COATS		j.coats@live.com	PO Box 1952 Longview, TX 75604		
9 DOUG SKINNER (ALT-ANDY ENDSLEY)					
10 NICOLAS FIERRO		nfierro@tcfreshwater.com	1286 TEXAS ST. STE B SULPHUR SPRINGS, TX 75482		
11 RICHARD GARZA II		garza87@gmail.com	PO Box 650, Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456-0650		
12 CINDY GWINN (SEC)		cynthia.gwinn@graphicpkg.com	300 VZ CR 1221, Grand Saline,, TX 75140		
13 HATTIE HACKLER		hattiehooligan@yahoo.com	9978 FM ROAD 3129, Queen City, TX 75572		

VOTING MEMBER SIGN-IN

NORTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP - REGION "D"

MAY 29, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Region 8 Education Service Center 4845 US Hwy 271 N. Pittsburg, Texas 75686

	VOTING MEMBERS	SIGNATURE	EMAIL ADDRESS	ADDRESS	CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL	OCCUPATION/ PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
14	BILLY HENSON		prowler@macandprowler.com	306 Nancy St., Atlanta, TX 75551		
15	ROBERT HURST		rhurst@deltacountytx.com	200 Dallas Ave., Cooper, TX 75432		
16	CONRAD KING		BCKING@SRATX.ORG	353 PR 5183, Quitman, TX 75783		
17	RICHARD LETOURNEAU		richardoillet@gmail.com	PO Box 12071, Longview, TX 75607		
18	JANET MCCOY		MAMC50@AOL.COM	1602 TX HWY 11 West, Daingerfield, TX 75638		
19	FRED MILTON		fmilog1@gmail.com	PO BOX 1264, New Boston, TX 75570		
20	CORY MOOSE		corym@lindaletx.gov	PO Box 130, Lindale, TX 75771		
21	HOWDY LIENBEE (ALT-NED MUSE)		howdy.lienbee@commercetx.org	1119 Alamo St., Commerce, TX 75428		
22	SHARRON NABORS			1822 E. Polk, Paris, TX 75460		
23	HARLTON TAYLOR		harlontaylor@hotmail.com	BICOUNTY WSC, Pittsburg, TX 75686		
24	JIM THOMPSON		JIMTHOMPSON@WARDTIMBER.COM	1101 US HWY 59, Linden, TX 75563		

MAY 29, 2024 10:00 A.M., REGION 8 EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER, PITTSBURG, TEXAS

[illegible]