

**Minutes of the North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group
February 19, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.**

The North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (NETRWPG) – Region D met in an open meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2024, at 10:00a.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.

Item 1 – Jim Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:00a.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 Region D voting members were present:

Brandon Belcher	John Brooks	Greg Carter	Kevin Chumbley
Joe Coats	Andy Endsley	Richard Garza	Hattie Hackler
Robert Hurst	Conrad King	Richard LeTourneau	Howdy Lisenbee
Janet McCoy	Fred Milton	Ned Muse	Harlton Taylor
Jim Thompson			

The following alternates were present:

Joel Murray

The following voting members were absent:

Russell Acker	David Aikin	Joe Bumgarner	Nicolas Fierro
Cindy Gwinn	Billy Henson	Sharron Nabors	

Item 2 – The public was provided an opportunity to provide comments. Each person listed below appeared in their individual capacity unless otherwise noted. The comments emphasized the need for sustainable water management, criticizing the construction of new reservoirs like Marvin Nichols due to environmental and economic impacts.

Gary Cheatwood, Sr.

Gary Cheatwood, Jr.

Item 3 – Fred Milton made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2024 meeting. John Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, all voting aye.

Item 4 – Jim Thompson opened the discussion regarding election of the Executive Committee and appointments of liaisons to adjacent regional water planning groups and groundwater management areas for the North East Texas Regional Water Planning Group. The current executive committee consists of Jim Thompson as the Chair, Richard LeTourneau is the Vice Chair, Cindy Gwinn as the secretary-treasurer, John Brooks and Joe Bumgarner serve as the At-Large members. John McFarland serves as the liaison to Region I and GMC 11. Howdy Lisenbee serves as the liaison to Region C. A motion was made by Janet McCoy to reappoint the officers and liaisons as they are currently installed. Motion carried unanimously, all voting aye.

Item 5 – There were no reports from the Texas Water Development Board, Region C, GMA 8 or GMA 11.

Item 6 – Tony Smith, Carollo Engineers, outlined the budget status, indicating that planning efforts have gone through roughly 50% of the budget and is on track to meet goals. Mr. Smith detailed the process that has led to the development of the draft Initially Prepared Plan that will be submitted to TWDB by March 3, 2025. He explained the strategies for addressing water needs, emphasizing conservation and water loss management as the first priorities. He highlighted the importance of considering environmental and socio-economic impacts in the planning process as well. Mr. Smith also covered the newly implemented feasible and infeasible water strategies and what questions to ask those with water management strategies where they are in the planning process. Mr. Smith also covered the IPP and Final Regional Water Plan timeline. Once the planning group approves and submits the IPP to TWDB, Riverbend will post the IPP hearing notice at county clerks' offices as well as libraries in the region 30 days prior to the hearing. The TWDB will then review and provide formal comments to the planning group within 120 days. Meanwhile, Riverbend will hold the public hearing where oral and written comments will be accepted. There will then be a 60-day public comment period following the public hearing. The planning group will consider and address all comments and adopt the final Regional Water Plan to be submitted to the TWDB by October 20, 2025. Ned muse made a motion to approve the Technical Consultant to coordinate with the Chair and the Administrator and submit the 2026 Region D Initially Prepared Plan and accompanying digital deliverables, as necessarily modified for final submittal to the Texas Water Development Board by March 3, 2025, and to distribute digital and/or physical copies of the submitted Initially Prepared Plan to all required libraries and county clerk offices in the Region. Greg Carter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously all voting aye.

Item 7 – Tony Smith, Carollo Engineers, presented a chart outlining the schedule of required meetings and hearing regarding the Initially Prepared Plan and the Final Regional Water Plan. The IPP is due March 3, 2025. There will need to be an IPP public comment period 30 days prior to and 60 days following a public hearing to be held in April or May of 2025. The planning group will then review comments and make revisions to the plan between July and August of 2025. In September or October of 2025, the Planning Group will hold a meeting to formally approve the Final Regional Water Plan prior to October 20, 2025 when the final plan is due to TWDB. He asked for action from the planning group to approve the scheduling of the public hearing to receive comments on the 2026 Region D Initially Prepared Plan and further authorizes Riverbend to publish the 30-day notice of the public hearing. Kyle Dooley presented options for the dates and times for the public hearing. Fred Milton made a motion to hold the public hearing regarding comments on the IPP at 10:00a.m. at the Region 8 Education Service Center on a date in mid-May to be determined as is available. The motion was seconded by Ned Muse. Motion carried unanimously all voting aye.

A discussion opened regarding the need for coordination and timely identification of potential interregional conflicts. Discussion points included the importance of proactive coordination with neighboring regions and the use of the state water planning database. The process for identifying and resolving conflicts involves written submissions, negotiations, and potential public hearings. Jim Thompson highlighted the deadline for asserting conflicts, suggesting a possible additional

meeting. Kyle Dooley stated he will look into dates available for a meeting to take action on the possibility of asserting an interregional conflict and he will send an email to the board.

Item 8 – Kyle Dooley presented invoices from Carollo Engineers for payment approval. The invoices are for services provided between June 2024 and December 2024 totaling \$129,914.29. Fred Milton made a motion to pay the outstanding invoices. Greg Carter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously all voting aye.

Item 9 – The public was provided an opportunity to provide comments. Each person listed below appeared in their individual capacity unless otherwise noted. Christin Bentley is the State Republican Executive Committeewoman (SREC) for Senate District One. She has served in her role as the SREC for over two and a half years now, and she has discovered that most people in our senate district do not know what the Marvin Nichols reservoir is. She commended the Region D board's dedication to standing up for personal sovereignty and opposing eminent domain when alternatives exist as well as their efforts to involve more people and encourage participation in meetings. That is crucial for building a strong community response. She offered her business card containing her contact information to anyone that would need assistance with anything in Senate District One.

Item 10 – With no additional business to be discussed the chair, Jim Thompson, adjourned the meeting at 11:48a.m.

Cindy Durin
Secretary

4/9/2025
Date