

**MINUTES OF THE
REGION I - EAST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
Thursday, February 15, 2024 – 10:00 A.M.**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Martin called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.
2. **Invocation/Pledge** – David Alders led the invocation. John Martin led the Pledge.
3. **Notice of Meeting** – Notice was sent to Voting Members and posted as required.
4. **Roll Call/Determination of Quorum** – The roll was called by Cheryl Bartlett and quorum was determined as follows:

Voting Members Present: (14 of 22)

David Alders - Agriculture
Kate Dietz – Municipality (*Virtual*)
David Gorsich – Industry (*Virtual*)
Scott Hall – River Authority
Kelley Holcomb – River Authority
Fred Jackson – Counties
John Martin – GMA-14
Matthew McBroom - Environmental
John McFarland – GMA-11
Matthew Mettauer - Agriculture
Monty Shank – River Authority
Mike Snyder – Electric Power
Terry D. Stelly – Public
Christopher Wiesinger – Small Business

Voting Members Absent: (4)

Chris Davis - Counties
David Montagne – River Authority
Rob Starr – Water Utilities
Emily Whitworth – Water District

Voting Member Category Vacancies: (4)

Municipality
Small Business
Public
Industry

Other Attendees

Agencies:

Lann Bookout - Tx Water Development Board
Teresa Griffin – Panola County GCD
Stephen Lange – Tx Parks & Wildlife
Chang Lee, PE – City of Dallas

Staff and Consultants:

Cheryl Bartlett - City of Nacogdoches
Brigit Buff, PE – Plummer Asso.
Cody McCann – Plummer Asso. (*Virtual*)
Jordan Skipwith – Freese & Nichols

5. Public Comments: None

6. Consideration and Approval of the minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting

Monty Shank made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 meeting as presented, 2nd by Fred Jackson, passed unanimously.

7. Report from City of Nacogdoches: Cheryl Bartlett

No updates to report.

8. Reports of adjoining regions activity:

- a. Region C – David Montagne: not present, no report.
- b. Region D – John McFarland: no update; group will meet next Wednesday in Pittsburg
- c. Region H – Scott Hall: no report.
- d. Interregional Liaison – Kelley Holcomb:
Interregional Planning Council met Feb. 8th – The IPC approved the plan that goes to the Legislature. The document is being finalized and should be sent out to all members soon. Primary discussion involved getting the public engaged.
(Reminder: activities of the Interregional Council can be found on the TWDB website.
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/index.asp>)

9. Report from Standing Committees:

- a. Executive Committee – John Martin: No report.
- b. Finance Committee – Kelley Holcomb: Had a short meeting today. Working on developing a report format to present at future meetings. Finances are in good shape. Continue to work on a backlog of Plummer invoices. Invoices to counties for administrative support will go out soon.
- c. Bylaws Committee – David Alders: Minor formatting changes to the revision approved at the October 4th meeting have been made. A few possible conflicts between articles were discovered in the updating process and a few additional minor changes may be addressed at the next meeting.
- d. Technical Committee – Scott Hall: Committee did not meet. Scott pointed out that the consultant report presented at the last meeting contained a significant change in the reservoirs in the Neches Basin with a reduction in yield for WAM due to evaporation. The Technical Committee is questioning the numbers and will be investigating the data. Discussion was held about the timing of getting new data for this report.
- e. Nominations Committee – Monty Shank: committee met today. Confirmed that we have vacancies in Industry, Municipality, Public and Small Business. Committee agreed to recommend the nomination of Jenny Sanders with the Texas Longleaf Alliance to represent the Public.

10. Discussion and possible action to approve recommendations from the Nominations Committee for the appointment of voting members of the East Texas Regional Water Planning Group:

Monte made a motion to nominate Jenny Sanders with the Texas Longleaf Alliance to fill the vacancy in the Public category. 2nd by Matthew McBroom, passed unanimously with one abstention (Kelley Holcomb).

**11. Report from consultant team – including discussion and possible action by RWPG:
Brigit Buff (Plummer Asso.), Jordan Skipwith (Freese & Nichols)**

a. The primary goal of this meeting is to briefly review and discuss the material contained in the Technical Memorandum and discuss possible action by the Planning Group to authorize submission of the report to the TWDB by the March 4th deadline. Planning Group approval at this meeting and a 2-week public comment period are required before that submission. Brigit reviewed the remaining schedule after March – basically we will need to complete the initial plan within about one year (March 2025) and the consultant team will need authorization from the Planning Group to begin work on those tasks.

1. Demand Allocations and Water Needs – (as discussed in previous meetings, especially Jan. 10th) Allocations that cannot be met by Supply are considered Needs. Allocations that exceed Supply are called Surplus. A summary of the data used for allocations, supply, needs and surplus in Region I and strategies to analyze was presented. We are primarily concerned with the methods and types of data gathered for analysis.
2. Infeasible Water Management Strategies Analysis – none of the potential infeasible water strategies in this Region require further action (no amendments) at this time. John requested Public Comments – there were none. *David Alders made a motion to approve Attachment 8 in the Technical Memorandum to say that there are no Infeasible Water Management Strategies in Region I that require action, 2nd by Kelley Holcomb, passed unanimously.*
3. Proposed List of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies – A proposed starting list (primarily from the 2016 and 2021 Plans) of these strategies to be included in the Technical Memorandum was presented. *Kate Dietz made a motion to approve the initial list of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies, as presented. 2nd by Monty Shank, passed unanimously.*
4. Brigit presented an overview of the contents of the Technical Memorandum. We are not approving individual numbers at this time – they will be refined over the next year. The Planning Group will be asked to approve the general content of the Technical Memorandum, and the nine attachments as presented.
 - A. Cover letter
 - B. Attachment 1 – TWDB DB27 Reports
Population, demand, source availability, existing water supply, needs/surplus, data comparison to 2021 RWP, source data comparison to 2021 RWP

C. Attachment 2 – Identification of Feasible Water Management Strategies
Process used to identify potentially feasible WMSs to date and list of potentially feasible WMSs (approved in 11(a)(3) above)

D. Attachment 3 – Hydrologic Variance Requests
Presented and approved at the October 4, 2023 Meeting

E. Attachment 4 – Memorandum of WAM Modifications
Methodology for calculating the anticipated sedimentation rate and revising the area-capacity curve

F. Attachment 5 – Hydrologic Models
Table of details of hydrologic models used

G. Attachment 6 – Groundwater Availability
Documentation of methodologies for groundwater availability (discussed at the January 10, 2024 meeting)

H. Attachment 7 – Interregional Coordination
Memo summary of Region I's interregional coordination efforts with other regions and GMAs to date

I. Attachment 8 – Infeasible Water Management Strategies
List of infeasible WMSs and WMSPs from the Region I 2021 RWP (approved in 11(a)(2) above)

J. Attachment 9 – Digital model input/output data files

5. John requested Public Comments on the Technical Memorandum. There were no comments. Matthew Mettauer asked whether there would be a notation included about the Planning Group's concerns about the population projections from TWDB. John and Brigit said that the group's previous discussions concluded that since water demands from the WUGs would somewhat take care of this, and that the projections were primarily affected only in cycles several decades out, there would be time to make those population corrections in future cycles. Lann (and Brigit) mentioned that a note about population concerns will appear in Chapter 2 of the final plan.

Matt Mettauer made a motion to approve the draft Technical Memorandum as presented, and authorize the Technical Consultants to address any updates and submit it to the TWDB by March 4, 2024. 2nd by David Alders, passed unanimously.

- b. Specific Task 5B Scope of Work and Notice to Proceed

The Planning Group is required by TWDB to hold a public meeting to approve the Technical Consultant to move forward in analyzing the strategies for this planning cycle with the remaining subtasks in Task 5B for the designated budget already approved. After no public comments,

Scott Hall made the motion to:

-Authorize the City of Nacogdoches to submit a NTP request to TWDB and execute a contract amendment with TWDB for additional scope for Task 5B

-Authorize Consultants to address clarification requests from TWDB regarding additional Task 5B scope

-Authorize City of Nacogdoches to execute a subsequent contract amendment after receiving contract scope amendment and NTP from TWDB

2nd by Terry Stelly, passed unanimously

12. Reports from other state agencies, as necessary:

- a. Texas Water Development Board – Lann Bookout
TWDB is evaluating several SWIFT loan applications from this area. Information on applications to access funding from the Texas Water Fund and the schedule for community workshops to receive public input on the rules, as well as workshops to get information on financial assistance on are available on the website. The TCEQ/TWDB Water Use Surveys for 2023 are due March 4th. Information and applications for Agricultural Water Conservation Grants are available on the website through April 3rd.
- b. Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife – Stephen Lange
TDPW has temporarily issued a 3 fish limit (15 inch minimum, 20 inch maximum) for sea trout primarily due to the freeze event in January. Mr. Lange expressed support for Jenny Sanders joining the Board due to her expertise with tree populations. He also briefly discussed current and future TDPW studies concerning water modeling and brush management as a water management strategy. The Centennial Fund and other specific funds have been set aside to replace Fairfield Lake State Park. TDPW is actively looking to acquire property with lake access within 60-100 miles of Fairfield. He also discussed partnerships with properties already set aside for conservation to manage public access near the Pineywoods Mitigation Bank and the Sand Hills property near the Naconiche Lake watershed which may involve a partnership with SFA State University for environmental studies.
- c. Texas Department of Agriculture – not present; no report.
- d. Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board – not present; no report.
- e. Groundwater Management Areas –
John McFarland (GMA 11) – GMA 11 is planning to meet in April in Nacogdoches. Region I members will be notified and are invited to attend.
John Martin (GMA 14) – GMA 14 will be meeting Feb 29th in Conroe. The group is in the process of developing a resolution to submit to TWDB to request that the GMA be allowed to use an alternate water model.

13. General Discussion – None

14. Set Next Meeting Dates –

Next Meeting is scheduled for September 18th, 10:00 am.

15. Adjourned at 11:29 pm

APPROVED THIS _____

John Martin, Chair
ETRWPG – Region I

ATTEST: _____
Terry Stelly, Secretary