

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGION I - EAST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING  
Tuesday, January 7, 2025 – 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 and 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: (17 of 22)**

David Alders - Agriculture  
Kate Dietz – Municipality (*Virtual*)  
David Gorsich – Industry (*Virtual*)  
Scott Hall – River Authority (*Virtual*)  
Kelley Holcomb – River Authority  
John Martin – GMA-14  
Matthew McBroom - Environmental  
John McFarland – GMA-11  
Matthew Mettauer – Agriculture (*Virtual*)  
David Miley – Water District  
David Montagne – River Authority (*Virtual*)  
Jenny Sanders – Public (*Virtual*)  
Monty Shank – River Authority  
Mike Snyder – Electric Power (*Virtual*)  
Rob Starr – Water Utilities (*Virtual*)  
Terry D. Stelly – Public  
Christopher Wiesinger – Small Business (*Virtual*)

**Voting Members Absent: (2)**

Chris Davis - Counties  
Fred Jackson – Counties (*Virtual*)

**Voting Member Category Vacancies: (3)**

Municipality  
Small Business  
Industry

**Other Attendees**

**Agencies:**

Lann Bookout – Texas Water Development Board  
Trey Watson – Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board  
Chang Lee – Dallas Water Utilities  
Stephen Lange – Texas Parks & Wildlife

**Staff and Consultants:**

Cheryl Bartlett - City of Nacogdoches  
Brigit Buff, PE – Plummer Asso.  
Qiwen Zhang, PE – Plummer Asso.  
Jordan Skipwith – Freese & Nichols

**5. Public Comments:** None

**6. Consideration and Approval of the minutes of the September 18, 2024 meeting**

*Kelley Holcomb made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024 meeting as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Monty Shank, passed unanimously.*

**7. Report from City of Nacogdoches: Cheryl Bartlett**

No updates to report. Updates on financial status will be presented in Treasurer's report.

**8. Reports of adjoining regions activity:**

- a. Region C – David Montagne; Have had much discussion about lack of water in the DFW metroplex, except for Dallas. Many water providers in the NTx Municipal area are telling large residential developers in the metroplex that they can't get additional water. Central Texas is also talking about a lack of water in the region. Discussions in Austin of getting water through pipelines from east Texas and possibly Arkansas involving proposed multi-billion-dollar projects at the state level.
- b. Region D – John McFarland: met in November, no report.
- c. Region H – Scott Hall: no report.
- d. Interregional Liaison – Kelley Holcomb: Interregional Planning Council has not met since submitting their report in March, 2024.

**9. Report from Standing Committees:**

- a. Executive Committee – John Martin: Did not meet - no report.
- b. Finance Committee – Kelley Holcomb: The Committee met this morning, and we are continuing to make progress on a backlog of Plummer invoices. There has been very little change in the fund balance of the local Administrative account since the last meeting and we do not expect any significant expenses through the end of the fiscal year. We will continue to have updates in future meetings.
- c. Bylaws Committee – David Alders: no report.
- d. Technical Committee – Scott Hall: Committee met in November to review much of the data being presented today. No significant issues were raised. Some points that were brought up will be reviewed in the discussion of various Chapters today.
- e. Nominations Committee – Monty Shank: committee did not meet today. We currently have 3 vacancies. Contact Monty if there are any recommendations for new members.

**10. Report from consultant team with discussion and possible action by RWPG:**

**Brigit Buff (Plummer), Qiwen Zhange (Plummer), Jordan Skipwith (Freese & Nichols)**

- a. Review of 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Water Planning Schedule – We are close to the end of the cycle. Most of the planning and evaluation has been completed and most of the draft chapters are available for review. We will be reviewing updates for the IPP today for the final report that is due in March, 2025. It will be important to have a quorum at the next meeting,

scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup>, to vote on adoption of the IPP for the March 3 submission. Next on the schedule will be choosing a spring date in April/May to hold a public comment hearing to gather input on the report. This meeting requires a 30-day notice and hard copies of the IPP provided in locations in each county 30 days before and 60 days after the meeting. Lann noted that the public hearing does not require a quorum of Regional Planning Group members to be present. Another meeting will be held in September/October to vote on approval of the final plan that is due October 25, 2025.

- b. Updates on, and review of, Posted Draft Initially Prepared Plan chapters:  
Chapters 1- 4 have been posted online for quite a while. We will be discussing comments that have been received on these chapters as well as reviewing the remaining chapters.
  - 1. Chapter 1: Description of the Regional Water Planning Area  
Contains the introduction to the report and a basic directory of information. No significant comments on this material have been received.
  - 2. Chapter 2: Projected Population and Water Demands  
Contains data and analysis of population and demand projections.
  - 3. Chapter 3: Evaluation of Current Water Supplies in the Region  
Contains data and analysis of water sources, systems and availability in the region.
  - 4. Chapter 4: Water Needs  
Combines the supply and demands resulting in water needs analysis.
- c. Updates on, and overview of, Draft Initially Prepared Plan Chapters
  - 1. Chapter 5A: Potentially Feasible WMSs  
This chapter contains information on the potential water management strategies that are economically feasible to use in the short-term in Region I. Discussion of possible reuse strategies for two areas (Athens and Center) is included. Assisting supplies strategy in our water-rich region is a discussion of ways to access existing supply. This involves expanding groundwater production, increasing voluntary transfers (sales and contracts), expanding infrastructure and accessing local supplies. Three new potential suppliers and two inter-basin transfers have been identified within our region. Transfers from Region I to other regions will be discussed in the target region reports. Kelley Holcomb raised questions about how this coordination between regions will be documented. Brigit and Jordan responded that the amounts of supply being exported to another region is included in the overall database. Members requested a table showing the numbers involved in those transfers be included and available to review at the February meeting.
  - 2. Chapter 5C: Water Conservation  
This chapter includes a data table containing the conservation efforts currently being used in the region by 42 WUGS. A discussion of water use reduction and water loss mitigation as recommended future conservation strategies is included. Members requested that threshold numbers be added back for smaller WUGS to encourage water conservation efforts. After much discussion between Members and Consultants, the conclusion was to add a generic statement to encourage conservation along with a list of methods and resources available to assist all WUGS in these efforts.

3. Chapter 7: Drought Response

This chapter contains a summary of the data concerning the drought(s) of record for the region and methods to respond to these emergency conditions. Discussion involved updates to the drought information from the previous cycle plan. Chapter has been posted online and member review is requested.

4. Chapter 8: Unique Stream Segments, Unique Reservoir Sites, and Legislative Recommendations

This chapter contains much less numerical data and analysis and is an opportunity for the group to add individual input and recommendations to TWDB and state legislature. Brigit briefly reviewed information contained in the previous cycle report, as well as known updates and revisions that have been made to those recommendations. She also reviewed responses from a survey that was sent out and ideas that were incorporated as a result. The main new recommendation that has been added is to provide funding mechanisms to enable groundwater management areas to support the development of desired future conditions.

Ecologically significant/unique water segments identified in the region are listed in this chapter per Texas Water Code requirements. State agencies and political subdivisions are not allowed to finance construction of a reservoir in those designated areas. Previous plans for Region I did not include any water segments designated as ecologically significant/unique and members supported continuing that view in this 2026 report.

Legislatively-designated potential unique reservoir sites listed in the previous plan (Lake Columbia and Lake Fastrill) were discussed. Lake Fastrill has been dropped by Region C as a possible water management strategy due to a Supreme Court designation as a Fish & Wildlife Preserve. After much discussion, members requested that it remain on the list of potential sites in Region I but note the current status. Other legislative recommendations in the previous plan and updates were reviewed, discussed and minor modifications were made.

d. Updates on Water Management Strategies – Task 5B: Water Management Strategies

Data tables showing water supply and water needs, by county, that are used to analyze Water Management Strategies for this cycle have been posted. Preliminary analysis shows that the water management strategies in our region will meet the needs of all WUGS in the area. There is still some coordination going on in areas that overlap other regions. Qiewn presented an overview of the process used to work with each WUG to evaluate the strategies and the information to be included in the IPP. Members are encouraged to review the updated draft to be posted soon.

e. Updates on Additionally Prepared Plan Tasks and Chapters:

1. Chapter 6: Impacts of Plan and Consistency with Protection of Resources  
Under development; draft will be available after completion of Chapter 5B.
2. Chapter 9: Implementation and Comparison to Previous Plan

Under development; draft will be available, after Chapter 5B is completed.

3. Chapter 10: Public Participation: Narrative will contain a summary table documenting public meetings and other public and technical outreach that has occurred during this cycle.

**11. Reports from other state agencies, as necessary:**

- a. Texas Water Development Board – Lann Bookout, present, no report.
- b. Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife – Stephen Lange, present, no report.
- c. Texas Department of Agriculture – not present; no report.
- d. Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board – Trey Watson present virtually; no report.
- e. Groundwater Management Areas –  
John McFarland (GMA 11) – present, no report.  
John Martin (GMA 14) – GMA 14 is working to get the DFCs developed in the next year or so. No meetings scheduled at this time.

**12. General Discussion – None**

**13. Set Next Meeting Dates –February 6, 2025 (IPP Adoption)**

**14. Adjourned at 12:35 pm**

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_

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John Martin, Chair  
ETRWPG – Region I

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Stelly, Secretary