

**MINUTES OF THE
REGION I - EAST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
Thursday, February 6, 2025 – 10:00 A.M.**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Martin called the meeting to order at 10:02 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: (16 of 22)

David Alders - Agriculture
Kate Dietz – Municipality (*Virtual*)
Scott Hall – River Authority (*Virtual*)
Kelley Holcomb – River Authority
Fred Jackson – Counties (*Virtual*)
John Martin – GMA-14
Matthew McBroom - Environmental (*Virtual*)
John McFarland – GMA-11
Matthew Mettauer – Agriculture (*Virtual*)
David Miley - Water Districts
David Montagne (Alternate Jamie East) – River Authority (*Virtual*)
Jenny Sanders – Public
Monty Shank – River Authority
Terry D. Stelly – Public (*Virtual*)
Christopher Wiesinger – Small Business

Voting Members Absent: (3)

Chris Davis – Counties
David Gorsich – Industry
Mike Snyder – Electric Power
Rob Starr – Water Utilities

Voting Member Category Vacancies: (3)

Municipality
Small Business
Industry

Other Attendees

Agencies:

Lann Bookout – Texas Water Development Board
Scott Galloway – Texas Water Development Board (*Virtual*)
Daniel Price – Texas Parks & Wildlife
Manuel Martinez – Texas Department of Agriculture
Trey Watson – Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board

Staff and Consultants:

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

5. Public Comments: None

6. Consideration and Approval of the minutes of the January 7, 2025 meeting

Kelley Holcomb made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2025 meeting as presented, 2nd by Monty Shank, passed unanimously.

7. Report from City of Nacogdoches: Cheryl Bartlett

No updates to report.

8. Reports of adjoining regions activity:

- a. Region C – Jamie East: no report
- b. Region D – John McFarland: no report
- c. Region H – Scott Hall: met yesterday, no report
- d. Interregional Liaison – Kelley Holcomb: no report

9. Report from Standing Committees: No committees met this month

10. Report from consultant team with discussion by RWPG:

Brigit Buff (Plummer), Jordan Skipwith (Freese & Nichols)

- a. Review of 6th Cycle Water Planning Schedule & IPP Adoption Process – Brigit Buff
The IPP is due March 3rd. We need to establish a date for a Public Comment Hearing for the IPP – probably in late April or early May. This hearing will not require attendance by the entire regional planning group. Either the Planning Group or the Technical Committee will need to meet in August or September to review any comments made by the public and discuss if changes need to be made in the IPP to address them. The entire Planning Group will then meet in September or October to adopt the Final Plan that is due October 20th to the TWDB. This meeting requires a two-week notice.
- b. Review of chapters and appendices in the draft 2026 Region I East Texas Regional Water Planning Area Initially Prepared Plan – Brigit Buff and Jordan Skipwith
All of these chapters have been posted to the website and many comments received from planning members have already been incorporated. The consulting team is soliciting any additional comments today from the planning group.
- c. Review of Initially Prepared Plan Chapters
 1. Executive Summary – A summary of the 19 reports required in the Plan, including key findings for each county and detailed instructions for accessing data from the TWDB used for our analysis.
 2. Chapter 1: Description of the Regional Water Planning Area
 3. Chapter 2: Projected Population and Water Demands
 4. Chapter 3: Evaluation of Current Water
 5. Chapter 4: Water Needs

6. Chapter 5: Water Management Strategies (5a) Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies and Projects (5b) Evaluation of Recommended Water Strategies and Projects (5c) Conservation Recommendations
 7. Chapter 6: Impacts of the Regional Water Plan and Consistency With Protection of Resources (includes a placeholder for a report on the socio-economic impacts of any unmet water needs - this report will be forthcoming from TWDB in August)
 8. Chapter 7: Drought Response Information Activities and Recommendations
 9. Chapter 8: Unique Stream Segments, Unique Reservoir Sites, and Legislative and Regulatory Recommendations
 10. Chapter 9: Implementation and Comparison to the Previous (2021) Regional Water Plan
 11. Chapter 10: Public Participation in Adoption of the Plan
- 11. Consideration and Adoption of the 2026 Region I East Texas Regional Water Planning Area Initially Prepared Plan**
- a. **Consideration and approval for the Adopted Initially Prepared Plan to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board**
Motion for approval was amended to add “Technical Consulting Team has the ability to make minor adjustments for consistency” and made by David Alders, 2nd by Monty Shanks; passed unanimously
 - b. **Consideration and approval for the political subdivision to prepare and send appropriate notice(s) for Public Hearings related to the Initially Prepared Plan**
Motion by Kelley Holcomb, 2nd by Fred Jackson; passed unanimously
- 12. Reports from other state agencies, as necessary:**
- a. Texas Water Development Board – Lann Bookout, no report.
 - b. Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife – Daniel Price, no report.
 - c. Texas Department of Agriculture – Manuel Martinez; TDA recently completed CDBG reviews with 22 awarded in the Region I area including 15-17 water well or wastewater treatment improvement projects. Applications for the 25-26 projects are available now.
 - d. Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board – Trey Watson, no report.
 - e. Groundwater Management Areas –
John McFarland (GMA 11) – no report.
John Martin (GMA 14) – GMA 14 met earlier this week and will be meeting several times in the next few months to meet deadlines for report submittals
- 13. General Discussion – None**
- 14. Set Next Meeting Dates**
IPP Public Hearing May 1, 2025, 10:00 am (date established immediately after meeting)
Regular RWPG Meeting – late summer or early fall (TBD)
- 15. Adjourned at 11:10 pm**

APPROVED THIS _____

John Martin, Chair
ETRWPG – Region I

ATTEST: _____
Terry Stelly, Secretary