

# **REGION H**

## **Water Planning Group**

### **MEETING MATERIALS**

**May 1, 2024**



## Common Region H Terms and Conversion Factors

### List of Abbreviations

CRU	Collective Reporting Unit
DCP	Drought Contingency Plan
DFC	Desired Future Condition
DOR	Drought of Record
EA	Executive Administrator
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FWSD	Fresh Water Supply District
GAM	Groundwater Availability Model
GCD	Groundwater Conservation District
GMA	Groundwater Management Area
GPCD	Gallons Per Capita Per Day
GRP	Groundwater Reduction Plan
IFR	Infrastructure Finance Report
IPP	Initially Prepared Plan
MAG	Modeled Available Groundwater
MPC	Master Planned Community
MUD	Municipal Utility District
MWP	Major Water Provider
PDSI	Palmer Drought Severity Index
PWS	Public Water Supply
RFPG	Regional Flood Planning Group
RHWPG	Region H Water Planning Group
ROR	Run-of-River
RWP	Regional Water Plan
RWPA	Regional Water Planning Area
RWPG	Regional Water Planning Group
SWIFT	State Water Implementation Fund for Texas
SWP	State Water Plan
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TWC	Texas Water Code
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
UCM	Unified Costing Model
URS	Unique Reservoir Site
USS	Unique Stream Segment
WAM	Water Availability Model
WCID	Water Control and Improvement District
WCP	Water Conservation Plan
WMS	Water Management Strategy
WRAP	Water Rights Analysis Package
WUD	Water Utility Database
WUG	Water User Group
WWP	Wholesale Water Provider

### Water Measurements

1 acre-foot (AF) = 43,560 cubic feet = 325,851 gallons

1 acre-foot per year (ac-ft/yr) = 325,851 gallons per year = 893 gallons per day

1 gallon per minute (gpm) = 1,440 gallons per day = 1.6 ac-ft/yr

1 million gallons per day (mgd) = 1,000,000 gallons per day = 1,120 ac-ft/yr



**Region H Water Planning Group**  
**10:00 AM Wednesday**  
**May 1, 2024**  
**San Jacinto River Authority Office**  
**1577 Dam Site Rd, Conroe, Texas 77304**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order.
2. Introductions.
3. Review and approve minutes of the February 7, 2024 meeting.
4. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items 5 through 8.** (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
5. Planning Group Membership
  - a. Accept the resignations of Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, and Glenn Lord as voting members of the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) and declare vacant positions for voting members representing Municipalities, River Authorities, and Industries.
  - b. Receive Nominating Committee report.
  - c. Discuss and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the RHWPG.
  - d. Discuss and consider taking action to elect officers and members of the Executive Committee of the RHWPG.
6. Special Items and Informational Presentations
  - a. Receive presentation from the Consultant Team regarding the proposed application by the City of Montgomery to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP) and consider approving the submittal of the application package to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the determination of minor amendment status.
  - b. Receive update on the IPC Report to TWDB.
7. Plan Development and Administration
  - a. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding technical analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP.
  - b. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding the status of water conservation plan and drought contingency plan submittals.
  - c. Review and consider taking action to amend the budget for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.
8. General Updates and Outreach
  - a. Receive update regarding schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.
  - b. Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.
  - c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG.
  - d. Receive update from TWDB.
  - e. Other agency communications and general information.
9. **Receive public comments.** (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
10. Next Meeting: August 7, 2024.
11. Adjourn.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and would like to request auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Sonia Zamudio at (936) 588-3111 at least three business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



## Agenda Item 3

Review and approve minutes of the February 7, 2024 meeting.





**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Jace Houston, Ken Kramer, Ivan Langford, Marvin Marcell, Alisa Max, Byron Ryder, Loyd Smith, Michael Turco, Brandon Wade, Cynthia Wagener, and Kevin Ward.

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Ekaterina Fitos for Yvonne Forrest.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** W.R. Baker, Caleb Cooper, Robert Istre, Mike O'Connell, and Danny Pierce.

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Evans introduced Mr. Aubrey Spear, General Manager of the San Jacinto River Authority and Ms. Monica Polgar of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2023 MEETING.**

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

**4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 7.**

There were no comments.

**5. PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

**a. Discuss upcoming activities related to Regional Water Planning Group and Committee Membership.**

Mr. Evans announced the resignations of Ms. Yvonne Forrest, Mr. Glenn Lord, and Mr. Jace Houston. Mr. Evans stated that the Nominating Committee will meet prior to the next meeting to review recommendations.

- b. Receive update on the Brazos Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (Brazos BBASC) and consider taking action to make a nomination for a member of the BBASC representing Regional Water Planning Groups.**

Mr. Taucer announced the resignation of Mr. Tom Michel from the Brazos Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (“BBASC”). He stated that Mr. Michel recommended Mr. Bret Raley, Lake Conroe Division Manager, San Jacinto River Authority, due to his vast experience in water resources. Mr. Langford made a motion to nominate Bret Raley to the BBASC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kramer and carried unanimously.

## **6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

- a. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding water supply analyses and projected needs for the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).**

Mr. Taucer explained that the Neches, Neches-Trinity, Trinity-San Jacinto, San Jacinto, and Brazos-Colorado basins water supply analyses and projected needs were completed. He stated that changes are not anticipated and should be fairly similar to the last cycle. Mr. Taucer reviewed the completed analyses related to groundwater and the respective approach. Mr. Taucer stated further discussion will take place at the May meeting.

- b. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding the Region H Technical Memorandum and consider authorizing the preparation and submittal of the required documentation to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).**

Mr. Taucer explained that the Technical Memorandum summarizes the initial steps in the planning process and includes critical elements as defined by 2.12.1 of the TWDB Exhibit C – *Second Amended General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans*. He went on to explain that the contents of the memorandum signify draft representations of the water demand, supplies, and needs anticipated for the sixth round of planning. Mr. Taucer provided a brief overview of the summary progress related to population and demand, source availability, existing supplies, needs, strategy identification, and administrative milestones. Discussion ensued. Mr. Brunett made a motion to authorize the preparation and submittal of the required documentation to the Texas Water Development Board, with the addition/notation of hydrocarbon projects, to the memorandum. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wagener and carried unanimously.

- c. Receive report from Consultant Team and Water Management Strategy (WMS) Committee regarding potential WMS analyses and consider taking action to approve a notice-to-proceed request and authorizing the Consultant Team, WMS Committee, and San Jacinto River Authority to submit the request to TWDB, coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information, and execute the subsequent contract amendment issued.**

Mr. Taucer explained that a Notice to Proceed (“NTP”) must be initiated for all of the smaller studies for regions of a certain size. Mr. Bartos explained that the WMS Committee reviewed the aspects of the NTP and explained the various tasks that would be included. It was requested that funds in the amount of \$20,000 be allocated for hydrocarbon/emerging technologies. Mr. Turco made a motion to approve a notice-to-proceed request to include the \$20,000 allocation for hydrocarbon/emerging technologies, and authorize the Consultant Team, WMS Committee, and San Jacinto River Authority to submit the request to TWDB, coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information, and execute the subsequent contract amendment issued. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bredehoft and carried unanimously.

## **7. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH**

### **a. Receive update regarding schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.**

Mr. Taucer provided a recap of the schedule of events and upcoming tasks for the 2026 Region H RWP.

### **b. Receive updates from liaisons to other planning groups.**

There were no updates.

### **c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the Region H Water Planning Group.**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the upcoming Gulf Coast Symposium and Water Forum taking place on February 22, 2024, as well as the Texas Industrial Energy Efficiency Program Forum taking place on March 7, 2024, in Pasadena, Texas.

### **d. Receive update from TWDB.**

Ms. Rose reported that TWDB continues to work on rule making processes related to Proposition 6.

### **e. Other agency communications and general information.**

There were no other agency communications.

## **8. Receive public comments.**

There were no comments.

## **9. Next Meeting: May 1, 2024.**

It was announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2024.

**10. Adjourn.**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

## Agenda Item 5a

Accept the resignations of Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, and Glenn Lord as voting members of the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) and declare vacant positions for voting members representing Municipalities, River Authorities, and Industries.

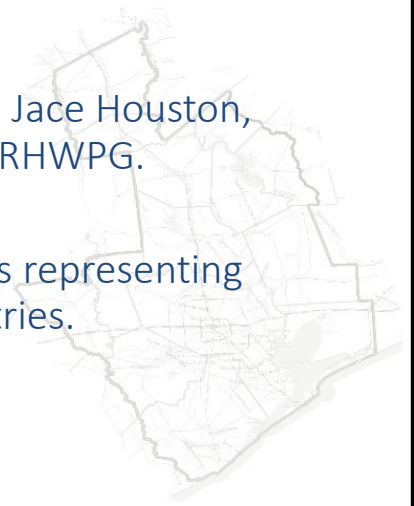


## **Agenda Item 5a**

### **Membership Update**

#### **Action:**

1. Accept the resignations of Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, and Glenn Lord as voting members of the RHWPG.
2. Declare vacant positions for voting members representing Municipalities, River Authorities, and Industries.







## Philip Taucer

---

**From:** Lord, Glenn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:01 AM  
**To:** Mark Evans  
**Cc:** Philip Taucer; Garrard, Jason (JL)  
**Subject:** Region H Water Planning meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Mark,

Just a quick note to let you know my alternate Jason Garrard will attend next week's Region H Planning Group meeting in my place.

On a follow-up item – I have already informed Philip Taucer that I will retire from Dow at the end of the year. As a result I will be resigning from my position on the Region H Water Planning group and would ask you consider this to be my formal notice. I truly appreciate the leadership you, Philip and the Planning Group provide on water issues for the region. It has been a very enjoyable experience for me and I learned a lot about water in Texas from everyone involved.

Best wishes for the future and if I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to reach out.

Glenn

[Glenn Lord](#)

Technology Director, Environmental Tech Center  
[REDACTED]

General Business



December 6, 2023

Mark Evans, Chair  
Region H Water Planning Group

Dear Mark,

It is with mixed emotions that I submit my resignation from the Region H Water Planning Group effective December 31, 2023, as I retire from the City of Houston.

It has been an honor to be a part of such a dedicated group of people working to ensure a strong future for the region by focusing on the area's water resources.

Best Wishes for your efforts going forward,

Yvonne W. Forrest

## Agenda Item 5c

Discuss and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the RHWPG.

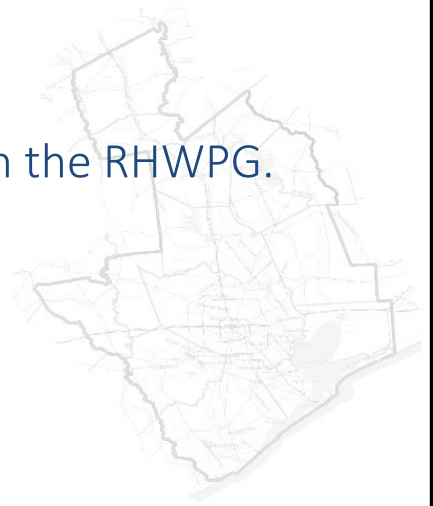


## **Agenda Item 5c**

### **Vacancies**

#### **Action:**

Approve members to fill vacancies on the RHWPG.





To whom it may concern.

Thank you for consideration as replacement for Glenn Lord to the Region H Water Planning group.  
Please see a short bio of my background.

Jason Garrard currently Operations Leader for the Water Distribution and Reservoirs assets supporting Dow's Freeport industrial complex has worked in the environmental department for the last 10 years. His group is responsible in areas related to site water supply strategy, reporting to governmental agencies and sustainability groups, and member of the Lower Brazos Basin Users Team. He is currently the environmental operations representative to the sites development tactical team supporting new builds and tenants. He is also a member of the site emergency operations planning committee. In his previous role Jason worked as an Improvement Engineer supporting the polyglycols and Surfactants business with capital projects adding product flexibility to the freeport assets allowing new products development and multiple process safety related improvements. Prior to Dow Jason worked for Georgia Pacific supporting the Technical Services Environmental department assigned to the paper machine area before moving into operations supervision. Jason holds a BS degree in Chemical engineering from the University of Maine.

EOB- Water Distribution and Reservoirs

**Dow**



**From:** Fitos, Ekaterina - HPW [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024 12:57 PM  
**To:** Mark Evans [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Eyerly, Greg - HPW [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [External] Region H - Nomination for Municipalities Category

Mark,

Given the recent vacancies, I would like to nominate Greg Eyerly for the Region H Planning Group under the Municipalities category.

Please let me know if you need anything further regarding this nomination or if I need to reach out to another contact.

Thank you!

Ekaterina Fitos, GISP  
Planning Director, Houston Water  
[REDACTED]



## Agenda Item 5d

Discuss and consider taking action to elect officers and members of the Executive Committee of the RHWPG.



## Agenda Item 5d Officers and Executive Committee

Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive officer</li> <li>• Preside over meetings</li> </ul>
Vice-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist chair in duties</li> <li>• Act in chair's absence</li> </ul>
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer postings</li> <li>• Maintain meeting records</li> </ul>
At-Large	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate administrative decisions</li> <li>• Carry out bylaws</li> </ul>

## Agenda Item 5d Officers and Executive Committee

### Region H Voting Membership

<b>Agriculture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caleb Cooper</li> <li>• Danny Pierce</li> </ul>	<b>Industries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyndi Wagener</li> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>	<b>Small Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W.R. Baker</li> <li>• Ivan Langford</li> <li>• Mike O'Connell</li> </ul>
<b>Counties</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Blount</li> <li>• Mark Evans (Chair)</li> <li>• Loyd Smith</li> </ul>	<b>Municipal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Istre</li> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>	<b>Water District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jun Chang</li> <li>• Marvin Marcell (Vice Chair)</li> <li>• Mike Turco</li> </ul>
<b>Electric Generating</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carl Burch</li> </ul>	<b>Public</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ken Kramer</li> </ul>	<b>Water Utility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arthur Bredehoft</li> <li>• Alisa Max</li> <li>• Brandon Wade</li> </ul>
<b>Enviro.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Bartos (Exec)</li> </ul>	<b>River Auth.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brad Brunett</li> <li>• Kevin Ward</li> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>	
<b>GMA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary Ashmore</li> <li>• David Bailey</li> </ul>		

## **Agenda Item 5d**

### **Officers and Executive Committee**

#### **Action:**

Elect officers and members of the Executive Committee  
of the RHWPG.



## Agenda Item 6a

Receive presentation from the Consultant Team regarding the proposed application by the City of Montgomery to amend the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP) and consider approving the submittal of the application package to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for the determination of minor amendment status.



## **Agenda Item 6a**

### **Proposed RWP Amendment**

- Proposed by City of Montgomery
  - New water plant with storage
  - Expanded groundwater production capacity
  - Support current and future needs of customers
- Anticipated minor amendment
  - WMS / WMS adjustment
  - WMS Project(s)
  - Impacts to other strategies limited



## **Agenda Item 6a**

### **Proposed RWP Amendment**

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 3 – Existing Supplies
  - Text
  - Summary tables
- Chapter 5 – Water Management Strategies
  - Revisions to text
  - Strategy, project, and cost tables
  - Project Technical Memo and Appendix DB



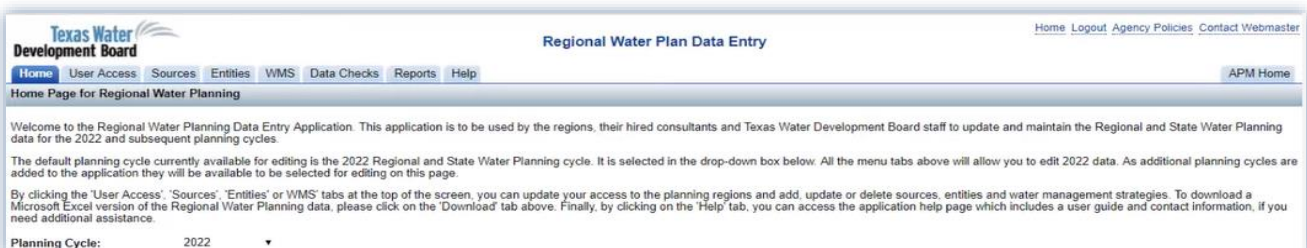
## Agenda Item 6a Proposed RWP Amendment

- Chapter 6 – Impacts of the RWP
  - Revisions to text
  - Table 6-1: Key Recommended WMS and Projects
  - Appendix 6-B: Impacts to Resources
- Chapter 9 – Financing
  - Revisions to text
  - All tables and figures
  - Appendix 9-A: Tabulated Survey Results



## Agenda Item 6a Proposed RWP Amendment

- Chapter 11 – Implementation and Comparison
  - Revisions to text
  - WMS figures and tables
  - Appendix 11-A: Implementation Report
- DB22 data entry



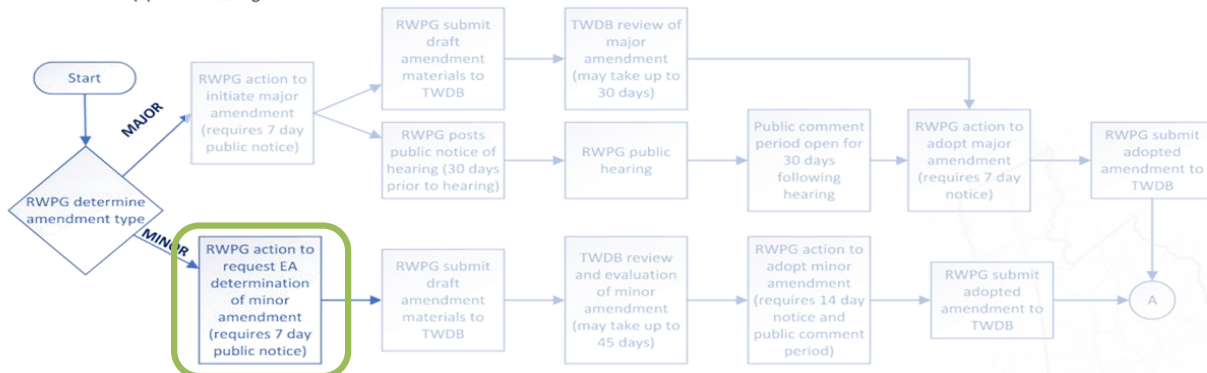


## Agenda Item 6a Proposed RWP Amendment

1. RWPG considers concept for referral to TWDB
2. TWDB determines minor or major amendment status
3. Public process
4. RWPG considers approval of amendment
5. TWDB considers approval of amendment

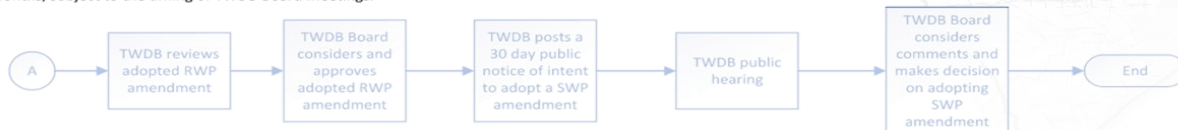
### RWPG Amendment Process for RWP

Major amendment process may take approximately three (3) months and includes two (2) RWPG meetings and one (1) hearing. Minor amendment process may take approximately 2.5 months and includes two (2) RWPG meetings.



### TWDB Amendment Process for SWP

TWDB amendment process may take approximately three (3) months, subject to the timing of TWDB Board meetings.



Adapted from TWDB RWP Amendment Flowchart

## **Agenda Item 6a**

### **Proposed RWP Amendment**

#### **Action:**

Approve the submittal of the application package to TWDB  
for the determination of minor amendment status.

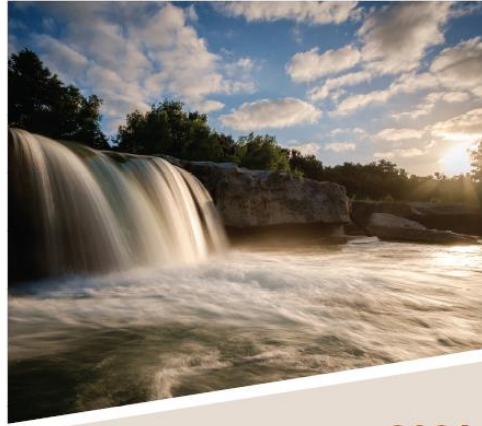


## Agenda Item 6b

Receive update on the IPC Report to the Texas Water Development Board.



# INTERREGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL



**2024**

REPORT TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Adopted and approved for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board on February 8, 2024, by the undersigned members of the Interregional Planning Council.

Signature <u>Mark Evans</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>	Signature <u>Kelley Holcomb</u> Date <u>2/11/2024</u>
<b>Mark Evans, Council Chair</b>	<b>Kelley Holcomb</b>
Region H	Region I
Signature <u>Gail Peek</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>	Signature <u>Jonathan Letz</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>
<b>Gail Peek, Council Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Jonathan Letz</b>
Region G	Region J
Signature <u>Ben Weinheimer</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>	Signature <u>David Van Dresar</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>
<b>Ben Weinheimer</b>	<b>David Van Dresar</b>
Region A	Region K
Signature <u>Randy Whiteman</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>	Signature <u>Tim Andrus</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>
<b>Randy Whiteman</b>	<b>Tim Andrus</b>
Region D	Region L
Signature <u>Jenna Covington</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>	Signature <u>Jim Darling</u> Date <u>2/10/2024</u>
<b>Jenna Covington</b>	<b>Jim Darling</b>
Region C	Region M
Signature <u>Jim Thompson</u> Date <u>2/9/2024</u>	Signature <u>Carl Crull</u> Date <u>2/9/2024</u>
<b>Jim Thompson</b>	<b>Carl Crull</b>
Region D	Region N
Signature <u>Scott Reinert</u> Date <u>2/16/2024</u>	Signature <u>Melanie Barnes</u> Date <u>2/12/2024</u>
<b>Scott Reinert</b>	<b>Melanie Barnes</b>
Region E	Region O
Signature <u>Scott McWilliams</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>	Signature <u>Patrick Brzozowski</u> Date <u>2/8/2024</u>
<b>Scott McWilliams</b>	<b>Patrick Brzozowski</b>
Region F	Region P

## Interregional Planning Council Report to TWDB

Council adopted their final report on February 8, 2024.

Recommendations address three statutory charges:

1. 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;
2. Facilitate dialogue regarding water management strategies that could affect multiple regional water planning areas; and
3. Share best practices regarding operation of the regional water planning process.

24

## Interregional Planning Council Report to TWDB

### **Council recommendations to the Legislature:**

1. Appropriate additional funds to the planning process to
  - support RWPGs' task to identify and facilitate interregional coordination;
  - accommodate tasks associated with long-range, visionary planning;
  - fund better methods of disseminating information for the regional water planning process; and
  - accommodate labor costs for administering RWPGs
2. Provide financial incentives for local sponsorship of innovative, visionary, multi-benefit projects
3. Provide initial sponsorship of projects by the State without guarantees from local sponsors
4. Establish a coordination process amongst state agencies for installation of infrastructure during planning and construction of large-scale projects.
5. Strike simplified planning from the statute
6. Authorize the use of one-way conferencing or webinars

25

## Interregional Planning Council Report to TWDB

### **Council recommendations to the Texas Water Development Board:**

1. Develop protocols to include annual discussions to evaluate and document best practices for regional water planning in Chairs' conference calls.

### **Council recommendations to Future Interregional Planning Councils:**

1. Monitor 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;
2. Utilize state agencies' expertise to assist regions in developing a vision of planning resources for the state as a whole;
3. Consider holding work sessions as needed to "deep dive" into more complicated topics;
4. Review materials and meeting notes from the TWDB's "lessons learned" technical meetings with RWPG consultants; and
5. Review progress on all recommendations in the 2027 SWP Council's report and submit its assessment to the TWDB.

26

## Interregional Planning Council Report to TWDB

### **Council included several observations on topics not related to its statutory charge:**

1. Water loss
2. Unaccounted water use
3. Long-range and visionary planning

The final report is available online at:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc>

27





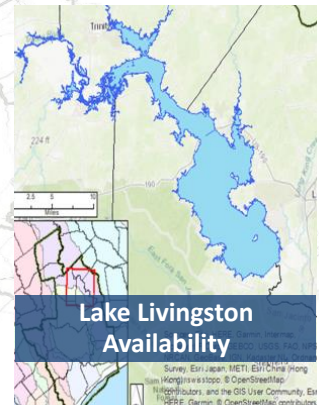
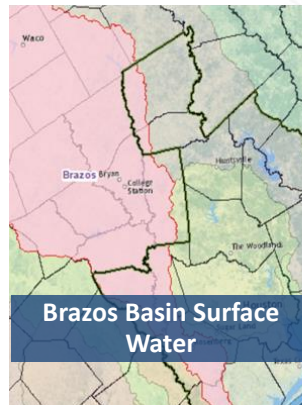
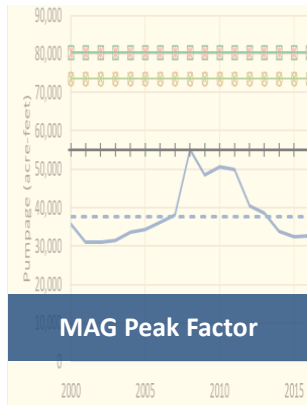
## Agenda Item 7a

Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding technical analyses for the 2026 Region H RWP.



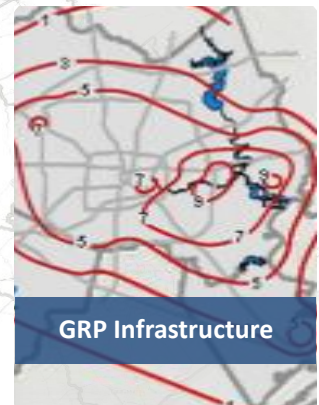
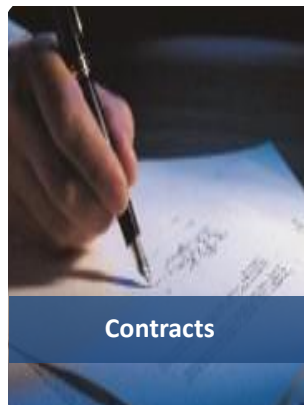
## Agenda Item 7a Technical Analyses

### Post Technical Memorandum Refinements

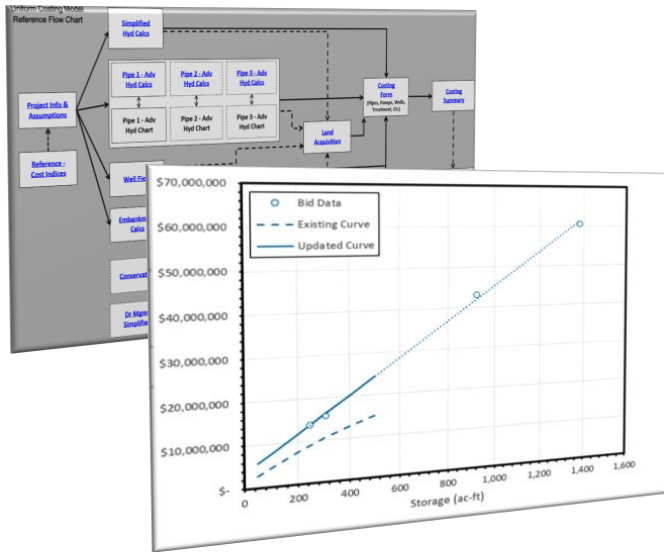


## Agenda Item 7a Technical Analyses

### Post Technical Memorandum Refinements



## Agenda Item 7a Technical Analyses



### ■ Foundational WMS Tasks

- RWPG-side database enhancement
- Review of costing assumptions
- Small (WUG-scale) project costing standards
- Sponsor coordination

## Agenda Item 7a Technical Analyses

### ■ First-Line Strategies

- Evolving advanced demand management
- Expanded groundwater
- Contractual solutions

### ■ Emerging technologies

- Industry outreach
- Identifying demand potential
- Providers and sources

## **Agenda Item 7a**

### **Technical Analyses**

- Local demand management assessment
  - Current and recently enacted plans
  - Efficacy
  - Future plans
- Policy recommendations
  - 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature opens January 14, 2025





## Agenda Item 7b

Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding the status of water conservation plan and drought contingency plan submittals.





## Agenda Item 7b WCPs and DCPs

### The Vital Role of Demand Management in the RWP

- Water Conservation
  - Front-line WMS for Region H
  - Vital for serving the future
  - Need for advanced programs
  - Takes time to grow
  - Conservation subchapter
- Drought Contingency
  - Vital for navigating drought
  - Real benefits observed
  - Strong support in RWP
  - Potential WMS
  - Drought response chapter

## Agenda Item 7b WCPs and DCPs

- WCPs due every five years
- May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline
- Submitted to:
  - TCEQ
  - TWDB
  - RWPG ([info@regionhwater.org](mailto:info@regionhwater.org))
- Since last RWP ≈30 received



TWDB Assistance



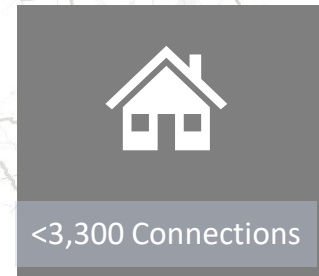
3,300+ Connections



Surface Water Rights

## Agenda Item 7b WCPs and DCPs

- DCPs due every five years
- May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline
- Submitted to:
  - TCEQ
  - RWPG
- Since last RWP >150 received



## Agenda Item 7b WCPs and DCPs

- Send to
  - [info@regionhwater.org](mailto:info@regionhwater.org)
- Additional References
  - <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/response/drought/>
  - <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/drought/planning/index.asp>
  - <https://waterdatafortexas.org/drought/>
  - <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>
  - <https://www.tdem.texas.gov/about/temac/>

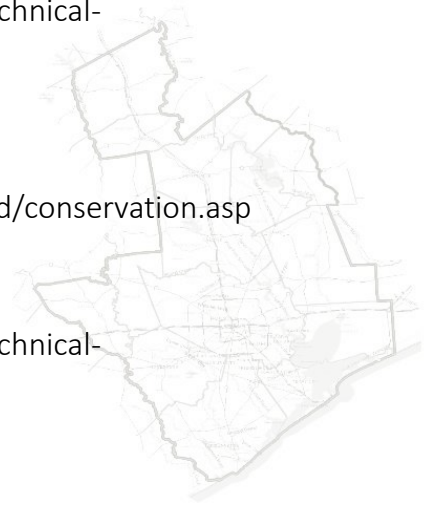


## **Agenda Item 7b**

### **WCPs and DCPs**

#### ■ Additional References

- [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water\\_rights/wr\\_technical-resources/conserv.html](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr_technical-resources/conserv.html)
- <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/index.asp>
- <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/dashboard/conservation.asp>
- <https://texaslivingwaters.org/water-conservation/>
- [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water\\_rights/wr\\_technical-resources/contingency.html](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr_technical-resources/contingency.html)





## Agenda Item 7c

Review and consider taking action to amend the budget for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.



## Agenda Item 7c Budget



- Task-level budget reallocation
- The usual suspects
  - Task 2A (Population Demand)
  - Task 2B (Non-Population Demand)
  - Task 3 (Supply)
- Same overall total
- Same labor and expense totals
- Additional reallocation(s) later in cycle

## Agenda Item 7c Budget

	Scope Task	Current	Proposed	Change	% Inc. or Dec.
1	RWPA Description	\$21,861.00	\$21,861.00	\$0.00	0%
2A	Non-Pop Demands	\$27,318.00	\$43,118.00	\$15,800.00	58%
2B	Pop Demands	\$92,769.00	\$152,769.00	\$60,000.00	65%
3	Supply	\$160,278.00	\$240,712.00	\$80,434.00	50%
4A	ID Needs	\$41,272.00	\$35,272.00	-\$6,000.00	-15%
4B	ID Infeasible WMS	\$61,810.00	\$48,670.00	-\$13,140.00	-21%
4C	Tech Memo	\$46,226.00	\$35,547.00	-\$10,679.00	-23%
5A	ID WMS	\$75,916.00	\$45,001.00	-\$30,915.00	-41%
5B	WMS Evaluation	\$1,103,950.00	\$1,040,950.00	-\$63,000.00	-6%
5C	Water Conservation	\$108,178.00	\$108,178.00	\$0.00	0%
6	Impacts of RWP	\$112,542.00	\$80,042.00	-\$32,500.00	-29%
7	Drought Response	\$121,824.00	\$121,824.00	\$0.00	0%
8	Recommendations	\$14,970.00	\$14,970.00	\$0.00	0%
9	Implementation	\$61,954.00	\$61,954.00	\$0.00	0%
10	Adoption	\$363,223.00	\$363,223.00	\$0.00	0%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,414,091.00</b>	<b>\$2,414,091.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>

## **Agenda Item 7c**

### **Budget**

#### **Action:**

Approve budget amendment for 2026 round of  
Regional Water Planning.





## Agenda Item 8a

Receive update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.



## Agenda Item 8a 2026 RWP Schedule



\*Region H accepts public comment throughout the planning cycle and at each RWPG and committee meeting.

## Agenda Item 8a 2026 RWP Schedule

Date	Scheduled Events/Tasks
05/2024	RWPG Meeting
06/2024	Amendments for Infeasible WMS due to TWDB
08/2024	RWPG Meeting
11/2024	RWPG Meeting
01/2025	89 <sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature convenes
03/2025	Initially Prepared Plan due to TWDB
10/2025	RWP due to TWDB

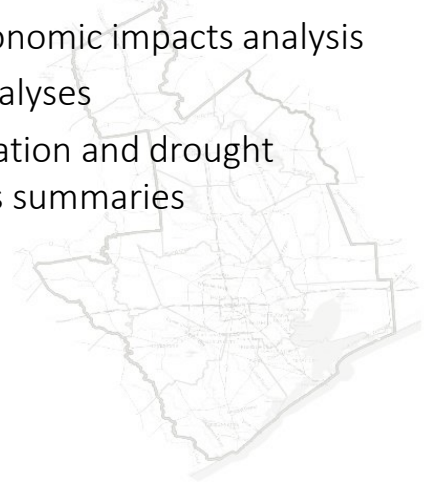
## **Agenda Item 8a**

### **2026 RWP Schedule**



#### ■ Upcoming RWPG Activities

- Existing supply refinements
- Socioeconomic impacts analysis
- WMS analyses
- Conservation and drought activities summaries



## Agenda Item 8b

Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.



## Agenda Item 8b Liaison Updates



Region C	Brazos G	Region 6	Region 8
Kevin Ward	Zach Holland	Brandon Wade	Glenn Lord
IPC / Chairs	GMA 12	GMA 14	Other
Mark Evans	David Bailey	Gary Ashmore	RWPG Members





## Agenda Item 8c

Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG.



## **Agenda Item 8c**

### **Community Outreach**

Feb

- Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium
- GMA 14

Mar

- TIEEP Water Forum

April

- AWDB Emerging Leaders Class

TBD

- Rural Entity Outreach



## Agenda Item 8d

Receive update from TWDB.



Region H Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

## Updates from the Texas Water Development Board

May 1, 2024, Conroe TX



### Upcoming TWDB Items



- **Water Use Survey** was due March 1, 2024.  
*Required to be eligible for TWDB funds.*
- **Water Conservation Plans, Annual Reports,**  
and **Water Loss Audits** due May 1, 2024.
- **Texas Water Service Boundary Viewer** open for editing  
until July 1, 2024
- **[Texas Rain Catcher Award](#)** - TWDB accepting applications  
through June 30.



# Resources for RWPGs

The *Conservation Resources Guide for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans* details resources available for RWPGs, including

1. Data Reported to TWDB
2. TWDB Conservation Information Dashboard for Water Supply Planning
3. Best Management Practices
4. WCAC Suggestions to RWPGs
5. Example Water Loss Strategies from 2021 RWPGs
6. Water Loss Performance Indicators
7. Resources for GPCD Goal Setting

## Conservation Resource Guide for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans

This document outlines conservation resources that are available to support regional water planning group (RWPG) development of conservation water use reduction strategies, water loss mitigation strategies, and the conservation subchapter of the 2026 Regional Water Plans (RWP). Information is provided on how to access resources and how they can be used to support RWP development. Available data reported to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) by utilities through water use surveys, water loss audits, water conservation plans, and water conservation plan annual reports are summarized in Table 1.

Contents	
Acronyms	2
Important Gallons per Capita per Day Distinctions	2
A. Resources for Conservation Water Use Reduction Strategies	3
A.1. Water Use Survey Historical Water Use Data	3
A.2. Water Conservation Plans & Annual Reports	4
A.3. Best Management Practices	4
A.4. TWDB Conservation Information Dashboard for Water Supply Planning	5
A.5. Municipal Water Conservation Planning Tool	6
A.6. Water Conservation Advisory Council Suggestions to RWPGs	6
B. Resources for Conservation Water Loss Mitigation Strategies	7
B.1. Water Loss Audits	7
B.2. Example Water Loss Strategies from 2021 RWPGs	7
B.3. Water Loss Performance Indicators	8
C. Resources for Water Conservation Subchapter	9
C.1. Model Water Conservation Plans	9
C.2. RWPG GPCD Goal Setting	9
D. Additional External Resources	10
D.1. Interregional Planning Council Water Loss Observations	10
D.2. National Wildlife Federation Report on Addressing Water Loss in Texas	10
Table 1. Summary of data reported to the TWDB by utilities through water use surveys, water loss audits, water conservation plans, and water conservation plan annual reports	11



# Data Reported to TWDB

Report	Statute/Rule Reference	Required for	Frequency	Next Due Date	Data Available
Water Use Survey	TWC 16.012(m) 31 TAC §358.5	Public water systems, manufacturers, mining facilities, and electric power generating plants	Annually	3/1/25	Fall of following year
Water Loss Audit	TWC 16.0121 31 TAC §358.6	Utilities with >3,300 connections or a financial obligation to the TWDB	Annually	5/1/24	Fall of following year
		Utilities with <3,300 connections and no financial obligation to the TWDB	Every 5 years	5/1/26	Fall of following year
Water Conservation Plan	31 TAC §363.15	Entities with 3,300 connections or more, loans greater than \$500,000 from the TWDB, or a TCEQ surface water right	Every 5 years	5/1/24	By due date; Copies submitted to RWPG sponsors
Water Conservation Plan Annual Report	31 TAC §363.15(g)	All entities with a Water Conservation Plan	Annually	5/1/24	Fall of following year





## Data Reported to TWDB

Report	Data Reported	Examples of How RWPGs Can Use This Data
<b>Water Use Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly volumes of water intake sources</li> <li>Percentage treated</li> <li>Annual volumes of water sold</li> <li>Retail population</li> <li>Number of retail service connections</li> <li>Distribution, connection count, and volume sold by customer classification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze recent trends in water use</li> <li>Indicate or correct suspect water use for future accuracy of demand projections</li> </ul>
<b>Water Loss Audit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water utility information</li> <li>System input volumes by source</li> <li>Population and connections served</li> <li>Length of main lines</li> <li>Volume of water treated for distribution</li> <li>Meter accuracy</li> <li>Volume of authorized consumption</li> <li>Volume of water lost due to breaks and leaks</li> <li>Retail price of water</li> <li>Variable production cost of water</li> <li>Assessment validation for audit components</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review water loss audit data including regional water loss balance reports</li> <li>Describe water loss audit information for the region in Chapter 1 of the RWP</li> <li>Analyze water loss trends and consider strategies to address issues</li> <li>Compare reported real and/or apparent water loss to performance indicators when evaluating water loss mitigation strategies</li> <li>Use reported number of connections in meter replacement estimates</li> <li>Use reported length of main lines in line replacement estimates</li> </ul>



## Data Reported to TWDB

Report	Data Reported	Examples of How RWPGs Can Use This Data
<b>Water Conservation Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utility profile</li> <li>5 and 10-year goals in GPCD</li> <li>Schedule for implementing the plan</li> <li>Method for tracking targets and goals</li> <li>Production meter(s)</li> <li>Specific conservation measures or BMPs included in the conservation program</li> <li>Documentation of RWPG notification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop WUG-specific conservation strategies based on conservation measures or BMPs included in an associated WCP</li> <li>Summarize the number and types of measures and BMPs reported in WCPs</li> <li>Summarize utility 5 and 10-year total GPCD goals and consider when setting RWPG GPCD goals</li> </ul>
<b>Water Conservation Plan Annual Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System data: number of connections and gallons of metered retail water use by customer category</li> <li>Water use: input volumes, authorized consumption, and water losses</li> <li>BMPs implemented &amp; estimated gallons saved</li> <li>Leaks detected and meter testing/repair</li> <li>Total, residential, and water loss GPCD and water loss percentage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and consider trends in utility annual total GPCD</li> <li>Review details of BMPs implemented and estimated gallons saved to inform conservation water use reduction and water loss mitigation strategies</li> <li>Summarize BMP implementation and results (gallons conserved, gallons reused, meters tested, and leaks repaired) in the RWP</li> </ul>



## RWPG GPCD Goal Setting

- TWDB Conservation Information Dashboard for Water Supply Planning
  - Regional planning GPCD statistics,
  - Historical WUG planning GPCDs,
  - GPCD goals as set by RWPGs in the 2021 RWPs,
  - 5 and 10-year total GPCD targets from utility water conservation plans
- SARA Report ID 102 - WUG Adjusted Planning GPCD with Water Efficiency and Conservation Savings
- Spreadsheet of 2026 RWP Baseline GPCDs and WUG Adjusted GPCD based on WCAC methodology



## Additional Resources for RWPGs

1. Best Management Practices
2. TWDB Municipal Water Conservation Planning Tool
3. WCAC Suggestions to RWPGs
4. Example Water Loss Strategies from 2021 RWPs
5. Water Loss Performance Indicators



# TWDB Conservation Information Dashboard for Water Supply Planning

- Historical WUG Planning GPCD Statistics by Region
- Water Use, Loss, and Conservation Reporting Requirements
- GPCD Trends and Targets
- Municipal Conservation BMPs & Recommended Projects
- Recently Implemented BMPs by Region

**Go to Live Demo >**

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/dashboard/conservation.asp>



## Questions?

**Heather Rose** 

Regional Water Planner, TWDB

Heather.Rose@twdb.texas.gov





# Texas Water Development Board

P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.  
Austin, TX 78711-3231, [www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov)  
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

February 22, 2024

Mark Evans  
Region H Chair  
Region H Regional Water Planning Group  
c/o San Jacinto River Authority  
P.O. Box 329  
Conroe, TX 77305

Dear Chairman Evans:

Staff members of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) have completed their review of the Technical Memorandum deliverable submitted under TWDB Contract No. 2148302560 and found the deliverable to be administratively complete.

The TWDB recognizes that estimates of water supply and need volumes remain dynamic throughout the planning cycle and may change after receipt of the Technical Memorandum. All state water planning database (DB27) data entry must be completed, and data checks and any associated appeals resolved by the submission of the Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan in March 2025.

TWDB staff will be reviewing data and methodologies included in the technical memorandums over the next two months and will provide informal comments on the technical memorandum content, if any, to the region this summer.

Additionally, as the region continues to allocate water source availability and begins evaluations of potentially feasible water management strategies, we encourage you to coordinate with your neighboring regions to proactively identify and work cooperatively to avoid potential interregional conflicts or regionalization opportunities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather Rose of our Regional Water Planning staff at 512-475-1558 or via email at [heather.rose@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:heather.rose@twdb.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

Temple  
McKinnon  
Matt Nelson  
Deputy Executive Administrator  
Office of Planning

Digitally signed by Temple  
McKinnon  
Date: 2024.02.22 08:21:18 -06'00'

## Our Mission

Leading the state's efforts  
in ensuring a secure  
water future for Texas

## Board Members

Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman | George B. Peyton V, Board Member | L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member  
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

- c: Aubrey Spear, San Jacinto River Authority  
Philip Taucer, Freese and Nichols, Inc.  
Courtney Corso, Freese & Nichols, Inc.  
Jordan Skipwith, Freese and Nichols, Inc.  
Sarah Lee, Water Supply Planning  
Heather Rose, Water Supply Planning

February 23, 2024

**Subject: Groundwater Availability Model for the Northern Portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System**

Dear Groundwater Conservation District Representatives and Regional Water Planning Group Chairs:

As stated in the Texas Water Code § 16.012(l), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Executive Administrator is required to provide the completed groundwater availability model to each groundwater conservation district and regional planning group within the model study area.

We are pleased to present you with a copy of the groundwater availability model for the northern portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System (version 4.01). This model represents years of hard work by the United States Geological Survey, TWDB staff, and stakeholders such as you. We believe this model will be useful as a tool to help assess groundwater availability and the effects of pumping and drought on these aquifers. Due to the technical nature of the model and associated files, an experienced groundwater modeler should run the model or extract information from the associated files.

The model report and associated model files can be found on the TWDB website at: [www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/download.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/download.asp). If you would like a copy of this letter, the model report, and associated model files mailed to you, we can provide those upon request.

Please contact Dr. Daryn Hardwick at 512-475-0470 or [daryn.hardwick@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:daryn.hardwick@twdb.texas.gov) if you have any questions or comments on this model or the Groundwater Modeling program.

Sincerely,

Jeff  
Walker

Digitally signed by  
Jeff Walker  
Date: 2024.02.20  
19:39:34 -06'00'

Jeff Walker  
Executive Administrator

**Our Mission**

Leading the state's efforts  
in ensuring a secure  
water future for Texas

**Board Members**

Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman | George B. Peyton V, Board Member | L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member  
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

c w/o enc: Daryn Hardwick, Ph.D., Groundwater, TWDB  
Natalie Ballew, P.G., Groundwater, TWDB  
Zach Holland, General Manager, Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District  
Beverly Hopkins, General Manager, Brazoria County Groundwater Conservation District  
Tim Andruss, General Manager, Calhoun County Groundwater Conservation District  
Neil Hudgins, General Manager, Coastal Bend Groundwater Conservation District  
Neil Hudgins, General Manager, Coastal Plains Groundwater Conservation District  
James E. Brasher, General Manager, Colorado County Groundwater Conservation District  
David A. Van Dresar, General Manager, Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District  
Sarah Kouba, General Manager, Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District  
Gary Ashmore, General Manager, Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District  
John Martin, General Manager, Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District  
Tim Andruss, General Manager, Texana Groundwater Conservation District  
Michael Turco, General Manager, Fort Bend Subsidence District  
Michael Turco, General Manager, Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District  
Wayne Wilson, Chair, Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group (Region G)  
Mark Evans, Chair, Regional Water Planning Group H  
John Martin, Chair, East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region I)  
David A. Van Dresar, Chair, Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (Region K)  
John Martin, Coordinator, Groundwater Management Area 14  
Kelley Holcomb, General Manager, Angelina-Neches River Authority  
David Collinsworth, General Manager, Brazos River Authority  
Brandon Wade, P.E., General Manager, Gulf Coast Water Authority  
Phil Wilson, General Manager, Lower Colorado River Authority  
Scott Hall, P.E., General Manager, Lower Neches River Authority  
David Montagne, General Manager, Sabine River Authority of Texas  
Ed Shackelford, Interim General Manager, San Jacinto River Authority  
J. Kevin Ward, General Manager, Trinity River Authority



## Agenda Item 8e

Other agency communications and general information.





# Drought Preparedness Council

---

February 8, 2024

Region H Planning Group  
c/o: Mark Evans  
Region H Chair  
3648 Cypress Creek Parkway, Suite 110  
Houston, Texas 77068

Dear Mr. Evans,

The Drought Preparedness Council, which is comprised of representatives from 16 state agencies as well as appointees of the governor, would like to offer its assistance on drought-related issues encountered during the planning process. Authorized and established in 1999 as part of the 76th Texas Legislature, the council was created to carry out the provisions of Sections 16.055 and 16.0551 of the Texas Water Code. Its responsibilities include assessing and public reporting of drought monitoring and water supply conditions; advising the governor on significant drought conditions; recommending response plans for drought-related disasters; advising regional water planning groups on drought-related issues in the regional water plans; coordinating local, state, and federal drought-response planning; and submitting a report to the legislature every odd-numbered year.

Council members represent a broad swath of state agencies, including Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Economic Development, Office of the State Climatologist, Public Utilities Commission, Electric Reliability Council of Texas and Texas Health and Human Services Commission. Each member brings expertise in his or her field, and the greatest strength of the council lies in its ability to utilize the knowledge and skills of its members for the betterment of Texas. The council includes members of the emergency management community who can guide regional groups in the emergency management process, including how to request resources, and can provide instructions to local emergency management partners.

The council is aware that your regional water planning group is developing its 2026 Regional Water Plan, including its drought chapter. Per Title 31 of Texas Administrative Code Section 357.42(h),

[DPC@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:DPC@tdem.texas.gov)

regional water planning groups are required to consider “any relevant recommendations from the Drought Preparedness Council.” As chairman of the council, I would like to extend the council’s assistance on any drought-related issues that you may come across while working through the regional water planning process. Additionally, the council and I offer 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.

If you have any questions for the council or would like to attend the Drought Preparedness Council’s quarterly meetings, please contact John Honoré at [John.Honore@tdem.texas.gov](mailto:John.Honore@tdem.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Nim Kidd".

**W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM**

Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management  
Chair, Drought Preparedness Council  
Chair, Texas Emergency Management Council  
Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services  
The Texas A&M University System