

## **Regional Water Planning Group April, May, June, 2009**

### **Region I group focuses on water issues**

Members of the East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (Region I) are focusing on population trends, groundwater usage, and the process of identifying and designating unique stream segments and unique reservoir sites.

During a meeting in Nacogdoches April 8, the group discussed population projections for the region including the addition of 13 new water user groups from six counties in Region I: Anderson, Angelina, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Shelby and Smith Counties. Incorporation of the new population projections into the 2011 Regional Water Plan will be considered at the July meeting.

Group chairman Kelley Holcomb of Lufkin urged a broader look at water usage and growth in the region as the group's planning continues. This would mean continuing to expand the list of identified water user groups in the region, bringing the smaller, more rural water providers into the planning process.

### **Group to designate unique stream segments and unique reservoir sites**

Engineering consultant Rex Hunt of Alan Plummer Associates, Inc. said the Texas Legislature originally approved the designation of unique stream segments and unique reservoir sites by regional water planning groups. In July, the Regional Water Planning Group will be asked to decide whether to recommend unique stream segments or unique reservoir sites.

Recommendations of unique stream segments are based on the following five criteria:

- Biological function
- Hydrologic function
- Riparian conservation areas
- High water quality/exceptional aquatic life/high aesthetic value
- Threatened or endangered species/unique communities

He said the regional water planning group may elect to submit a recommendation package to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), identifying each recommended stream segment by location using maps, photos and site characteristics. TPWD will return an evaluation of each segment to the group, which will be incorporated into the regional water plan in addition to the stream segment recommendations.

Upon approval by the Texas Water Development Board, the regional water plan will be incorporated into the state water plan. Hunt explained that, like unique stream segments, unique reservoir sites are designated by the Texas Legislature.

### **Groundwater issues explained**

James Beach of LBG-Guyton, Austin, Region I's groundwater consultant, reviewed the history of groundwater management in Texas. He said that groundwater permitting and management are rapidly changing in the State and in Region I. This evolution will continue as Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) continue to be identified in Texas and as the development of GMA regulations play out.

He recommended that Region I continue to work with groundwater conservation districts in East Texas, summarize the desired future conditions for each district and develop groundwater availability estimates for the Region's GMAs.

### **Approvals and Appointments**

Following the presentations, Round III, Phase I special studies were approved:

- Inter-Regional Coordination on the Toledo Bend Project
- Regional Solutions for Small Water Suppliers
- Study of Municipal Water Uses to Improve Water Conservation Strategies and Projections
- Liquid Natural Gas and Refinery Expansions in Jefferson County

The group also approved steam electric water demand projections for the region, including new Angelina County steam electric water demands where a new biomass power plant is in development.

Chairman Kelley Holcomb re-appointed George Campbell as chair of the nominating committee, David Alders as chair of the by-laws committee, Darla Smith as finance chair and Michael Harbordt as chair of the technical committee. The group also named Center Mayor John Windham to succeed Edwin McCoy of Anderson County as a voting member, representing small businesses, and named Scott Hall to succeed Robert Stroder of Beaumont, who recently resigned. Hall will represent river authorities, as did Stroder.

### **Group to meet July 8**

The next Region I meeting will be on July 8 at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center at 1112 North Street in Nacogdoches. For more information, call 936-560-2505 or visit [www.etexwaterplan.org](http://www.etexwaterplan.org).

### **Officers**

Kelley Holcomb, Lufkin, Chair  
Worth Whitehead, Henderson, First Vice-Chair  
Mike Harbordt, Diboll, Second Vice-Chair  
David Brock, Jacksonville, Secretary  
Jerry Clark, Orange, Assistant Secretary  
David Alders, Nacogdoches, At-Large Executive Committee Member  
Dr. J. Leon Young, Nacogdoches, At-Large Executive Committee Member

### **Directors and Group Representation**

David Alders, Nacogdoches, Agriculture  
Jeff Branick, Beaumont, Counties  
David Brock, Jacksonville, Municipalities  
George P. Campbell, Nacogdoches, Other  
Jerry Clark, Orange, River Authorities  
Josh Willson David, Chester, Other  
Chris Davis, Rusk, Counties  
Michael Harbordt, Diboll, Industries  
William Heugel, Hemphill, Public  
Kelley Holcomb, Lufkin, Water Utilities  
Bill Kimbrough, Beaumont, Other  
Glenda Kindle, Troup, Public  
Duke Lyons, San Augustine, Municipalities  
Dale R. Peddy, Beaumont, Electric Power  
Herman Reed, Carthage, Agriculture  
Darla Smith, Beaumont, Industries  
Scott Hall, Beaumont, River Authorities  
Monty Shank, Palestine, River Authorities  
John Windham, Center, Small Businesses

Worth Whitehead, Henderson, Water Districts  
Dr. J. Leon Young, Nacogdoches, Environmental

Region I includes all or parts of Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Hardin, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Panola, Polk, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Trinity and Tyler Counties.