

East Texas Regional Water Planning Group
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NACOGDOCHES – (February 17, 2010) – The East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (ETRWPG) met at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center on Wednesday and adopted the initially prepared 2011 East Texas Regional Water Plan.

Among the topics discussed at the meeting were changes to the Regional Plan, adoption of the initially prepared plan (IPP), public comment period and public hearing, and a request for the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to conduct a socio-economic analysis.

Engineering consultant Rex Hunt of Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., discussed changes to the 2011 Plan since the last update in 2006. Since February 2009, ten chapters have been developed for the Regional Plan. Over the past year, the ETRWPG has considered and approved seven of the chapters, leaving Chapters 4, 9, and 10 to finalize.

Mr. Hunt presented Chapter 4 and reviewed changes, including modified water management strategies for entities in the region, updated cost analyses for water management strategies, and revised impacts of water management strategies. He also discussed anticipated changes to Chapters 9 and 10.

“The TWDB will develop a survey and the planning group will distribute surveys to entities in the region with identified water needs. The responses to this survey will be included in Chapter 9: Infrastructure Financing Report. Chapter 10 is a summary of public involvement in the planning process and will be completed once all public comments are received,” said Mr. Hunt.

The consultant team presented the upcoming schedule for the public comment period and suggested dates for the public hearing.

“The plan is to have one hearing held on consecutive evenings at three locations. This public hearing is another opportunity for the public to submit comments on the 2011 Region I Water Plan,” said Mr. Hunt.

The ETRWPG chose to schedule the hearing for April 20, 21 and 22 in Jacksonville, Nacogdoches, and Beaumont. Times and building locations are to be determined at a later date.

The group considered and approved a request to the TWDB to conduct a socio-economic analysis of the impact of not meeting water needs in the region. Temple McKinnon of the TWDB said, “The plan requires a socio-economic analysis be conducted. If the group would like for the TWDB to conduct this analysis, we have to receive a request from the Group.” ETRWPG Chairman Kelley Holcomb pointed out that the analysis should be conducted considering the specific needs of East Texas. While the model used by the TWDB is the same throughout the State, Ms. McKinnon indicated that it would take into account the needs of the East Texas Region.

The group considered and approved appointments to the FY 2010 Executive Committee and other committee appointments. The ETRWPG also approved the addition of a new member of the ETRWPG. George Campbell, chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that Dr. Joseph Holcomb of Houston County has met the criteria to fill one of two Small Business vacancies. The group unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Holcomb.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the ETRPWG will be 10 a.m. May 12 at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center, 1112 North Street. A public hearing is scheduled for April 20, 21 and 22 in Jacksonville, Nacogdoches, and Beaumont. Exact times and locations will be announced in a public notice. The public is encouraged to attend and participate. For more information, visit www.etexwaterplan.org or call Lila Fuller at 936-559-2504.