



East Texas Regional Water Planning Group, Region I  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NACOGDOCHES – (July 8, 2009) - The East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (ETRWPG) met Wednesday morning at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center to discuss revisions to the Regional Water Plan for Region I.

Among the topics discussed at the meeting were population and water demand revisions, Draft Chapters 1-3 of the Regional Plan, future plan revisions, unique stream segment and unique reservoir site recommendations and the 2010 annual budget.

Members from the engineering team and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) reviewed upcoming additions to the 2011 Regional Water Plan and new legislation from the 81<sup>st</sup> session of the Texas Legislature.

Engineering consultant Rex Hunt of Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., discussed anticipated changes to three chapters of the Regional Water Plan to be presented to the ETRWPG at the next meeting. Chapters 4-6 will address water management strategies within the region and their effect on water quality and give recommendations on water conservation and drought management strategies.

“For these chapters, we will look at current water conservation and management strategies already in place. We will refer to Special Study #3 which analyzed water use in Region I. The study was conducted last October and found that Region I has a much lower water use per person than other water planning regions,” said Rex Hunt.

Temple McKinnon, Texas Water Development Board, gave an educational presentation on recent legislation from the 2009 Legislative Session impacting the water planning process.

The engineering consultant team also presented drafts of the first three chapters to the ETRWPG for consideration and approval.

“We will only be voting on the drafts of Chapters 1-3 today. In February, 2011, we will have the opportunity to give final approval on these chapters before we adopt the entire plan,” said Kelley Holcomb, chairperson of the ETRWPG.

The group approved Draft Chapter 1 “Description of the East Texas Region” and Draft Chapter 2 “Current and Projected Population and Water Demand.”

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The group took no action regarding Draft Chapter 3 “Evaluation of Current Water Supplies in the Region.” The consultant team will finalize water supply availability and present Chapter 3 again at the next meeting.

The ETRWPG also approved the 2010 annual budget and methodology for adopting water management strategies and alternative management strategies for the 2011 Regional Water Plan.

The group discussed possible identification of unique stream segments and unique reservoir sites within the region. For this round of planning, no streams will be recommended by the group for designation as a unique stream segment. The group did not take action on unique reservoir sites, but instructed the consulting team to prepare a recommendation package for consideration by the group at a future meeting.

The Regional Water Planning Group meets once every three months to discuss revisions to the 2011 East Texas Regional Water Plan. Once the plan is adopted by the ETRWPG in February, it will be considered for approval by the TWDB to be incorporated into the State Water Plan.

The 20-county regional water planning area includes all or parts of Henderson, Smith, Anderson, Cherokee, Rusk, Nacogdoches, Panola, Shelby, San Augustine, Sabine, Angelina, Houston, Trinity, Polk, Tyler, Jasper, Newton, Orange Hardin and Jefferson counties.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Oct. 7 at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center, 1112 North Street. The public is encouraged to attend and participate. For more information, visit [www.etcxwaterplan.org](http://www.etcxwaterplan.org) or call Lila Fuller at 936- 559-2504.