

East Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
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NACOGDOCHES – (October 14, 2009) – The East Texas Regional Water Planning Group (ETRWPG) met at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center on Wednesday to discuss updates to the 2011 East Texas Regional Water Plan.

Among the topics discussed at the meeting were future revisions to the Regional Plan, status and methodology of Chapter 4 updates, population and water demand projections, Draft Chapters 3, 5, and 6 of the Regional Water Plan, and amendments to the contract between the City of Nacogdoches and Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

Engineering consultant Rex Hunt of Alan Plummer Associates, Inc., discussed anticipated changes to Chapters 7-9 of the Regional Water Plan to be presented to the ETRWPG at the next meeting in December. These chapters will address how the plan is consistent with protection of natural resources, provide recommendations regarding unique stream segments and reservoir sites, and outline anticipated infrastructure funding requirements for the region.

“Chapter 7 will describe consistency of the plan with protection of water resources, agricultural resources and natural resources. Chapter 8 addresses ETRWPG recommendations for Unique Stream Segments and Unique Sites for reservoir construction. Chapter 9 tasks include sending surveys to water user groups in the region to determine infrastructure development and funding sources,” said Mr. Hunt.

Consultant Simone Kiel of Freese and Nichols, Inc., explained the status of Draft Chapter 4 and methodology for evaluation of water user groups’ (WUGs) supply and demand and projected needs.

Current projections for the region indicate an anticipated shortfall on meeting water demands of approximately 174,000 acre-feet per year by the year 2060. This projected shortage will be met by implementation of water management strategies, which will be implemented by the region’s WUGs.

“There are currently 63 individual WUGs in Region I with water shortages. Approximately half of the projected shortfall is due to anticipated steam-electric power water demands in the planning cycle,” said Mrs. Kiel.

The ETRWPG heard and approved a request to include an allocation of 3,500 acre-feet per year of additional water supply for Houston County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 in the 2011 Regional Water Plan. This action enables the District to proceed with a request to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for additional water rights in Houston County Lake.

The consultant team presented information on population and water demand revisions to the ETRWPG and requested approval. The group approved the addition of new WUGs in Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties to the 2011 Plan, along with population and municipal water demand projections associated with the new WUGs. In addition, the group approved changes to manufacturing water demands in Angelina and Jefferson Counties, and to irrigation demands in Hardin, Orange and Jefferson Counties.

Revisions to Chapters 3, 5 and 6 of the plan were described by Mr. Hunt. The group approved Draft Chapter 3 “Evaluation of Current Water Supplies in the Region,” Draft Chapter 5, “Impacts of Selected Water Management Strategies on Key Parameters of Water Quality and Impacts of Moving Water from Rural and Agricultural Areas” and Draft Chapter 6 “Water Conservation and Drought Management Recommendations.”

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Dec. 9 at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center, 1112 North Street. The public is encouraged to attend and participate. For more information, visit [www.ETEXwaterplan.org](http://www.ETEXwaterplan.org) or call Lila Fuller at 936-559-2504.