

**MINUTES OF THE
REGION I - EAST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Martin called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M.
2. **Invocation/Pledge** – Matthew McBroom led the invocation. John Martin led the Pledge.
3. **Notice of Meeting** – Notice was sent to Voting Members and posted as required.
4. **Roll Call/Determination of Quorum** – The roll was called by Cheryl Bartlett and quorum was determined as follows:

Voting Members Present: (14 of 22)

Chris Davis – Counties (*Virtual*)
Kate Dietz - Municipality
David Gorsich – Industry (*Virtual*)
Yassin Gallardo proxy for Scott Hall – River Authority (*Virtual*)
Kelley Holcomb – River Authority
John Martin – GMA-14
Matthew McBroom - Environmental
John McFarland – GMA-11
Matthew Mettauer - Agriculture
David Montagne – River Authority (*Virtual*)
Monty Shank – River Authority
Terry D. Stelly – Public
David Miley proxy for Emily Whitworth – Water District
Christopher Wiesinger – Small Business (*Virtual*)

Voting Members Absent: (5)

David Alders - Agriculture
Roger Fussell – Water Utility
Fred Jackson – Counties
Mike Snyder – Industry
Rob Starr – Water Utilities

Voting Member Category Vacancies: (3)

Environmental
Small Business
Public

Other Attendees

Agencies:

Lann Bookout - Texas Water Development Board
Teresa Griffin – Panola County GCD
Chang Lee - DWU

Staff and Consultants:

Cheryl Bartlett - City of Nacogdoches
Brigit Buff, PE – Plummer Asso.
Jordan Skipwith – Freese & Nichols

5. Consideration and Approval of the minutes of the February 23, 2023 meeting

Matthew McBroom made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2023 meeting as presented, 2nd by John McFarland, passed unanimously.

6. Consideration and Approval of items related to East Texas Regional Water Planning Group Membership

John Martin reported no resignations or appointments at this time.

7. Report from City of Nacogdoches

Cheryl Bartlett: Letters and invoices were sent out to the counties before the February meeting, and we have received payments from 14 out of the 20 counties in our Region.

A Pay Request was submitted to the TWDB and we received an email yesterday (4/18) that payment processing is taking 7-9 weeks.

Financial statements were sent out to members and available at the door. No one had questions.

8. Reports of adjoining regions activity:

a. Region C – David Montagne: no report at this time. Region C will meet June 12th.

b. Region D – John McFarland: Region D met on March 15th and had discussions on population projections similar to the discussion we had in February.

David Montagne reported that an unsuccessful attempt was made yesterday (4/18) to amend the sunset bill to remove Marvin Nichols as a planned reservoir in Region D.

c. Region H – Scott Hall: no report.

d. Interregional Liaison – Kelley Holcomb: Interregional Planning Council met on March 9th – mostly still in the organizational phase. Next meeting planned for May 30th.

(Reminder: activities of the Interregional Council can be found on the TWDB website. <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/index.asp>)

9. Report from Standing Committees:

a. Executive Committee – John Martin: no meeting

b. Finance Committee – Kelley Holcomb: Still working on organizing the Finances. We had a good response from the Counties with 14 out of 20 paying memberships.

c. Bylaws Committee – David Alders: no report

d. Technical Committee – John Martin (for Scott Hall) reported that Technical Committee has not met recently but will be meeting before our June meeting.

e. Nominations Committee – Monty Shank: no report.

10. Report from consultant team – Brigit Buff, Plummer Asso. & Jordan Skipwith, Freese & Nichols

a. Review of 6th Cycle Water Planning schedule

Brigit reviewed the planning cycle calendar (available on the Region I website) and the plans/goals for the **June 21st and July 27th** (added, cb) meetings. The deadline for final revisions and approval of non-municipal demands and projections is **July 14th** and municipal population and demands projections are due by **August 11th**.

b. Review of Draft Non-Municipal Demands

Brigit reported that the consulting team has contacted county judges and water providers for their comments on the numbers that we have from census data, but they have only heard from 2 out of 20 counties and about 10 out of 200 water providers. They will continue to contact these entities more directly before the June meeting and requested assistance from all Region I members to help with the efforts if they have contacts and/or supplemental information.

There was much discussion on all 5 areas of non-municipal water demands and the methodologies used to determine the numbers used for the draft report. The discussion included: (1) changes in methodology used for irrigation for 4 counties due to water use in drought years, (2) adjustments made by TWDB for the historical data used for numbers of broilers, (3) consultants' recommendation to adopt maximum water usage for livestock from 2015-19 for baseline (instead of the 10 year average that included drought years 2010-11) and (4) potential new facilities that would impact manufacturing water use projections. A comparison showing the differences between the draft non-municipal demands from TWDB and our current draft regional demand projections was also presented.

c. Update on Municipal Water Demands

Brigit reviewed the TWDB population projection methodology. Planning group members discussed issues with the state projected census and migration numbers and the change in methodologies used to determine population decline in some counties. They also discussed the state-offered options to adopt different migration methods by county, but that the net total population numbers for the region may not be adjusted. Matthew McBroom mentioned a 2022 release from the federal census bureau website that reports that population numbers for Texas counties may be underestimated by up to 2%. The state has not adopted any changes from that report at this point. The Consulting Team plans to gather actual data from the major water suppliers in the Region and compare to TWDB projections to determine the variance and whether there is a need for further evaluation. Other WUGs have requested using the 2021 population projections as a starting point instead of the numbers proposed by TWDB but have received no answers as to whether that will be allowed or not.

Note that more details and the data and the methodology used for both non-municipal and municipal water demands projections can be found in the slide presentation for this meeting on the Planning Group Website in the meeting folder. <https://www.ETEXwaterplan.org/meetings/>

11. Reports from other state agencies, as necessary:

- a. Texas Water Development Board – Lann Bookout, no report.
- b. Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife – not present, no report.
- c. Texas Department of Agriculture – Manuel Martinez (virtual) – Highlighted several new developments and grant projects that were awarded to entities in the East Texas area region.
- d. Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board – not present, no report.

- e. Groundwater Management Areas –
 John McFarland (GMA 11) – Four of the five Groundwater Districts in Region I were represented in this meeting. GMAs created ground water availability models last year and are currently working on updating management plans that are due on various dates later this year and early next year. When the plans are completed, they will be shared with Region I members.
 John Martin (GMA 14) – They are working through a new model for the Gulf Coast Area and making sure that it works for GMA 14. Also updating their management plan as part of the 5-year cycle.

- 12. Public Comments** - no public comments.
- 13. General Discussion** was held concerning member availability for meeting dates for June and July ahead of TWDB deadlines in July and August.
- 14. Set Next Meeting Dates – Wed, June 21, 2023 and Thurs, July 27, 2023 at 9:00 am.**
- 15.** Adjourned at 12:26 pm.

APPROVED THIS _____

John Martin, Chair
ETRWPG – Region I

ATTEST: _____
Terry Stelly, Secretary