

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGION I - EAST TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.**

- 1. Call to Order** – Chairman John Martin called the meeting to order at 10:07 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)**

David Alders - Agriculture  
Kate Dietz - Municipality  
Roger Fussell – Water Utility  
Yassin Gallardo proxy for Scott Hall – River Authority (*Virtual*)  
Kelley Holcomb – River Authority  
Fred Jackson – Counties (*Virtual*)  
John Martin – GMA-14  
Matthew McBroom - Environmental  
John McFarland – GMA-11  
David Montagne – River Authority (*Virtual*)  
Monty Shank – River Authority  
Rob Starr – Water Utilities (*Virtual*)  
Terry D. Stelly – Public  
Christopher Wiesinger – Small Business (*Virtual*)

**Voting Members Absent: (5)**

Chris Davis – Counties  
David Gorsich – Industry (*Virtual*)  
Matthew Mettauer - Agriculture  
Mike Snyder – Electric Power  
Emily Whitworth – Water District

**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 (*Virtual*)

**Staff and Consultants:**

Cheryl Bartlett - City of Nacogdoches  
Brigit Buff, PE – Plummer Asso.  
Cody McCann – Plummer Asso. (*Virtual*)  
Jordan Skipwith – Freese & Nichols

**5. Public Comments : None****6. Consideration and Approval of the minutes of the April 19, 2023 meeting**

Kelley Holcomb made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023 meeting as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John McFarland, passed unanimously.

**7. Report from City of Nacogdoches**

Cheryl Bartlett: Payment from the counties for the Admin account are still outstanding for 5 counties – Tyler, Hardin, Shelby, Houston and Panola. John asked that any members in those counties to reach out if they know anyone that could help with that.

Two Pay Requests (from Plummer) were submitted to the TWDB several months ago. We received a request for 4 minor changes which were submitted May 31 – have not received any further updates at this time.

**8. Reports of adjoining regions activity:**

- a. Region C – David Montagne: Jason Stovall attended the last meeting (June 12<sup>th</sup>) – nothing of significance to report at this time.
- b. Region D – John McFarland: attended the last meeting – nothing significant to report.
- c. Region H –Yassin Gallardo for Scott Hall: no report.
- d. Interregional Liaison – Kelley Holcomb: Interregional Planning Council met on May 30<sup>th</sup> - still in the organizational mode. Establishing parameters for the report format for this Planning-Cycle.

(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: no meeting
- c. Bylaws Committee – David Alders: will defer report to Agenda Item #10
- d. Technical Committee –

Matthew McBroom reported that the Technical Committee met May 21<sup>st</sup> with the consultant team to review updated numbers for this cycle. The biggest change for us is in the livestock numbers – we will be able to use the maximum use by county which should be more reasonable and closer to what we used in the last cycle. We were also able to add a new plant which changes the steam electric power generation numbers and also add some new facilities that affect the manufacturing demands. There was much discussion about the population numbers and municipal demands – everyone, including the US Government, knows that the population numbers are wrong. We are going to be able to use the lower migration factor of 0.5 for counties that are losing population and use the 1.0 migration factor for counties that show to be gaining population. While this helped a little on the municipal side, the water savings calculation changes from the TWDB are the biggest help in making our numbers more reasonable.

- e. Nominations Committee –

John mentioned that we do have one nomination pending but will delay until Bylaws revisions are completed.

**10. Action for consideration and adoption of updates to the Bylaws – David Alders**

Proposed changes to the Bylaws were available online and printed copies were passed out. David reviewed the proposed changes including: clarification of the name of the Planning Group, updates to references made to specific statutes, responsibilities of designating an alternate, updates to method of calculating absences for voting members, questions and discussion on composition of voting members and the interest groups represented. Proposed changes to officer designations and the election process were discussed including reducing the number of officers from 5 to 3 and electing one slate of officers to serve for the entire planning cycle instead of annually. David recommended postponing a vote to adopt until a final cleanup of proposed changes could be completed.

**11. Report from consultant team –**

**Brigit Buff, Plummer Asso. & Jordan Skipwith, Freese & Nichols**

a. Review of 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Water Planning schedule

Brigit reviewed the planning cycle calendar (available on the Region I website). We are in the process of finalizing adjustments with the TWDB for draft projections and will be evaluating water needs and potentially infeasible and feasible water management strategies next. The deadline for final revisions and approval of non-municipal demands and projections is **July 14<sup>th</sup>** and municipal population and demands projections are due by **August 11<sup>th</sup>**. TWDB plans to adopt both municipal and non-municipal projections in **October 2023**.

b. Update – final recommendations for Non-Municipal Demands (Brigit)

Irrigation – Recommend adjusting methodology to use the highest 5 year average water use in each county as the new baseline for projections

Livestock – Recommend adjusting methodology for 2030 baseline to the highest livestock demand in each county in addition to some specific new demands identified by the WPG.

Manufacturing – Recommend starting with the previous baseline from each county's highest use and adding WPG identified new manufacturing facilities in 5 counties (Jefferson, Angelina, Newton, Orange and Smith) to obtain new baseline for projections.

Mining – Recommend no revisions from the 2026 draft projections.

Steam Electric Power Generation – Recommend no change to previous methodology but include new facility identified by WPG and MWP (Orange County).

ACTION: A draft of the Technical Memorandum was sent out to WPG members for review. After a brief discussion, Chris Weisinger made a motion to authorize the consultant team to submit the Final Non-Municipal Demands Technical Memorandum, as presented, to the TWDB by the July 14<sup>th</sup> deadline. Rob Starr, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed unanimously.

c. Update on Municipal Water Demands, GPCDs and Population Projections

Jordan reviewed the formula for calculating Municipal Demand Projections, which involves population projections times baseline GPCD projections, as adjusted for plumbing code savings. The TWDB sent out revised plumbing code savings projections on May 5, 2023. The technical team incorporated these revisions to the draft baseline from 2021 (plus any higher use identified), and it resulted in a substantial increase in municipal demand projections for this planning cycle.

Jordan presented revisions that were made to the baseline GPCD for each individual WUG using historical use data. This resulted in revisions to the baseline GPCD for the entire Region. Questions were raised and discussed about incorporating water losses from leaks and flushing.

Britt discussed possible adjustments to the population projections. The 2021 Plan projections overcounted population in all but one county in Region I when compared to the 2020 census. This population reduction affects the baseline being used for this planning cycle. TWDB is allowing the planning group the option to choose either 0.5 or 1.0 migration scenarios for each county. (Previous planning cycle projections allowed only a 1.0 migration factor.) The team chose the migration factor to optimize the population number for each county resulting in a slight increase in MDP for the Region – putting the numbers for about the next two decades back close to the 2021 Plan projections. There will be at least one or two future planning cycles that might be able to incorporate future revisions to MDP using historical data.

ACTION: Britt presented several options for action involving the Municipal Demands Technical Memorandum. After discussion, Kate Dietz made a motion to approve the consultant team to work with the Chair and Technical Committee to finalize the Municipal Demands Technical Memorandum. Kelley Holcomb, 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously.

Next steps: Future meetings will involve discussion and evaluation of infeasible water management strategies/projects and consideration of feasible WMSs for all identified water needs and documentation of the process used. These will need to be incorporated in a Technical Memorandum due in March, 2024.

**12. Reports from other state agencies, as necessary:**

- a. Texas Water Development Board –  
Lann Bookout: Regular session of state legislature ended recently, and they authorized distribution of additional funds to regional water planning groups for tasks not originally included in the scope. He requested that the next meeting agenda include an action item to authorize the City of Nacogdoches to contract to receive that funding to distribute to the consultants as needed for these tasks.
- b. Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife – not present; no report.
- c. Texas Department of Agriculture – not present; no report.
- d. Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board – not present; no report.

- e. Groundwater Management Areas –  
John McFarland (GMA 11) – GMA 11 has not met since our last meeting; no report.  
John Martin (GMA 14) – GMA 14 met May 21<sup>st</sup> - still working with the TWDB to finalize a new model developed by the USGS for the Gulf Coast Aquifer that includes an updated subsidence package.

**13. General Discussion**

**14. Set Next Meeting Dates – to be determined at a later date in the fall.**

**15. Adjourned at 12:11 pm.**

APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_

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John Martin, Chair  
ETRWPG – Region I

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Stelly, Secretary