

Collin  
Cooke  
Dallas  
Denton  
Ellis  
Fannin  
Freestone  
Grayson  
Henderson  
Jack  
Kaufman  
Navarro  
Parker  
Rockwall  
Tarrant  
Wise

# REGION C

## Water Planning for North Texas

Winter 2012 Newsletter

### *Next Meeting:*

Monday, February 13, 1:00 p.m.,  
subject to change. Please monitor  
[www.regioncwater.org](http://www.regioncwater.org) for updates.

### *Meeting Location:*

Trinity River Authority  
Central Wastewater Treatment Plant  
6500 W. Singleton Blvd.  
Grand Prairie, TX 75212  
(972) 263-2251

\*Please note: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend the Region C Water Planning Group meeting — and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as mobility assistance, interpreters for deaf or hearing-impaired persons, readers, large print, or Braille — are requested to contact Lee Shaffer in the TRA Central Wastewater Treatment Plant at (972) 263-2251 at least five (5) work days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

### *For more information about the Region C Water Planning Group, contact:*

James (Jim) Parks, RCWPG Chair  
North Texas Municipal Water District  
P.O. Box 2408, Wylie, TX 75098  
Phone: (972) 442-5405  
E-mail: [jparks@ntmwd.com](mailto:jparks@ntmwd.com)

To be added to the RCWPG newsletter mailing list, send your name and mailing address to Colby Walton via e-mail to [colby@cookseypr.com](mailto:colby@cookseypr.com), or via fax to 972-580-0852.

Visit [www.regioncwater.org](http://www.regioncwater.org) for the latest updates on RCWPG activities, documents, meetings and other water planning news, or contact Rachel Ickert with Freese & Nichols at [rai@freese.com](mailto:rai@freese.com).

## Round Four of Region C Water Planning Begins

It's that time again — time for regions across Texas to revise their Regional Water Plans to reflect changing conditions and evolving future water needs. And the Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) in North Central Texas is no exception. In fact, Region C's particularly strong growth presents unique needs and challenges that need to be addressed by the planning process.

It's no secret that the entire state faces enormous challenges related to its continued growth, geographic diversity and susceptibility to drought — so much so that the Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 1 (SB1) in 1997 to create a statewide, ground-up planning process to better reflect regional conditions and future water needs. SB1 created 16 Regional Water Planning Groups statewide and charged them with preparing and revising Regional Water Plans that are ultimately developed into the State Water Plan by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

These regional plans and the state plan are updated every five years.

The first Region C Water Plan for North Central Texas was developed in 2001, becoming part of the 2002 State Water Plan, which laid out a 50-year roadmap for water planning statewide. Two subsequent, five-year planning efforts resulted in the creation of the 2006 and 2011 Region C Water Plans (and 2007 and 2012 State Water Plans).

Today, the RCWPG is beginning work toward a 2016 Region C Water Plan that will reflect the latest population and demand projections, water needs, environmental factors and feasible supply strategies for our region.

The RCWPG covers 16 counties and consists of 22 members representing a variety of interest groups, including water districts, water utilities, municipalities, industries, agriculture, environmental, small busi-



*Region C Water Planning Group Members Pose After Adoption of the 2011 Region C Water Plan*

nesses, counties, river authorities, electric generating utilities, Groundwater Management Areas (see separate article in this newsletter) and the public.

***For the 2011-2016 planning period, there are several new guidelines for planning:***

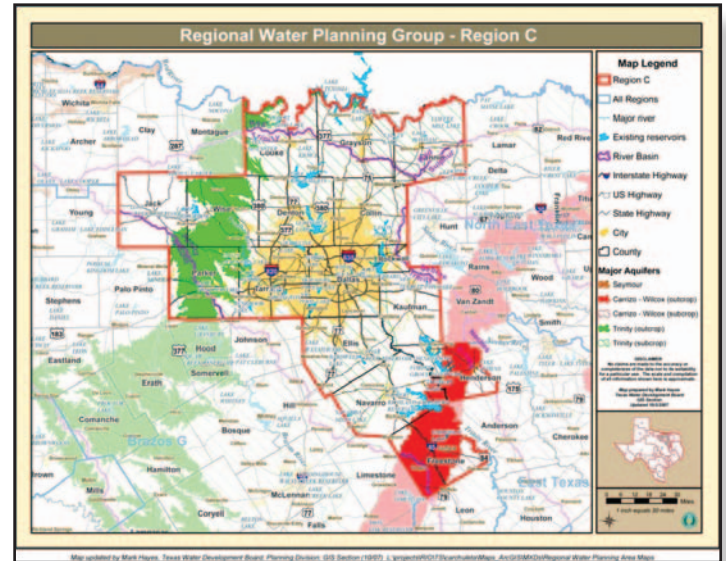
- Planning is extended through 2070, versus a 2060 timeframe previously.
- Due to the current drought, it is anticipated that 2011 will be used as the new base dry year for calculations of regional water demand (the year 2000 was the previous dry year standard). Unusually dry years are used for this calculation since water demand tends to be highest in dry years, and since we need to account in our planning for such parched periods, which are a fact of life in Texas.
- Overdrafting of groundwater will no longer be allowed as a short-term strategy.
- Plans must now include a planning safety factor table, reflecting the ratio of planned supplies to projected demand for each Water User Group and each Wholesale Water Provider.
- For each water supply source identified in the plan, the plan must also identify drought response triggers and actions to be taken in time of drought.

***During the initial stage of the current planning period, over the next 15 months, the RCWPG will be tackling several specifically identified tasks that are a critical prerequisite to development of a plan. Those tasks include:***

- Reviewing and providing input on TWDB-provided population and water demand projections for the region;
- Analyzing water availability and water supplies, including surface water (reservoirs and streams), groundwater, water reuse and other supply sources;
- Getting a water needs analysis from the TWDB, based on the updated projections of existing water supplies and water demands undertaken in the tasks above;
- Based on public input, selecting and implementing a process to identify potentially feasible water management strategies that will address the identified water needs of Water User Groups (WUGs) and Wholesale Water Providers (WWPs) in the region; and
- Beginning the evaluation and recommendation of water management strategies.

At the end of this initial stage of the planning period, in March 2013, the RCWPG will prepare and submit a technical memorandum to the TWDB summarizing its work and findings to

date. At this time, the RCWPG expects to receive additional funding from the state in order to complete its development of the 2016 Plan.



***Map of the 16 Counties of Region C***

Public participation is an important part of the Planning Group's work, even during these initial stages of the 2016 Plan's development. For example, as one element of engaging key stakeholders, the RCWPG will be surveying WUGs and WWPs across Region C to get their input on various water planning issues.

Additionally, the RCWPG strongly encourages citizens, businesses and other interested parties to participate in water planning through attendance at public meetings of the RCWPG (at which public comments are accepted), monitoring of the Region C website at [www.regionwater.org](http://www.regionwater.org) and review of media articles about local water issues.

A final opportunity for public participation will occur when the draft plan for Region C is made available for review and input at a public hearing in the spring of 2015. Shortly after this, the Planning Group will adopt a final 2016 Region C Water Plan and submit it to the TWDB for review and incorporation into the 2017 State Water Plan.

## **Drought, Other Challenges Affect Regional Water Supply**

It's been hot. It's been dry. On top of that, the North Central Texas water supply faces other significant challenges. Consequently, the work of the Region C Water Planning Group is more important and relevant than ever.

Many experts who study weather patterns and droughts predict the current drought could eventually rival the terrible drought of the 1950's. Already, the ongoing drought includes the driest 12-month period in the state's history, and the situation could

dramatically worsen if dry conditions extend for years, as the 1950's drought did.

Today's drought is wreaking havoc on the state's water supply. Although North Central Texas hasn't been hit as hard as other areas of the state, water supplies are diminishing and major water providers in the region are responding accordingly, implementing drought contingency measures reflective of their reservoir conditions.

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), which serves many of Dallas' northern suburbs, recently enacted Stage 3 of its drought contingency plan, in response to continuing drought and the unavailability of Lake Texoma water due to the presence of invasive zebra mussels (see below). As of mid-December, the Lake Lavon water supply was at 51 percent of capacity, and NTMWD's Lake Chapman water supply was at 32 percent of capacity. Stage 3 restrictions applicable to NTMWD customers include limiting landscaping watering to only once every two weeks, prohibiting watering from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and enacting other mandatory restrictions on non-essential watering. The goal of Stage 3 is a 10 percent reduction in water use.

In late August, the Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD), which serves much of the western half of the Metroplex, enacted Stage 1 of its drought contingency plan in response to its reservoir supplies dropping to 75 percent of capacity. TRWD's customers, including the cities of Fort Worth, Arlington, Mansfield and the Trinity River Authority, have implemented mandatory two-day-a-week watering restrictions, prohibitions on outdoor watering from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and other conservation measures.

Dallas Water Utilities (DWU), which provides water to the City of Dallas and other entities in the eastern part of the Metroplex, put Stage 1 water use restrictions in place on December 12, mandating that residents conduct landscape watering no more than twice weekly. Although DWU's reservoirs are collectively less than 25 percent depleted, DWU



*Depleted Reservoir*

took this action to extend its water supplies in order to support region-wide water needs and due to ongoing construction at one of its water treatment plants. DWU is currently in discussions to provide NTMWD and other entities with emergency water if conditions worsen.

Invasive zebra mussels are another disruptive problem for the Region C water supply. This aquatic species was found in Lake Texoma, which normally provides NTMWD almost a quarter of its water supply, in the spring of 2009. They can attach themselves to the insides of pipelines, restricting the flow of water. Since their discovery at Lake Texoma, the pipeline carrying water from the lake has been shut down so that zebra mussel larvae are not pumped into other area lakes.



*Zebra Mussels*

To complicate matters further, zebra mussels can attach themselves to boat hulls. So if boats aren't properly cleaned, the species can be transferred to another body of water, potentially threatening its water supply and detrimentally impacting native plants, fish and wildlife. As a result, the NTMWD and other partners are working with Texas Parks and Wildlife to educate recreational boaters about the damage caused by zebra mussels. For more information, visit [www.TexasInvasives.org](http://www.TexasInvasives.org).

If the forces of nature on our water supply aren't enough to raise flags of concern, there are also legal threats to the region's plans for future water supplies.

Recently, a three-judge panel of the 10th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals rejected a TRWD lawsuit related to ongoing attempts to purchase excess Gulf-bound water from the state of Oklahoma. TRWD subsequently requested a hearing before the full circuit regarding the District's application to secure water from three locations just north of the Red River, but that request was denied. The TRWD has until January 19 to decide whether to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. TRWD seeks to secure seven percent of the water bound for the Red River before it flows into the river, mixes with higher saline water and becomes less well-suited for municipal water supply, thus requiring expensive treatment. No water retained in any Oklahoma reservoir would be affected by the requested permits. The 2011 Region C Water Plan includes 140,000 acre-feet per year of water from Oklahoma, so this is an important supply strategy that is currently blocked.

In another recent legal action related to the Region C Water Plan, a state district judge issued a preliminary ruling in November signaling that the Texas Water Development Board will have to resolve a dispute between Region C and Region D over whether to include the potential Marvin Nichols Reservoir in Northeast Texas as a water management strategy for Region C entities. The 2011 Region C Water Plan projected that Region C would eventually get 490,000 acre-feet of water per year from this reservoir.

Proposed sales of water from the Toledo Bend Reservoir, a supply source on the Louisiana-Texas border from which Region C eventually plans to obtain 400,000 acre-feet of water annually (nearly 1/8 of the region's projected 2060 water demand), have also run into snags. Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal recently blocked a water sales agreement with a private company, although the Sabine River Authority is continuing to seek proposals for purchases of up to 600,000 acre-feet of water.

If there's anything state and regional water planners have learned from these and other challenges, it is that planning for a reasonable water supply surplus is critical — because you never know when an unforeseen combination of conditions will adversely impact the water supply. With Region C continuing to grow rapidly and with water an important element of that growth, the continued prosperity and high quality of life in North Central Texas are at stake.

## Texas Moves Forward With Adoption of Water Plan

As we began the development of a 2016 Region C Water Plan, our previous plan (the 2011 plan) was on the verge of becoming part of the 2012 State Water Plan.

A draft version of the 2012 State Plan, which incorporates all of the 2011 Regional Water Plans from across the state, was made available on the Texas Water Development Board website for review and public comment from Sept. 26 through Oct. 25. The TWDB also held a series of public meetings across the state to gather feedback on the draft plan.

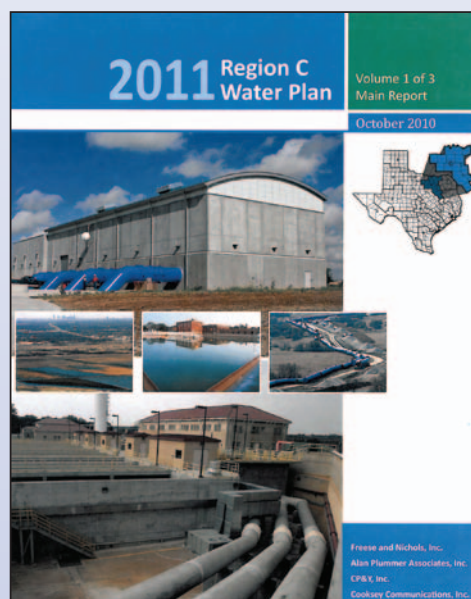
After taking public input, the Texas Water Development Board voted to adopt the 2012 State Water Plan at its December 15 meeting in Austin.

### *The plan is noteworthy for several reasons:*

- It is the first State Water Plan that places the state

at a water deficit — with overall demand exceeding overall supply — immediately.

- The plan puts into stark relief the economic impact and other consequences of failing to develop additional water supplies in a timely fashion. Failure to fund the 562 unique water supply projects identified in the plan would cost the state 1 million lost jobs, \$116 billion in revenue and 1.4 million residents by 2060.
- The \$53 billion worth of projects identified in the plan would provide 9 million acre-feet of water per year in 2060, meeting projected water needs of 8.3 million acre-feet by that time.
- Although the state's water population is expected to increase 82 percent between now and 2060, water demand is expected to grow by only 22 percent. This is due to a projected decline in the use of water for agricultural irrigation and to the increasing emphasis on water conservation across the state.



*2011 Region C Water Plan Front Cover*

- Under the plan, more than one-third of the projected water needs over the next 50 years would be met through conservation and reuse; new reservoirs would account for 17 percent of the need; and 34 percent would come from other surface water supplies.
- The total capital cost for all water projects in the plan, including both new supply projects and upgrades or expansions to existing projects and facilities, is \$231 billion. Significant funding challenges remain to bring these projects to fruition.

For more information, or to review the current and previous State Water Plans, visit [www.twdb.state.tx.us](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us).

# Planning Group Adds Groundwater Delegates

S.B. 660, adopted by the 82nd Texas Legislature, added to each Regional Water Planning Group one representative from each of the Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) located in the regional water planning area. There are 16 GMAs in Texas, created for the purpose of providing for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of groundwater in Texas, and there are three GMAs found in Region C.

Consequently, the following individuals were recently approved by the GMAs to represent them as members of the Region C Water Planning Group:

- **David Bailey**, representing GMA 12, is the general manager of the Mid-East Texas Groundwater Conservation District.
- **Gary Douglas**, representing GMA 11, is a member of the Neches & Trinity Valleys Groundwater Conservation District board.
- **Harold Latham**, representing GMA 8, is a member of the Red River Groundwater Conservation District board.

## *About the Regional Water Planning Group*

Region C is made up of all or part of 16 counties in North Texas: Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Freestone, Grayson, Henderson, Jack, Kaufman, Navarro, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise.

The Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) is one of 16 regional water planning groups selected by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to help develop and revise a comprehensive state water plan for Texas through 2070. Each water planning group is responsible for preparing and adopting a regional water plan for its area. The RCWPG is made up of 22 members representing 12 different interest groups.

<i>Jim Parks</i>	Chair	Water Districts
<i>Jody Puckett</i>	Vice Chair	Municipalities
<i>Russell Laughlin</i>	Secretary	Industry
<i>David Bailey</i>	Member	GMA 12
<i>Steve Berry</i>	Member	Environment
<i>Bill Ceverha</i>	Member	Public
<i>Jerry Chapman</i>	Member	Water Districts
<i>S. Frank Crumb</i>	Member	Municipalities
<i>Gary Douglas</i>	Member	GMA 11
<i>Harold Latham</i>	Member	GMA 8
<i>Bill Lewis</i>	Member	Small Business
<i>G. K. Maenius</i>	Member	Counties
<i>Howard Martin</i>	Member	Municipalities
<i>Jim McCarter</i>	Member	Water Utilities
<i>Dr. Paul Phillips</i>	Member	Municipalities
<i>Bob Scott</i>	Member	Environment
<i>Gary Spicer</i>	Member	Electric Generating Utilities
<i>Connie Standridge</i>	Member	Water Utilities
<i>Jack Stevens</i>	Member	Water Districts
<i>Danny Vance</i>	Member	River Authority
<i>Mary Vogelson</i>	Member	Public
<i>Dr. Tom Woodward</i>	Member	Agriculture
<i>Curtis Campbell</i>	Non-Voting Member	Region B
<i>Alva Cox</i>	Non-Voting Member	Brazos G RWPG
<i>Mike Harbordt</i>	Non-Voting Member	Region I
<i>Angela Kennedy</i>	Non-Voting Member	Texas Water Development Board
<i>Gregg Magee</i>	Non-Voting Member	Texas Dept. of Agriculture
<i>Sharon Nabors</i>	Non-Voting Member	Region D
<i>Adam Whisenant</i>	Non-Voting Member	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.



**REGION C**

**Water Planning  
for North Texas**

5525 N MacArthur Blvd,

Suite 530

Irving, TX 75038