

7. Plan Approval Process and Public Participation

This section describes the plan approval process for the Region C Water Plan and the efforts made to inform the public and encourage public participation in the planning process. Special efforts were made to inform the general public and water suppliers and others with special interest in the planning process and to seek their input.

7.1 Regional Water Planning Group

The original legislation for Senate Bill One and the Texas Water Development Board planning guidelines establish regional water planning groups to control the planning process⁽¹⁾. The regional water planning groups were to include representatives of eleven specific interests:

- General public
- Counties
- Municipalities
- Industrial
- Agricultural
- Environmental
- Small businesses
- Electric generating utilities
- River authorities
- Water districts
- Water utilities

Table 7.1 lists the members of the Region C Water Planning Group, the interests they represent, their organizations, and their counties. The Region C Water Planning Group held regular meetings during the development of the plan, receiving information from the region's consultants and making decisions on planning efforts. These meetings were open to the public, and proper notice was made under Senate Bill One guidelines⁽¹⁾. All but one of the Region C Water Planning Group meetings were held at the Trinity River Authority Central Wastewater Treatment Plant in Grand Prairie, a central location in the

Table 7.1			
Members of the Region C Water Planning Group			
Member	Organization	Interest	County
Terrace W. Stewart, Chairman	Dallas Water Utilities	Municipalities	Dallas *
James Parks, Vice-Chairman	North Texas Municipal Water District	Water Districts	Collin *
Roy F. Eaton, Secretary	Wise County Messenger	Small Businesses	Wise
Brad Barnes	Rancher	Agricultural	Jack
A. Leroy Burch	Retired	Industries	Dallas
Jerry W. Chapman	Greater Texoma Utility Authority	Water Districts	Grayson *
Dale Fisseler	City of Fort Worth	Municipalities	Tarrant
Howard Martin	City of Denton	Municipalities	Denton
Jim McCarter	Navarro Mills WSC	Water Utilities	Navarro
Elaine Petrus	Streams and Valleys	Environmental	Tarrant
Paul Phillips	City of Weatherford	Municipalities	Parker
Irvin M. Rice	Retired	Public	Dallas
Robert O. Scott	Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness	Environmental	Tarrant
George Shannon	Tarrant Regional Water District	Water Districts	Tarrant *
Connie Standridge	Winkler WSC	Water Utilities	Freestone
Danny Vance	Trinity River Authority	River Authorities	Tarrant *
Judge Tom Vandergriff	Tarrant County	Counties	Tarrant
Mary E. Vogelsson	League of Women Voters	Public	Dallas
Paul Zweiacker	TXU	Electric Generating Utilities	Dallas *

Note: * The organizations these members represent extend into other counties in Region C.

region. The only meeting held elsewhere was a joint meeting with the Region D Water Planning Group, held in Greenville. The water planning group generally met monthly, skipping a few months and holding more frequent meetings when the intensity of the planning effort required. The committee held nine meetings in 1998, 11 meetings in 1999, and 15 meetings in 2000.

7.2 Outreach to Water Suppliers and Regional Planning Groups

The Region C Water Planning Group made special efforts to contact water suppliers in the region and obtain their input in the planning process. The five major water providers in the region (Dallas Water Utilities, Tarrant Regional Water District, North Texas Municipal Water District, Fort Worth, and Trinity River Authority) are all represented on the water planning group. In addition, the planning group encouraged the Region C consultants to keep in close touch with the major water providers and other water suppliers as planning proceeded. Water suppliers were included on the mailing list for Region C newsletters (discussed below under outreach to the public). Other specific measures to obtain input from water suppliers and from other regional water planning groups are discussed below.

Questionnaires

Appendix C includes copies of the questionnaires that were sent out early in the Region C planning process to all Region C counties, cities with populations over 1,000, regional water suppliers, retail water suppliers (supplying over 0.2 mgd), and large industries. The questionnaires sought information on population and water use projections and other water supply issues. The response rate for all questionnaire recipients was 51 percent, and 61 percent of the cities, counties, and regional water suppliers responded.

Technical Review Committee

As part of the development of population and water use projections for Region C, the water planning group appointed a technical review committee composed of experienced water resource planners. This committee worked with the Region C consultants to develop recommended population and water use projections and reported to the planning group. The report of the Technical Review Committee is included as Appendix E. Members of the Technical Review Committee included:

- Tom Taylor (Chair) – Upper Trinity Regional Water District
- Robert McCarthy – Dallas Water Utilities

- Richard Browning – Trinity River Authority
- Wayne Owen – Tarrant Regional Water District
- Dale Fisseler – Fort Worth
- Robert Mansell – North Texas Municipal Water District

The Technical Review Committee met with the consultants six times, and all of the meetings were posted as public meetings.

Sulphur River Task Group

The Region C and Region D water planning groups formed the Sulphur River Task Group, including members of both water planning groups. The task group coordinated water supply planning involving the Sulphur River Basin, which was seen as a likely source of water supply for both Region C and Region D. The Sulphur River Task Group has met eleven times during the planning process, and the two regions have cooperated in their planning efforts for the Sulphur Basin. Both planning groups support the development of Marvin Nichols I Reservoir on the Sulphur River in Region D. The Marvin Nichols I project will provide water supplies for both regions.

7.3 Outreach to the Public

Newsletters

The Region C Water Planning Group published newsletters as needed to inform the public of the progress of the planning process. The newsletters were sent to:

- Water right holders
- County judges
- Mayors and officials of cities in the region
- Other water planning regions
- TWDB staff
- Approximately 675 media
- Any person who requested to be on the mailing list.

A total of four newsletters have been distributed in Region. An additional newsletter may be distributed in late September or early October 2000. Appendix Y includes copies of the Region C newsletters, as well as a brochure on the regional water planning process produced by TWDB.

Public Awareness Presentations

Members of the Region C Water Planning Group have made a number of presentations on the planning process to interested groups throughout the region. Table 7.2 is a partial list of the presentations made by planning group members before September 2000.

Table 7.2			
Public Awareness Presentations Made During the Region C Planning Process			
Date	Location	Speaker	Audience
November 24, 1998	Weatherford	Paul Phillips	Rotary Club
March 31, 1999	Decatur	Roy Eaton/Terrace Stewart	Public / Water Suppliers
April 14, 1999	Gainesville	Jerry Chapman	Rotary Club
April 30, 1999	Arlington	Mary Vogelson Terrace Stewart Danny Vance Bill Meadows	League of Women Voters Symposium (350-400 people)
May 4, 1999	Nacogdoches	Danny Vance	Region I Water Planning Group
May 5, 1999	Sherman	Jerry Chapman	Lions Club
June 29, 1999	Weatherford	Paul Phillips/Terrace Stewart	Public
June 30, 1999	Denton County	Howard Martin	Public
June 30, 1999	Fort Worth	Danny Vance	Professional Networking Club
July 2, 1999	Bonham	Jerry Chapman	Fannin County Commissioners Court
August 9, 1999	Plano	Jim Parks	Plano City Council
August 9, 1999	Corsicana	Connie Standridge	Public / Water Suppliers
August 10, 1999	Fort Worth	Bill Meadows	Fort Worth City Council
August 11, 1999	Arlington	John Jadrosich	Optimist Club
August 19, 1999	Dallas	Jim Parks	Society of Professional Engineers

Table 7.2, Continued

Date	Location	Speaker	Audience
August 19, 1999	Sherman	Jerry Chapman	Texoma Council of Governments
August 23, 1999	Bonham	Jerry Chapman	Fannin County Commissioners Court
September 7, 1999	Muenster	Jerry Chapman	Muenster City Council
September 18, 1999	Fort Worth	Robert Scott	Tarrant Coalition for Environmental Awareness
October 5, 1999	Sherman	Jerry Chapman	Rotary Club
October 20, 1999	Allen	Jim Parks	Rotary Club
December 1, 1999	Wylie	Jim Parks	Leadership Rowlett
February 8, 2000	The Colony	Jim Parks	Rotary Club
February 10, 2000	Plano	Jim Parks	Rotary Club
March 25, 2000	Plano	Jim Parks	City of Plano
April 4, 2000	Mesquite	Jim Parks	Exchange Club
May 9, 2000	Farmersville	Jim Parks	Farmersville City Council
June 14, 2000	Denton County	Roy Eaton/George Shannon	Northwest Communities Partnership
July 6, 2000	Fort Worth	George Shannon	Optimist Club
July 10, 2000	Grayson County	Jerry Chapman	Cooke and Grayson County Water Suppliers
July 24, 2000	Plano	Jim Parks	City of Plano - City Manager's Staff
August 4, 2000	Plano	Jim Parks	Rotary Club
August 8, 2000	Fort Worth	George Shannon	Rotary Club
August 11, 2000	Austin	Danny Vance	Texas Coalition of Cities
August 17, 2000	Rockwall	Jim Parks	Rotary Club
August 24, 2000	Euless	Danny Vance	North Central Texas Council of Governments

Media Outreach

The media outreach plan for Region C called for using a number of communication vehicles to keep the media, and hence the public, informed of the progress and activities of the Region C Water Planning Group:

- **Newsletters** – Newsletters were sent to approximately 675 media as well as to members of the general public on the mailing list.

- **Public meetings** – The media were invited via a printed Public Meeting Notice to attend the public hearing on September 14, 1999. Media were also invited to attend the five county meetings and the public hearing in September 2000 via a press release.
- **Press materials** – A complete press kit was issued to the media in September 1999. It included frequently asked questions and answers, a six-page summary of the planning process, impact and opportunities of regional water planning, copies of the newsletter, and a press release on the state’s mandated water planning. An updated press kit were later distributed to select media. The revised press kit included a summary of the plan, revised questions and answers, recommended water management strategies by county and water supply source, a roster of board member contacts, and a list of the libraries and county clerks offices where the entire plan was on file for review by the public
- **Press releases and media advisories** – Press releases were issued on April 9, 1999, August 10 and 30, 1999, August 23, 2000, and September 19, 2000 to inform the media of ongoing activities of the Region C Water Planning Group. A media advisory was issued on August 8, 1999 to inform the public of the Public Meeting held in Corsicana on August 10. A media advisory was sent to remind the media of the public meetings on September 6, 11, 13, 18, and 20, 2000. A media advisory was sent to remind the media of the public hearing on September 25, 2000.
- **Ongoing media relations** - Reporters from *The Dallas Morning News*, including Staff Writer Terri Langford and Associate Editorial Editor William McKenzie, have been proactive in attending the board meetings and have diligently covered the issues and activities surrounding the Region’s water planning efforts. Relationships with the *Star-Telegram* have resulted in coverage in the western section of the region.
- **Editorial board meetings** – An editorial board meeting was held with *The Dallas Morning News* on September 5, 2000. An editorial board meeting was held on September 11, 2000 with the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

The Region C Water Planning Group and its efforts have netted a significant amount of press coverage since August 1999. Appendix Z includes copies of the press clippings for Region C. In 1999, the following publications produced articles on the Region C planning process:

- *Arlington Morning News*
- *Azle News* (2 articles)
- *Bridgeport Index*
- *Cedar Creek Pilot* (3 articles)
- *Corsicana Daily Sun*

- *Dallas Morning News* (3 articles)
- *DeSoto Focus* (2 articles)
- *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*
- *Greenville Herald Banner*
- *Herald Democrat*
- *Lewisville Leader*
- *Oak Cliff Tribune*
- *Wise County Messenger* (2 articles)
- *Wylie News* (2 articles)

In 2000, the following publications produced articles on the Region C planning process:

- *Amarillo Globe-News*
- *Dallas Business Journal*
- *The Community News* (2 articles)
- *Longview News Journal*
- *Azle News*
- *Rockwall Success*
- *Dallas Morning News* (16 articles)
- *Greenville Herald Banner*
- *Sherman Herald Democrat* (2 articles)
- *Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune* (2 articles)
- *Bonham Daily Favorite* (2 articles)
- *Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel*
- *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* (10 articles)
- *Wise County Messenger* (2 articles)
- *News-Mirror*
- *Herald Democrat* (2 articles)
- *Bridgeport Index*
- *Wylie News*
- *Upstream/Downstream*
- *Denton Record-Chronicle*

Publication on the Web

In order to make the draft of the *Initially Prepared Region C Water Plan* more accessible to the public, it was available on the Freese and Nichols web page, at <http://www.freese.com/senbill1/regionc/index.htm>. Freese and Nichols and the Texas Water Development have both maintained web sites with information on the Region C planning process as planning proceeded.

7.4 Public Meetings and Public Hearings

Initial Public Meeting

As required by Senate Bill One rules, the Region C Water Planning Group held an initial public meeting to discuss the planning process and the scope of work for the region on June 30, 1998.

Public Hearing on Population and Water Use

The Region C Water Planning Group held a public hearing in Grand Prairie on September 14, 1999, to present the recommended population and water demand projections for the region and to receive public input before the projections were delivered to the Texas Water Development Board for approval.

Public Meetings on Water Needs and Potential Strategies

In March of 2000, the water planning group held an additional set of public meetings to discuss the planning effort, present population and water use projections, discuss possible water management strategies for each county, and encourage public feedback. These meetings were held throughout the region, and each meeting concentrated on certain counties:

- March 7, Springtown (Jack, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise Counties)
- March 20, Grand Prairie (Dallas and Denton Counties)
- March 21, Mesquite (Collin, Kaufman, and Rockwall Counties)
- March 23, Grayson County (Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties)
- March 28, Ennis (Ellis, Freestone, Henderson, and Navarro Counties)

Public Meetings and Public Hearing on Draft Initially Prepared Plans

In September of 2000, the Region C Water Planning Group held a series of public meetings around the region to present the draft *Initially Prepared Region C Water Plan* and seek public input. As with the meetings in March of 2000, the meetings concentrated on water management strategies for nearby counties. The meetings were scheduled as follows:

- September 7, 2:00-4:00, Ennis Public Library (Ellis, Freestone, Henderson, and Navarro Counties)
- September 12, 6:00-8:00, North Texas Municipal Water District in Wylie (Collin, Kaufman, and Rockwall Counties)
- September 14, 2:00-4:00, Trinity River Authority Central Wastewater Treatment Plant in Grand Prairie (Dallas and Denton Counties)
- September 19, 6:00-8:00, Grayson County Community College (Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties)
- September 21, 4:00-6:00, Springtown Fire Hall (Jack, Parker, Tarrant, and Wise Counties)

The public hearing on the draft *Initially Prepared Region C Water Plan* was held at 1:30 on September 26 at the Trinity River Authority Central Wastewater Treatment Plant in Grand Prairie. The Region C Water Planning Group accepted written comments on the report until October 3, 2000. Comments on the *Initially Prepared Region C Water Plan* and responses to the comments are included in Appendices AA and BB.

7.5 Implementation Strategies

Most of the water supply strategies in the Region C plan are basically uncomplicated and should not require special or unusual implementation strategies. All of the strategies will require additional planning and environmental analysis as they are implemented, and most will require permitting. In addition, four of the key supply efforts - (a) conservation, (b) reuse of reclaimed wastewater, (c) development of the Marvin Nichols I Reservoir, and (d) obtaining water from Oklahoma, and - are more complex and will call for relatively sophisticated implementation strategies for effective mitigation of inter-regional and/or intra-regional conflicts. The following strategies have been identified as potentially useful in those cases.

Conservation

We have proposed a more detailed study of water conservation in Region C as a part of the next five-year cycle of Senate Bill One planning. In addition, we recommend the following efforts by Region C suppliers:

- Set up a continuing Committee for Study of Water Conservation Techniques, to strengthen the understanding of various conservation alternatives and their potential effectiveness.
- Identify avenues of research in water conservation that would justify State funding and seek sponsorship by the TWDB or TNRCC.

Reuse of Reclaimed Wastewater

As part of the next five-year cycle of Senate Bill One planning, we recommend that the Region C Water Planning Group make a further analysis of plans for reuse in Region C:

- Prepare a comprehensive summary of the historical and current amounts and locations of reclaimed wastewater in Region C.
- Project the future volumes and locations of reclaimed wastewater in Region C by decade through the year 2050.
- Compare the amount of reuse proposed with reclaimed wastewater volumes to project remaining wastewater flows in Region C streams.
- Seek to develop regional cooperation in the planning and development of reuse projects in Region C.

Marvin Nichols I Reservoir

Development of the proposed Marvin Nichols I Reservoir presents special challenges because of the involvement of two Senate Bill One planning regions and because of the size, cost, and environmental impacts of the project. We recommend the following steps in the development of the Marvin Nichols I project:

- Region C water suppliers should continue communication and coordination with potential partners in the Sulphur Basin for the development of Marvin Nichols I.
- Carry out detailed studies of the environmental factors in the Marvin Nichols I project, with special attention to what can be done to minimize and mitigate the adverse environmental impacts.
- Prepare an engineering report on the Marvin Nichols I Reservoir project.

- Submit an application to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission for a water right permit authorizing construction and operation of the Marvin Nichols I Reservoir. Provide the TNRCC with the needed supporting evidence to support the application and obtain the permit.
- Continue the operation and funding of the Sulphur River Joint Task Group throughout the planning and permitting process, to help identify and resolve inter-regional issues.
- Continue to hold periodic public meetings in Region C and Region D to inform people about the progress of the development process and obtain public input.

Water from Oklahoma

The state of Oklahoma has initiated a Request for Qualifications process to identify potential customers for water from Southeast Oklahoma. Several Region C water suppliers are participating in that process, and they should continue to do so. Working with the state of Oklahoma, the suppliers should seek to:

- Identify sources of water in Oklahoma within reasonable distances of the state line that are not allocated or needed for future use in Oklahoma.
- Evaluate the amounts of water that might be obtained from such sources.
- Explore potential avenues of cooperation between Region C entities and Oklahoma entities for mutually beneficial development and use of one or more of the Oklahoma sources.