

Agenda Item II – Attachment

RCWPG Minutes from November 1, 2021

REGION C WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING
November 1, 2021

The Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) met in an open public meeting on Monday, November 1, 2021, at 1:00 P.M. The meeting was held at the North Central Texas Council of Governments located at 616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint Two Building, First Floor Transportation Council Room, Arlington, Texas. Notice of the meeting was legally posted.

Chair Kevin Ward called the Region C Regional Water Planning Group meeting to order at approximately 1:08 P.M. and welcomed guests.

I. ROLL CALL

Chairman Ward conducted a roll call. The following members were in attendance:

David Bailey	Steve Mundt
Dan Buhman	Denis Qualls (Alternate for Richard Wagner)
Jenna Covington	Drew Satterwhite
Grace Darling	Rick Shaffer
Christopher Harder	Doug Shaw
Harold Latham	Connie Standridge
John Lingenfelder	Kevin Ward

Kevin Smith, TWDB, Adam Whisenant, TPWD, and Darrell Dean, TDA were present. The registration lists signed by guests in attendance are attached.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 2, 2021

The minutes of the August 2, 2021, RCWPG meeting were approved by consensus upon a motion by Jenna Covington and a second by Grace Darling.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

There were no public comments.

IV. PRE-PLANNING MEETING FOR 2026 REGION C WATER PLAN

A. Overview of the regional water planning process (presented by technical consultants)

The pre-planning meeting is a requirement to provide the public an opportunity to give input and comments to the RCWPG on issues that should be addressed in the upcoming regional water plan. This meeting is required prior to the initiation of technical work.

Abigail Gardner, FNI, gave a brief presentation on the regional water planning process. Highlights of Ms. Gardner's overview are as follows:

Water Planning in Texas

- \$6 Billion in economic losses in 1996 due to severe drought conditions
- S.B. 1 & 2 in 1997 and 2001 established regional water planning
- 16 regional water planning areas created by TWDB
- Goal of each RWPG is to develop a plan that serves the region and state

Region C Overview

- 26% of State's Population
- 2016 population: 7.2 million
- 53 Cities with population over 20,000
- 31% of State's economy
- 9% of State's water use
- 90% of Demand met by Surface Water
- Population predicted to double by 2070

Region C Water Planning Group

- 16 North Central Texas counties
- 22 voting members
- Major aquifer: Trinity River
- Municipal water use was 90% of total use in 2016
- Overlaps much of the Trinity River Basin

Fundamentals of Water Planning

- Goal is to meet drought of record water needs
- 50-year planning horizon, 5-year planning cycle
- Water User Groups: municipal, manufacturing, mining, irrigation, livestock, and steam-electric power
- Water Management Strategy = a water project that has a capital cost and would develop, deliver, or treat additional water supplies or conserve water for WUGs or WWPs

Working Timeline - 2026 RWP Cycle

- August 31, 2021 Contract Execution Deadline
- November 1, 2021 RCWPG/Preplanning Meeting
- January 2022 Non-Municipal Demand Projections
- February 2023 Population/Municipal Demand Projections
- 2022 - 2023 Complete Various Scope of Work Tasks
- March 4, 2024 Technical Memo Due
- March 3, 2025 Initially Prepared Plan Due
- October 20, 2025 Regional Water Plan Due

- B. Receive public input and comments on issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the 2026 Region C Water Plan.

No public comments were received or requested.

- C. Consider the identification of water management strategies that may create collaboration and cooperation with other regions.

Simone Kiel, FNI, led this discussion on major interregional water management strategies that were considered and recommended in the 2021 Region C Water Plan and acknowledged opportunities for identifying additional strategies that could promote and encourage collaboration between regions. She mentioned the recommended and alternate strategies included as shown below:

Recommended Strategies

- Marvin Nichols Reservoir
- Wright Patman Reallocation
- Neches Run-of-River
- Lake Columbia
- Oklahoma
- Groundwater - East Texas

Alternate Strategies

- George Parkhouse North
- George Parkhouse South
- Red River Off-Channel Reservoir
- Toledo Bend
- Groundwater - East Texas

Other Strategies

- Cypress River Basin
- Brazos River Basin
 - BRA System Operations
- Red River Basin
 - Oklahoma/Region B
- Sabine River Basin

Ms. Kiel added that the Region C WPG does a good job working across the state. Currently, Region C has six strategies included in the 2021 Water Plan that are also located in other regions.

- D. Discuss the potential process for conducting interregional coordination regarding water management strategies during the development of the 2026 Region C Water Plan.

Simone Kiel, FNI, gave a review of the process for interregional coordination used for the 2021 Water Plan and presented an approach for the 2026 Water Plan for discussion. The Interregional Planning Council made the following recommendations to the TWDB for RWPGs:

- RWPGs discuss process for interregional coordination
- Begin interregional coordination early in process
- Document interregional coordination

The TWDB made the following requirement for RWPGs:

- RWPGs include discussion on interregional coordination in pre-planning meeting
- RWPGs document their efforts in technical memo, Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) and final plan

Ms. Kiel added that Region C shares the following with Regions B, D, G, H and I:

- 43 shared Water User Groups (WUGs)
- 15 shared existing sources
- 6 recommended Water Management Strategies (WMS)
- 7 alternative WMS

Kiel stated that the RCWPG proposed 2026 interregional coordination involves consultant coordination, regional liaisons and interregional meetings, as needed in the event of a conflict. Ms. Kiel outlined the following consultant guidelines:

2026 Water Plan Consultant Coordination

- **Goals**
 - Share communications
 - Consistency across regional plans
- **Multiple Areas for Coordination**
 - Shared water user groups
 - Shared existing sources
 - Proposed water management strategies located in other regions

Below is a list of the Region C Regional Liaisons:

Region C to other Regions

- Region B, Vacant
- Region D, Vacant
- Region G, Gary Spicer
- Region H, Kevin Ward
- Region I, Connie Standridge

Other Regions to Region C

- Region B, Tracy Mesler
- Region D, David Nabors
- Region G, Gary Spicer
- Region H, Kevin Ward
- Region I, Vacant

Ms. Kiel commented that the liaison vacancies need to be addressed at a future date.

V. ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. Consider re-appointment or replacement of RCWPG members with terms expiring in November 2021. Call for nominations to fill vacancies and vote to fill vacancies.

There are several members on the RCWPG board whose terms are expiring on November 1, 2021. Chairman Ward asked if there were any nominations from the floor to fill these positions. Hearing none, Chairman Ward asked for a vote to reappoint the following RCWPG board members: Jay Barksdale, Dan Buhman, Grace Darling, Russel Laughlin, G. K. Maenius, Gary Spicer, Connie Standridge, and Kevin Ward.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Denis Qualls, and a second by Rick Shaffer, the RCWPG voted unanimously to reappoint board members listed above for another term.

- B. Consider appointments to a By-Laws Subcommittee to review the Region C By-Laws and report suggested modifications to the RCWPG.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Dan Buhman, and a second by Steve Mundt, the RCWPG voted unanimously to appoint Grace Darling, Denis Qualls, Russel Laughlin, Connie Standridge and Kevin Ward to a By-Laws Subcommittee to review the Region C By-Laws and report suggested modifications to the RCWPG.

- C. Consider Approval of Nomination(s) of a Region C member and alternate to serve on the Interregional Planning Council, in accordance with H.B. 807. Authorize the Trinity River Authority to submit nominees' information to the Texas Water Development Board for appointment.

There were no public comments on this item.

Chairman Ward nominated Jenna Covington to serve on the Interregional Planning Council, and Drew Satterwhite to serve as the alternate.

Upon a motion by Kevin Ward, and a second by Grace Darling, the RCWPG voted unanimously to appoint Jenna Covington to serve on the Interregional Planning Council, and Drew Satterwhite to serve as the alternate.

VI. OTHER DISCUSSION

A. Updates from the Chair – None

B. Report from Regional Liaisons

- Region B - None
- Region D - None
- Region G - None
- Region H - Chairman Ward stated that Region H meets in a week, and he plans to attend.
- Region I - None

C. Report from Texas Water Development Board – Kevin Smith, TWDB, addressed the following topics:

1. **Subcontract Guidance for 2026 Regional Water Planning Contracts (8/11)**

- Subcontracts must include provisions and clauses listed in the following guidelines:
http://twdb.texas.gov/about/contract_admin/doc/Subcontracting_Guidelines.pdf
- Official TWDB review and acceptance of sub-subcontracts (between the primary technical consultant and their subcontractors) will no longer be conducted. Copies of any sub-subcontracts and sub-subcontract amendments should be submitted directly to the planning group's TWDB regional water planner for their files.
- There is not a Certificate of Procurement form associated with the 2026 Regional Water Plan contracts.

2. **Interregional Planning Council Nominations (9/13)**

- At least one member to serve on the Council, and one alternate, for each member nominated
- Nominations should be submitted no later than February 28, 2022. The TWDB anticipates Council appointments will occur in April 2022.

3. Regional Water Planning Stakeholder Technical Meeting (10/12)

- Discuss technical-related lessons learned from the 2021 Regional Water Plan cycle and consider potential improvements to TWDB's regional water planning technical guidance for the 2026 Regional Water Plans.
- Optional meeting and consultants for regions that have not yet held their pre-planning meeting by the date of this meeting would not be eligible to invoice to the regional water planning contract.

D. Report from Texas Department of Agriculture - None

E. Report from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - Adam Whisenant commented that they are looking into updates on stream segments.

F. Other Reports - None

G. Confirm Date and Location of Next Meeting – TBD; NCTCOG, 616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint Two Building, First Floor Transportation Council Room, Arlington, Texas 76011

H. Public Comments - None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the RCWPG adjourned at approximately 2:50 P.M.

KEVIN WARD, Chairman