

## Summary of Speaker Comments at the August 18, 2003 RCWPG Meeting

1. Janice Bezanson, Executive Director of Texas Committee on Natural Resources (TCNR)  
(1 handout)

Ms. Bezanson explained that she represented TCNR, which is affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation. She provided a handout that Dr. Norma Johns had written discussing the amount of water that could be saved by implementing water conservation practices. According to Dr. Johns' report, over 500,000 acre-feet per year could be saved, negating the need for the Marvin Nichols Reservoir. Dr. Johns report suggests other alternatives for water supply that are available at a lower cost. Ms. Bezanson believes that conservation is the right thing to do.

2. Ann Drumm, Chair of Dallas Sierra Club (2 handouts)

Ms. Drumm is excited about the neighborhood water conservation study. However, she thinks the study could analyze other measures besides low flow plumbing fixtures and irrigation audits. Ms. Drumm commented that she thought the GDS report on water conservation suggesting 50% penetration was pessimistic. She suggested that the region consider additional water conservation measures, such as providing incentives to replace landscaping and developing neighborhood rainwater harvesting programs.

Ms. Drumm also told the group that Dr. Peter Gleick would be presenting his report regarding the potential for increasing the efficiency of water use in California and whether demand management and improvements in productivity of water use can meet most of their water needs. She told the planning group they would be receiving invitations and encouraged them to attend.

3. Max Shumake, Region D landowner

Mr. Shumake hopes the planning group will get results from water conservation. He asked the RCWPG to remove the Marvin Nichols project from the 2001 *Region C Water Plan*. He recommended Wright Patman and Toledo Bend as alternatives to Marvin Nichols.

4. David Nabors, Region D landowner

Mr. Nabors stated that the key to water conservation is education. He suggested that the region work with the Texas universities to educate students on water conservation. He would like to see more articles on the planning effort in the local newspapers. He would like to see everything presented in simple language. He recommended writing articles that relate to everyday life.

5. Bill Ward, President of Ward Timber Company (2 handouts)

Mr. Ward provided a report prepared by Dr. Weihuan Xu on behalf of the Northeast Texas Forest Industry, as well as a copy of a news release regarding the timber industry's opposition to the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir. Mr. Ward told the RCWPG that the timber industry has united against the Marvin Nichols Reservoir project. Dr. Xu' report discusses potential financial losses to East Texas should the reservoir be constructed. The report only discusses losses in the timber industry and does not take into account the agricultural losses associated with the proposed reservoir. Mr. Ward asked the RCWPG to remove Marvin Nichols Reservoir from their water plan. According to Mr. Ward, the timber companies are already losing money because they are afraid to expand their plants just to have them shut down by the proposed reservoir project. Mr. Ward stated that he did not

believe the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir protected the environment, as required by Senate Bill One. He recommended that Region C use Lake Texoma, Toledo Bend, and desalination to meet the region's future water needs.