

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

REGION C

Water Planning for North Texas

December 2013 Newsletter

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 28, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.,
subject to change. Please monitor
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.

Members of the public interested in attending the RCWPG's public meetings must now provide government-issued identification to authorized personnel prior to entering the plant site. Please be sure extra time is allotted for this security check. No person will be allowed to enter the facility without proper identification.

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

To receive this newsletter, send your name plus an e-mail and/or mailing address to Colby Walton at colby@cookseypr.com or via fax to 972-580-0852.

Visit 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.

Planning Group Analyzes Water Supply, IDs Potentially Feasible Strategies

In August 2013, the Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) completed its review of draft population projections and municipal water demand projections from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and recommended changes to TWDB's draft data to improve the overall projections.

Now that population and water demand projections have been finalized, the RCWPG is turning to a review and analysis of the region's existing water supplies — including groundwater, surface water and water from reuse sources — so it can allocate those currently available supplies to water user groups (WUGs) and wholesale water providers (WWPs) across the region.

Once those supplies are matched up to WUGs and WWPs, it will be evident to the RCWPG where there are unmet needs that should be addressed in the 2016 Region C Water Plan.

As part of evaluating the TWDB's draft population and demand projections, the RCWPG earlier this year surveyed WUGs across North Central Texas and conferred with WWPs. The survey and meetings provided relevant feedback not only on the draft projections, but also on currently available water supplies and water supply policies across the region.

Drawing on those survey results, the RCWPG is now working on its regional

water supply analysis, including an analysis of water conservation and reuse efforts already underway across the region. Simultaneously, the group is developing a list of potentially feasible water management strategies, from which it will ultimately select a recommended set of strategies.

Much of this water supply analysis and feasible strategy identification will be completed by early 2014.

Once the RCWPG has evaluated water availability and existing supplies, identified water needs and identified potentially feasible water management strategies, it will submit this data to the TWDB by the August 1, 2014 deadline. This is a critical step in the ultimate development of Region C's Initially Prepared Plan (IPP).

In mid-2014, the RCWPG will turn its focus to evaluating each of the potentially feasible water management strategies and drafting the IPP, which is due to the TWDB by May 1, 2015. Shortly after this, in the summer of 2015, the RCWPG will host a public hearing on the IPP to gather public input on the proposed recommendations, before a final plan is prepared.

The planning group must adopt a final version of the *2016 Region C Water Plan* and submit it to the TWDB no later than Nov. 2, 2015.

Region C Providers Continue Drought Response

Despite some recent rains, about half of Texas remains in a drought situation, including much of the North Central Texas area comprising Region C. Consequently, major water providers in the region continue to restrict water use in order to preserve dwindling supplies.

In mid-October, the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), which supplies water to areas north and east of Dallas, announced that it would remain in Stage 3 of the District's Water Conservation and Drought Contingency and Water Emergency Response Plan. Continuation of Stage 3 water restrictions is necessary due to below average rainfall, declining water levels of NTMWD reservoirs and the ongoing prohibition of pumping water from Lake Texoma due to the zebra mussel infestation.

Lavon Lake, the District's primary water supply, is currently more than 12 feet below the normal conservation level, making it below 50 percent capacity. Lake Chapman, the other key NTMWD reservoir, is over 13 feet low, putting it under 30 percent full.

As part of Stage 3, in addition to previous time-of-day restrictions, seasonal landscape watering is limited to once every two weeks with sprinklers or irrigation systems between Nov. 1 and March 31. Soaker hoses and drip irrigation systems can continue to be used for up to two hours per day for foundations and trees. The NTMWD's municipal customers have enacted their own restrictions to comply with the District's Stage 3 restrictions.

The NTMWD will get some partial relief in January when the first phase of the new pipeline from Lake Texoma comes online. The \$310 million pipeline will connect Lake Texoma directly to the Wylie, Texas water treatment plant (bypassing Lavon Lake) and allow the NTMWD to resume using the Texoma water supply while minimizing the spread of the invasive zebra mussel. The Texoma supply is anticipated to be fully restored in the Spring of 2014 with the completion of all phases of this pipeline.

As of the end of October, the Tarrant Regional Water District's four reservoirs were in relatively better shape, at 64 percent of capacity. The District has instituted time-of-day restrictions and limited watering to twice a week, and it

does not currently anticipate going to once-a-week watering restrictions soon.

Dallas Water Utilities, another one of the region's major wholesale water providers, is also a bit better off than NTMWD. Lake levels for Dallas' water supply are currently around 70 percent of capacity. The City of Dallas previously enacted permanent time-of-day and twice-per-week lawn watering restrictions for its customers, in order to protect scarce water supplies.

Upper Trinity Regional Water District, which provides wholesale water service to cities and utilities primarily in Denton County, continues in Stage 1 – Water Wise of its

drought contingency plan. Initiated in 2012, Stage 1 includes mandatory time-of-day and twice-per-week landscape watering schedule. The district's reservoirs are currently at about 70 percent of capacity.

These temporary drought response measures and permanent water conservation measures are important, but they are only part of the bigger effort to ensure North Central Texas residents and businesses have enough water.

Texas' tendency to experience extended droughts, currently stretched water supplies and anticipated growth are a major reason why regional water planners, in Region C and statewide, are keenly focused on long-term water planning, including a significant emphasis on water conservation and reuse.

The 2011 Region C Water Plan calls for conservation and reuse together to account for 23 percent of the region's available water supplies. And, with only about 25 percent of the state's population, the 2011 plan anticipates

that Region C will develop 40 percent of the state's conservation- and reuse-related water supplies over the next 50 years. Those figures may continue to go up as subsequent regional water plans are developed, if current trends are any indication.

For water conservation tips and more information, visit www.savetexaswater.org or www.wateriq.org.

Reservoir	Percent Full*
Arlington	74.0
Benbrook	77.1
Bonham	78.0
Bridgeport	45.2
Cedar Creek	76.5
Eagle Mountain	68.6
Fork	76.7
Grapevine	64.9
Jim Chapman (Cooper)	29.0
Joe Pool	92.8
Lavon	47.7
Lewisville	64.1
Livingston	100.0
Navarro Mills	100.0
Palestine	100.0
Ray Hubbard	69.9
Ray Roberts	75.3
Richland-Chambers	70.0
Tawakoni	65.7
Texoma	83.7
Worth	73.1

Major Reservoirs For Region C Water Supply

*Levels as of 11/25/13

Voters Approve Historic Water Funding Proposal

On Nov. 5, 2013, Texas voters overwhelmingly indicated their support for water project funding, approving the appropriation of \$2 billion from the state's economic stabilization fund (a.k.a. the Rainy Day Fund) to establish a revolving fund that will help pay for water and conservation projects in the State Water Plan.

The constitutional amendment required to ratify the creation and financing of the revolving loan fund was on the ballot as Proposition 6, and the measure received support from over 73 percent of Texas citizens voting in the Nov. 5 election. Eight other constitutional amendments were also on the ballot. All nine measures were handily approved by voters.



Speaker Straus Rallies Support for Proposition 6

In a statement issued the day after the election, Texas House Speaker Joe Straus said, "This vote will allow communities across Texas to secure the water resources needed to foster private-sector growth and economic opportunity. Job-creators will know that Texas has the water supply they need, and towns and cities will be better prepared for prolonged drought conditions."

The one-time, non-recurring investment authorized by voters can now be leveraged to yield up to \$30 billion worth of vital water projects benefiting Texans.

As a next step before any projects can be funded, regional planning groups statewide must prioritize projects in their respective regional water plans, considering criteria such as:

- (1) the decade in which the project will be needed;
- (2) the feasibility of the project, including the availability of water rights for purposes of the project and the hydrological and scientific practicability of the project;
- (3) the viability of the project, including whether the project is a comprehensive solution with a measurable outcome;

- (4) the sustainability of the project, taking into consideration the life of the project; and
- (5) the cost-effectiveness of the project, taking into consideration the expected unit cost of the water to be supplied by the project.

A draft prioritization of 2011 regional water plan projects is due to the TWDB by June 1, 2014, and the final prioritization is due by Sept. 1, 2014.

When applicants submit projects for financial assistance from the newly created water fund, the TWDB will then apply a point system for prioritizing which projects receive loans. Projects having a substantial effect, such as those serving a large population, providing assistance to a diverse urban and rural population, providing regionalization, or meeting a high percentage of the water supply needs of water users, will be given the highest consideration.

The regional water planning groups' prioritization of projects will also be one of the criteria weighed, among other factors.

Rules for disbursing loans from the fund will be finalized by the TWDB no later than March 1, 2015. At least 20 percent of loan proceeds must be used to target conservation and reuse projects, and at least 10 percent of loan proceeds must be used to target rural and irrigation conservation projects.

State Environmental Agency Approves Lake Ralph Hall Permit

On Sept. 24, 2013, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) approved development of the first major reservoir to be developed in North Texas in almost 30 years. By approving the Upper Trinity Regional Water District's (UTRWD) water use permit application, the TCEQ significantly advanced the potential creation of the lake, which the UTRWD hopes to have filled and ready by the mid-2020s to avoid a future water crisis.

The only remaining hurdle before construction can begin is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approval of the lake through a Section 404 permit, which could come in the next 18 to 24 months.

The reservoir, to be built on an approximate 12,000-acre site in southeastern Fannin County, is expected to supply 30 MGD (million gallons daily) of water to the District's customers, chiefly in Denton County, as well as to the City of Ladonia and portions of the Sulphur River Basin in Fannin County. The UTRWD also plans to apply for the right to reuse return flows from the project, providing approximately 16 MGD

of water to the region. Together, the lake, pipeline and the reuse project are expected to cost approximately \$286 million.

The specific funding sources for the project have not yet been identified. As a project included in the State Water Plan, Lake Ralph Hall could be eligible for the funding authorized by Proposition 6 (see article above).

The permitting process for the new reservoir began more than a decade ago, illustrating the need for North Central Texas to get its water management strategies for the future lined up as soon as possible, in order to accommodate the region's continued growth and the lengthy process to develop water supplies.

Security Measures Added at Site of Planning Group Meetings

For years, the Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) has held its meetings at the Trinity River Authority's Central Regional Wastewater Plant, located at 6500 W. Singleton Blvd., Grand Prairie, TX 75212. The facility is a desirable location for RCWPG meetings due to its relatively convenient, central location in the North Central Texas region and its available meeting facilities.

The public needs to be aware that the Central Regional Wastewater Plant is a secured facility, and that new security measures affecting visitors have recently been initiated at the plant.

Members of the public interested in attending the RCWPG's public meetings must now provide government-issued identification to authorized personnel prior to entering the plant site. Please be sure extra time is allotted for this security check. No person will be allowed to enter the facility without proper identification.

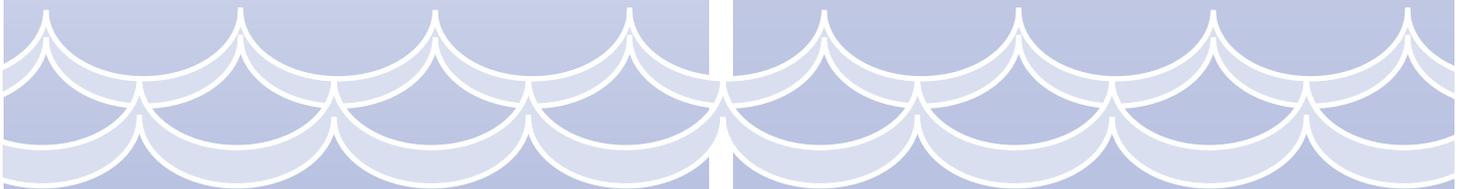
Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Planning Group Elects Officers, Members

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Coming soon...

Region C e-newsletters!

To sign up,

send your name and

e-mail address to

colby@cookseypr.com

About the Region C Water Planning Group

Region C is made up of all or part of 16 counties in North Central 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 chosen by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to 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>James Hotopp</i>	Member	Municipalities
<i>Thomas La Point</i>	Member	Public
<i>Harold Latham</i>	Member	GMA 8*
<i>G. K. Maenius</i>	Member	Counties
<i>Howard Martin</i>	Member	Municipalities
<i>Jim McCarter</i>	Member	Water Utilities
<i>Steve Mundt</i>	Member	Small Business
<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>Kevin Ward</i>	Member	River Authority
<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>Darrell Dean</i>	Non-Voting Member	Texas Dept. of Agriculture
<i>Mike Harbordt</i>	Non-Voting Member	Region I
<i>Sharon Nabors</i>	Non-Voting Member	Region D
<i>Matt Nelson</i>	Non-Voting Member	Texas Water Development Board
<i>Adam Whisenant</i>	Non-Voting Member	Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.

*GMA = Groundwater Management Area



REGION C

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for North Texas**
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