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REGION C

Water Planning for North Texas

Summer 2005 Newsletter

Region C Unveils Initially Prepared Plan for Public Consideration

With the second round of the statewide water planning process nearing an end, and after extensive research and evaluation of potential water management strategies, the Region C Water Planning Group unveils a revised draft Regional Water Plan (a.k.a. the "Initially Prepared Plan") in June 2005. The draft plan is available for public review on the Region C Web site, www.regioncwater.org, and the plan is also available in each county clerk's office and at least one public library in each of Region C's 16 counties (see the Region C Web site, or the public notice appearing in major newspapers, for a full list of locations).

On Monday, July 11, 2005, at 1:00 p.m., the Region C Water Planning Group will host a public hearing at the Bob Duncan Community Center (located in Vandergriff Park, 2800 S. Center St., Arlington, TX 76014), at which public comment on the Initially Prepared Plan is encouraged.

The following provides an overview of the draft plan to assist the public with navigating its voluminous contents.

The first section of the Initially Prepared Plan is an Executive Summary, providing a succinct overview of the 10 chapters in the draft plan. For many readers, this summary – at under 30 pages – will be a good way to see the big picture of the overall plan.

Chapter One of the Initially Prepared Plan provides a *description of Region C*. Included in this description are the following sections:

- Economic activity in Region C
- Water-related physical features in Region C
- Current water uses and demand centers in Region C
- Current sources of water supply
- Water providers in Region C

- Pre-existing plans for water supply development
- Agricultural and natural resources in Region C
- Summary of threats and constraints to water supply in Region C
- Water-related threats to agricultural and natural resources in Region C

Chapter Two includes *population and water demand projections* for the next 50+ years, including a historical perspective to the projections. A detailed explanation of the basis and methodology for both population and water demand projections is described in this chapter.

Chapter Three features an analysis of the *water supply that is currently available* to Region C. Among this chapter's sections are the following:

- Overall water supply availability (surface water and groundwater)
- Water availability by Wholesale Water Provider
- Current water supplies available to Regional Wholesale Water Providers
- Current water supplies available to the Local Wholesale Water Providers
- Water availability by Water User Group
- Impacts of recent droughts in Region C
- Summary of current water supply in Region C

In **Chapter Four**, the Planning Group identifies, evaluates and selects particular water management strategies. Section A of this chapter includes a *comparison of the current water supply to projected water demand* to identify projected water shortages and the timing of these shortages. Section A also measures the potential economic impact if projected shortages are not met.

Region C Water Planning Group Invites Public to Offer Feedback on the Initially Prepared Plan

Public attendance is welcome at all Region C Water Planning Group Meetings. The next Region C meeting will be a public hearing to present the Initially Prepared Plan and to solicit public feedback on the contents of this draft plan.

Next Meeting:

Monday, July 11, 2005, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Bob Duncan Community Center
in Vandergriff Park
2800 S. Center St.
Arlington, TX 76014
817-465-6661

For more information, contact:
James (Jim) M. Parks, RCWPG Chair
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To be added to the mailing list to receive the RCWPG newsletter, send your name and mailing address to Colby Walton at Cooksey Communications via email at colby@cookseypr.com or via fax at 972.580.0852.

Visit www.regioncwater.org for the most up-to-date news, water planning information, water conservation tips and RCWPG meeting information.



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Connie Standridge

In Section B of Chapter Four, the Planning Group considers *water conservation and reuse of treated wastewater effluent* as a major water management strategy. This section defines water conservation, lists the goals of conservation, showcases the results of the neighborhood conservation study, and recommends particular water management strategies for each Wholesale Water Provider and Water User Group with a projected shortage.

In Section C of Chapter Four, the Planning Group evaluates and selects *other water management strategies* and explains the methodology for evaluating water management strategies. Water management strategies considered for inclusion in the plan are:

- Expanded use of existing supplies, through:
 - Reservoir system operation
 - Conjunctive use of ground and surface water
 - Connecting existing sources
 - Reallocation of reservoir storage
 - Enhancement of yields of existing sources
- Development of new supplies, including:
 - Surface water
 - Groundwater
 - Desalination
 - Aquifer storage and recovery
- Interbasin transfers
- Other measures

Major strategies evaluated in Chapter Four, Section C of the draft plan include:

- Connection to existing supplies
 - Lake Fork
 - Lake Palestine
 - Toledo Bend Reservoir
 - Lake Texoma
 - Blending
 - Desalination
 - Lake Wright Patman
 - Lake Livingston
 - Lakes Sam Rayburn/B.A. Steinhagen
 - Roberts County Ogallala groundwater
 - Brazos County Carrizo-Wilcox groundwater
- Development of new supplies
 - Wright Patman/Chapman System Operation
 - Lower Bois d' Arc Creek Reservoir
 - Lake Columbia
 - Marvin Nichols I Reservoir
 - Parkhouse I Reservoir

- Lake Ralph Hall
- Tehuacana Reservoir
- Oklahoma Water
- Cypress Basin Supply
- Reuse projects
 - Additional reuse from Wilson Creek wastewater treatment plant
 - East Fork reuse project
 - Trinity River reuse through Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers Lakes
 - Reuse of Lake Chapman return flows
 - Indirect reuse through Lake Ray Hubbard
 - Indirect reuse through Lake Lewisville
 - Multiple reuse projects for steam electric power, irrigation, etc.
 - Conservation program to reduce per capita use

Section D of Chapter Four then lists the Planning Group's *recommended water management strategies* for Regional Wholesale Water Providers, Local Wholesale Water Providers and for Water User Groups by county.

Chapter Five considers the *impacts* of the recommended water management strategies, particularly the impact on key water quality parameters, the impact of moving water from rural and agricultural areas and the impact on third parties.

Chapter Six provides recommendations on *water conservation and drought management*, including a look at model conservation plans.

Chapter Seven evaluates the *consistency of the plan's recommendations with the long-term protection of resources* (water, agricultural and natural resources).

Chapter Eight of the draft plan provides *recommendations related to ecologically unique river and stream segments, unique sites for reservoir construction and legislative recommendations*.

Chapter Nine summarizes *infrastructure funding recommendations*. The survey of wholesale water providers and water user groups will be conducted in June. The results will be included in the final report.

Finally, **Chapter Ten** of the Initially Prepared Plan describes the *plan approval process* and options that have been provided, or will be provided, for *public participation* in the planning process. A number of appendices are also attached to the draft plan, providing background on how figures were compiled and how water management strategies were evaluated during the second round of regional water planning in Region C.

Key dates in the water planning process –

June 1, 2005 – Initially Prepared Plans due to TWDB and made available to the public to review

July 11, 2005 – Public hearing on Region C's Initially Prepared Plan

September 9, 2005 - Public comments on the Initially Prepared Plan are due to the Region C Water Planning Group

January 5, 2006 – Planning group-adopted Regional Water Plans due to TWDB

January 5, 2007 – TWDB-approved State Water Plan due to the Legislature

Water Conservation Corner: Texas Lawn Watering Tips for the Summer

Did you know that landscape irrigation can account for more than 50 percent of all the water used in Texas during the summer? Unfortunately, about half of this water is wasted as a result of over-watering or runoff.

With summer fast approaching, the Region C Water Planning Group and the Texas Water Development Board offer the following tips to encourage responsible use of water by homeowners in watering their lawns:

- Consider greater use of water-wise landscaping. Turfgrass generally requires more frequent watering than water-wise plants. Use turfgrass in functional areas that can be efficiently watered.
- Improve your soil type by topdressing the lawn with about one-half inch of compost per year. If you are establishing a new lawn, consider blending topsoil with about 25 percent compost.
- To avoid runoff on sloping areas, "cycle-soak." Apply water slowly for five to 15 minutes, turn water off for 15 minutes, then back on five to 15 minutes, and so on, until you have applied the correct amount of water.
- Established plantings of trees, shrubs and groundcover do well in the summer when watered about once a week, especially if mulch is placed around plants.
- Low-output sprinkler heads, bubblers or drip irrigation systems decrease runoff and are efficient ways to apply water.
- Water in the early morning or late evening, when winds are calmer and temperatures are lower, resulting in less water loss due to evaporation.
- Apply only enough water to wet the soil to a depth of four to six inches, reaching the plant's root system. Use a soil probe or screwdriver to determine the depth the water actually reaches.
- Use a sprinkler that emits large drops of water that remain close to the ground, rather than one that sprays a fine mist into the air.

For more information on lawn watering tips and techniques, contact your County Agricultural Extension Agent, local waterwise landscape professional, or the Texas WaterWise Council (www.waterwisetexas.org).

Source: The Texas Water Development Board "Texas Lawn Watering Guide"

Texas Water Development Board Announces Statewide Water Conservation Public Awareness Campaign

The Texas Water Development Board appointed a statewide Water Conservation Implementation Task Force last year, and charged the 32-person Task Force with reviewing, evaluating and recommending optimum levels of water use efficiency and conservation best management practices for the state.

One of the major recommendations from the Task Force's recent report to the Texas Legislature was the creation of a statewide public awareness program for water conservation. The goal of the program is to reduce statewide per capita water use by one percent annually. This savings would provide enough water for more than 780,000 Texans' indoor water use by 2010.

As part of that program, a coalition of water entities and interested parties from around the state funded initial market research by EnviroMedia. The study included three components: water stakeholder interviews, a quantitative consumer survey and focus group testing. These results have been shared with members of the 79th Legislature.

An analysis of the 100 water stakeholder interviews revealed that concern about water supply runs high, with stakeholders identifying water conservation as Texas' most important environmental issue. Similarly, the broader quantitative survey of the general public indicated that 98 percent of respondents feel that water conservation is important. Of the 1,228 Texans surveyed, approximately 90 percent indicated that they take some steps to conserve water now, but 72 percent also believe they could do more.

The survey also revealed that public awareness regarding water planning could be enhanced. While 46 percent of Texans surveyed said they are aware of efforts by the state to conserve water, only 17 percent indicated they have read or heard anything about the state's plans for water. Only 28 percent of Texans know the source of their drinking water.



Based on the identified need for greater water conservation and more public awareness, EnviroMedia conducted focus groups to test creative messages. These focus groups revealed that the conservation need should be underscored with specific facts and statistics to motivate desired behavior. In particular, a message highlighting the dual benefits of saved money on water bills and saved water proved to be the most effective message tested.

As a result, EnviroMedia has proposed a recommended approach to increasing statewide awareness of water conservation. The recommended "Water IQ: Know your water" brand and tagline can be a compelling vehicle for the State of Texas to promote awareness about water planning efforts and the importance of water conservation. The new brand and tagline challenges residents to think about their knowledge of water resources and encourages them to learn more about efficient water use.

For more information on the state's water conservation public awareness campaign, please contact John Sutton at 512-463-7988 or by e-mail to john.sutton@twdb.state.tx.us.

Source: Texas Water Development Board