

REGION C WATER PLANNING GROUP

TO: REGION C WATER PLANNING GROUP
FROM: J. KEVIN WARD, CHAIR
SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 1, 2021 PUBLIC MEETING
DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2021

This memorandum will serve as a notice that the Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) is holding a public meeting at **1:00 P.M. on Monday NOVEMBER 1, 2021**, at the **North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Centerpoint Two Building, First Floor Transportation Council Room, Arlington, Texas, 76011**¹. An agenda (including information on how to participate in the public meeting) has been prepared for the meeting and is attached to this memorandum. The following is a brief overview of the agenda items to be discussed with relevant materials and handouts.

OPEN MEETING

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 2, 2021
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
- IV. PRE-PLANNING MEETING FOR 2026 REGION C WATER PLAN

The preplanning 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. New to this round of planning is a requirement to solicit input on interregional coordination for water management strategies.

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

¹ If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Elena Berg by phone at (817) 608-2363 or by email at eberg@nctcog.org, 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

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

Discuss major interregional water management strategies considered and recommended in the 2021 Region C Water Plan and provide opportunities for identification of additional strategies that could promote and create collaboration between regions.

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

This agenda item will briefly recap the process for interregional coordination used for the 2021 Plan and present an approach for the 2026 Plan for discussion.

V. ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

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

This action item will consider recommendations for replacement of RWPG members whose terms are expiring in November and consider vacant spots for regional liaisons. The RCWPG will also take nominations from the floor.

- B. Consider appointments 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 House Bill 807. Authorize the Trinity River Authority to submit nominees' information to the Texas Water Development Board for appointment.

This agenda item discusses the appointment of a Region C member to serve on the Interregional Planning Council.

VI. OTHER DISCUSSION

- A. Updates from the Chair
- B. Report from Regional Liaisons
- C. Report from Texas Water Development Board
- D. Report from Texas Department of Agriculture
- E. Report from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

- F. Other Reports
- G. Consider Date and Location of Next Meeting

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The following items are enclosed with this memorandum:

- I. RCWPG Agenda – November 1, 2021
- II. Meeting Handouts
 - A. Agenda Item II – RCWPG Minutes from August 2, 2021
 - B. Agenda Item V-A – Attachments:
 - 1. Recommendation letter for Ronna Hartt as the Region C Liaison, from Larry Patterson
 - 2. RCWPG Roster of members with expiring terms

REGION C WATER PLANNING GROUP

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021 AT 1:00 P.M.

**THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT
NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
616 SIX FLAGS DRIVE, CENTERPOINT TWO BUILDING
FIRST FLOOR TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL ROOM
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011¹**

AGENDA

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- V. ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
 - A. Consider re-appointment or replacement of RWPG members with terms expiring in November 2021. Call for nominations to fill vacancies and vote to fill vacancies.

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- C. Report from Texas Water Development Board
- D. Report from Texas Department of Agriculture
- E. Report from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- F. Other Reports
- G. Consider Date and Location of Next Meeting:

VII. ADJOURNMENT

SUBMITTED BY: _____



J. Kevin Ward, Administrative Officer

DATE: September 22, 2021

POSTED BY: _____

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

REGION C WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING via ZOOM
August 2, 2021

The Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) conducted an open public meeting via Zoom Webinar on Monday, August 2, 2021, at 1:00 P.M. Notice of the meeting was legally posted.

Chairman Kevin Ward called the Region C Regional Water Planning Group meeting to order at approximately 1:05 P.M. and welcomed guests.

I. ROLL CALL

Vice-Chairman Russell Laughlin conducted a roll call and confirmed that a quorum was present. The following members were in attendance:

David Bailey	John Lingenfelder
Jay Barksdale	R. J. Muraski
Chris Boyd	Kyle Pritchett
John Paul Dineen III	Drew Satterwhite
Gary Douglas	Rick Shaffer
Christopher Harder	Gary Spicer
Harold Latham	Kevin Ward
Russell Laughlin	

Kevin Smith, TWDB, and Doug Shaw, Region B, were present. The registration list for those participating is attached.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

The minutes of the September 21, 2020, RCWPG meeting were approved by consensus upon a motion by Russell Laughlin and a second by Drew Satterwhite.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

There were no public comments for this meeting.

IV. PRIMARY ACTION ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. Announcement of vacancies: Mike Rickman representing Water Districts, Jack Stevens representing Water Districts (Jim Oliver as alternate), and Kenneth Banks representing Municipalities (Frank Pugsley as alternate); Call for nominations to fill vacancies, and vote to fill vacancies.

There were no public comments on this item.

Chairman Ward accepted the resignations of Mike Rickman, Jack Stevens, and Kenneth Banks from the Region C WPG board. Chairman Ward thanked these members for their participation and service. Mike Rickman submitted a recommendation that Jenna Covington be approved to replace his position representing Water Districts. Jack Stevens submitted a recommendation that Dan

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Buhman be approved to replace his position representing Water Districts. Kenneth Banks submitted a recommendation that Pritam Deshmukh be approved to replace his position representing Municipalities.

Upon a motion by Russell Laughlin, and a second by Drew Satterwhite, the Region C WPG voted unanimously to approve Jenna Covington to fill the vacancy left by Mike Rickman on the RCWPG board representing Water Districts; Dan Buhman to fill the vacancy left by Jack Stevens representing Water Districts; and Pritam Deshmukh to fill the vacancy left by Kenneth Banks representing Municipalities.

- B. Consider submitted proposal from Freese and Nichols, Inc. in response to Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Technical Consulting Services for the 2026 Regional Water Plan and vote to select firm to perform Technical Consulting Services for the 2026 Regional Water Plan.

There were no public comments on this item.

Chairman Ward advised the Region C Planning Group that TRA issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on April 1, 2021. The one response received was from Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI). Abigail Gardner, FNI, presented a brief overview of their team's qualifications to the RCWPG. Ms. Gardner stated that FNI has a deep bench of talent and expertise in the water planning field.

The members of the FNI Water Planning Team are:

- Simone Kiel, P.E. - 20+ years' experience
- Abigail Gardner, P.E. - 7+ years' experience
- Tom Gooch, P.E. - 20+ years' experience
- Jon Albright, Hydrologist - 20+ years' experience
- Kristal Williams, EIT - 2+ years' experience
- Lissa Gregg, PE, CFM, ENV SP - 8+ years' experience
- Spencer Schnier, PhD, PE, ENV SP - 8+ years' experience

Listed below are some of the topics pursuant to the 2026 Regional C Water Plan that Ms. Gardner addressed.

Key Issues

- 2020 Census - Region C area is experiencing tremendous growth.
- Impacts of Potential Drought on Growth
 - Reduced supplies due to more demand
 - Need to develop additional water supplies
- Water Management Strategies
 - Interregional Projects - More interest at the state level
 - Interest in Alternative Strategy Types - e.g., Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR)

Planning Approach

- Water User Outreach
 - Accurate population distributions
 - Capture growth projections
- Accurate Supply Assessment
 - New Red River WAM (2018)
- Stakeholder Outreach
 - Meetings and Surveys
 - Local Input
- Sustainable Plan
 - Economically and technically feasible

Upon a motion by Chris Boyd, and a second by John Lingenfelder, the Region C WPG voted unanimously to select Freese and Nichols, Inc. to perform Technical Consulting Services for the 2026 Regional Water Plan.

- C. Consider authorizing the Trinity River Authority to enter into a contract for Technical Consulting Services with the selected firm.

There were no public comments on this action item.

Upon a motion by Russell Laughlin, and a second by Rick Shaffer, the Region C WPG voted unanimously to authorize the Trinity River Authority to enter into a contract for Technical Consulting Services with Freese and Nichols, Inc. to perform Technical Consulting Services for the 2026 Regional Water Plan.

V. OTHER ITEMS (MAY RESULT IN ACTIONS)

- A. Review of Region C Water Planning Group roster of members and alternates. Chairman Ward advised the Planning Group that GMA 6 modified its boundaries to include a portion of Parker County, which is in Region C. A letter was received from Mike McGuire, General Manager of the Rolling Plains Groundwater Conservation District, stating that the boundary between GMA 6 and GMA 8 was amended to make management of the groundwater resources in GMA 6 more concise. GMA 6 designated Doug Shaw as the representative to the Region C Water Planning Group board. Chairman Ward commented that no action on that appointment is necessary as it is an automatic position.

A list of the Region C WPG members whose terms are expiring was provided to the planning group. Chairman Ward asked that the members with terms expiring either email or call to advise whether they intend to continue serving on the Region C WPG board.

- B. 2026 Region C Regional Water Plan Schedule and Activities Update - Abigail Gardner, FNI, discussed the upcoming schedule for the 2026 Regional Water Planning Cycle. Shown below is a working timeline:

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- March 12, 2021 - Request for Application of RCWPG posted
- April 12, 2021 - Application Due
- August 2, 2021 - RCWPG Meeting
- August 31, 2021 - Contract Execution Deadline
- 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

Ms. Gardner also stated that a Pre-Planning Public Meeting may be necessary in the near future.

- C. Discuss conducting interregional coordination regarding interregional water management strategies during development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans, including the identification of such strategies and course of action for coordination.

Simone Kiel, FNI, led this discussion on interregional coordination that resulted from recommendations presented to the TWDB by the Interregional Planning Council. The TWDB has requested that each region discuss the methodology for conducting interregional coordination for the development of water management strategies. TWDB also requested that the RWPGs include discussions on interregional coordination in their pre-planning meetings. RWPGs are also instructed to document their efforts in the technical memo, IPP, and final water plan.

Region C has five regions for interregional coordination. Those regions are: Region B, Region D, Region G, Region H and Region I. With these regions, Region C has 43 shared WUGs; 15 shared existing sources; 6 recommended water management strategies; and 7 alternative water management strategies.

Chairman Ward added that he attended the three Region C/D Coordination Public Meetings that the TWDB conducted. Chairman Ward said he gave presentations and responded to Region D questions regarding the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir project. The goal of these meetings was to share information on water management strategies and to receive public input. These joint Region C/D public meetings were held as follows:

- November 4, 2019
- December 9, 2019
- January 14, 2020

Chairman Ward noted that Representative Lyle Larson, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee, provided a substantial amount of input in the Region C/D coordination meetings. The TWDB final determination was that there was no conflict so there was no resolution.

- D. TWDB presentation on Rule changes - Kevin Smith, TWDB, gave an update on the amendments to regional water planning grant rules, regional water planning notice requirements, and public participation rules that the TWDB adopted on May 6, 2021. The effective date for these changes was May 27, 2021. Some of the key changes Mr. Smith highlighted are listed below:

Chapter 355 (Regional Water Planning Grants)

- The requirement to submit multiple applications for funding during a single planning cycle is removed.
- A new eligible expense is included to allow for limited reimbursement for political subdivision personnel costs. This expense will be limited by the TWDB contract expense budget.

Chapter 357.21 (Regional Water Planning Notice and Public Participation)

- The minimum public notice requirement for regular/committee meetings is increased from three to seven days.
- Minimum timeframes are added for the posting of meeting materials, depending on the action taken.
- The minimum public notice for adoption of final regional water plans is changed from 3 to 14 days.
- The state/federal agency comment period on the Initially Prepared Plans is revised from 90 to 60 days to align with the 60-day public comment period. TWDB's 120 day comment period is not revised by this rule revision.
- The 30-day public notice associated with submitting an application for funding regional water development is removed.

87th Legislature Update

▪ **H.B. 1905**

- Relieves the RWPGs from assessing financing needs to implement water management strategies/projects and removes requirement to submit Infrastructure Financing Report.
- Relieves SWIFT program applicants from submitting an Infrastructure Financing Survey with an application for financial assistance.
- Relieves the RWPGs from prioritizing projects with the RWPs and eliminates the need for the Uniform Standards Stakeholder Committee related to the prioritization process.
- This bill is effective September 1, 2021. TWDB anticipates conducting a rulemaking later this year to implement this legislation.

▪ **S.B. 669**

- Eliminated biennial water use report to the legislature, instead requiring TWDB to make publicly available water use report information for certain municipalities and water utilities.
- Water use information required by this bill is already publicly available on TWDB's Water Use Survey website. The bill also eliminated coordination and a reporting requirement with the TCEQ and the TSSWCB related to the repair and maintenance of certain dams.
- Bill effective September 1, 2021. TWDB is developing data dashboards of information previously provided by this report.

▪ **H.B. 2225**

- Authorizes TPWD to encourage and facilitate the dedication of water rights in the Texas Water Trust through voluntary transfer for environmental needs. Gives TPWD the authority to manage water rights in Water Trust under agreement with the water right holder.
- Bill effective September 1, 2021.

VI. OTHER DISCUSSION

A. Updates from the Chair - Chairman Ward had no additional updates to report.

B. Report from Regional Liaisons

- Region B - Doug Shaw advised that consultants were selected at the last Region B WPG meeting. Mr. Shaw also thanked the Region C WPG for their support on the GMA6 and GMA8 boundary issue.
- Region D - None
- Region G - Gary Spicer advised that the Region G WPG is meeting in a couple of weeks. Mr. Spicer stated they are selecting new technical consultants and filling slots of members retiring from the board.
- Region H - None
- Region I - None

C. Report from Texas Water Development Board - Kevin Smith provided highlights on the following updates from the TWDB to Region C:

1. Mining Water Use Study

- TWDB is contracting with UT Bureau of Economic Geology to assess mining water use and update demand projections for 2026 regional water plans.
- Kickoff meeting held in December.
- Will wrap up August 2022; drafts available at that time.

2. Regional Flood Planning

- First flood planning meetings occurred in November 2020. See flood planning website for program information and sign up for news.

3. Regional Water Planning Area (RWPA) Boundary Review

- Review of RWPA boundaries is required by statute and rule every 5 years.
- Public comment period closed in December 2020.
- Board reaffirmed boundaries in February 2021; no changes.

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4. ASR and AR Study
 - Legislative report “Statewide Aquifer Suitability for Aquifer Storage and Recovery projects and Aquifer Recharge projects” was delivered to the legislature on December 15, 2020.
 - Survey identifies areas of Texas with major or minor aquifers, excess water, and water supply needs. Those areas are then rated with their relative suitability for aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) or aquifer recharge (AR) projects based on the survey criteria.
 - Survey serves as an investigative tool for WPGs for discovering locations with resources that may merit an ASR or AR feasibility study.
 - The report is on the TWDB website, the contract webpage is updated, and the Story Map and web map application are available for the public to explore the survey results and foundational data.
5. Interregional Planning Council
 - Developed recommendations on interregional coordination, best practices for future planning, and planning water resources for the state as a whole.
 - Council report online: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc>
 - Council to dissolve upon adoption of 2022 State Water Plan and new Council nominations will be solicited.
6. Regional Water Planning Grant Contracts
 - Contracts for sixth cycle RWP authorized 6/3/21. Draft contracts sent to planning groups 6/10/21 for review. Contract packets routed for execution with a deadline of 8/31/21. (Region C WPG Subcontract approved for first advance).
7. 2022 State Water Plan
 - Public comment period ended 5/26/21. Responding to public comments on draft plan.
 - Final plan to be adopted 7/7/21.
 - Interactive SWP website online: <https://texasstatewaterplan.org/statewide>
8. Sixth cycle Regional Water Planning Website
 - <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/index.asp>
9. Guidance Principles Preliminary Input
 - TWDB is required by TWC Sect. 16.051(d) to review and update the guidance principles with input from TCEQ, TDA, and TPWD at least every five years coinciding with adoption of a new State Water Plan.
 - Input solicited from RWPG stakeholders on 5/10/21 with 7/5/21 deadline.
10. SWIFT
 - TWDB Board approved at 7/22/21 meeting SWIFT commitments for the Upper Trinity RWD and City of White Settlement.

D. Report from Texas Department of Agriculture - None

E. Report from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department - None

F. Report from Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board - None

G. Other Reports - None

H. Confirm Date and Location of Next Meeting - To Be Determined - Pre-Planning Public Meeting scheduled 6 to 8 weeks out.

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VII. ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Ward adjourned this meeting at 2:20 PM.

KEVIN WARD, Chairman

Kevin:

As you know the Upper Trinity Regional Water District has made it a priority to participate in the Region C Water Planning Group planning process since the very beginning. From time to time representatives from UTRWD have assisted the work group to secure planning information and always provided both oral and written comments on the committee reports as well as the final plans. It now does appear that there is an opportunity for UTRWD to become a little more directly involved and allowed to better participate in future water supply planning activities. This will become increasingly important as UTRWD works with other partners to develop future water supplies in the Sulphur River Basin as identified in the current Region C / State Water Plan. These potential water supply sources are a Primary Water Management Strategy for UTRWD. Again, it our desire to be allowed to have a more direct role to assist the Region C Planning Group as we all move forward and begin the next regional water planning process.

Well with all this being said, my request is that the Region C Water Planning Group - - give serious consideration to the appointment of Ronna Hartt (UTRWD - Water Resources Manager) to the vacant Region D Liaison position. Ronna has been actively involved in the Region C planning process since 2008 and served as UTRWD Project Manager for the Lake Ralph Hall state and federal permitting effort. She currently serves as a NON-VOTING member of the Region D Water Planning Group. Ronna routinely attends Region D meetings along with those of the Sulphur River Basin Authority. I have discussed the possible appointment to this position with Ronna and she has agreed to serve if the Region C Planning Group does authorize her appointment.

Therefore, I formally request that the Region C Planning Group board members take appropriate action to appoint Ronna Hartt, P.E.- UTRWD Manager of Water Resources as the Region C Liaison to the Region D Water Planning Group.

Should you need additional information or require a more detailed resume from Ronna, please call me at (office) 972-219-1228 or (cell) 214-673-7497.

Warmest Regards

Larry N. Patterson, P.E.
Executive Director
Upper Trinity Regional Water District
P.O. Box 305
Lewisville, Texas 75067

Region C Regional Water Planning Group Members

Name	Representing	Alternate	Term Expiration	Interested in Renewing Membership?
Jay Barksdale	Public	Bill Ceverha	11/1/2021	
Chris Boyd	Water Utilities	Jennifer Bland	11/1/2022	
Dan Buhman	Water Districts	Rachel Ickert	11/1/2021	Yes
Jenna Covington	Water Districts	RJ Muraski	11/1/2022	Yes
Grace Darling	Environment	Roy Miliner	11/1/2021	
Pritam Deshmukh	Municipalities	Vacant	11/1/2021	
John Paul Dineen III	Agriculture	Vacant	11/1/2022	
Chris Harder	Municipalities	Wendy Chi-Babulal	11/1/2022	
Russel Laughlin	Industry	Craig Schkade	11/1/2021	
John Lingenfelder	Public	Vacant	11/1/2022	
G.K. Maenius	Counties	Spanky Carter	11/1/2021	
Steve Mundt	Small Business	Tim Welch	11/1/2022	
Bob Riley	Environment	Jennifer Harnish	11/1/2022	
Drew Satterwhite	Water Districts	Ron Sellman	11/1/2022	
Rick Shaffer	Municipalities	James Hotopp	11/1/2022	
Gary Spicer	Electric Generating Utilities	Vacant	11/1/2021	Yes
Connie Standridge	Water Utilities	Kyle Pritchett	11/1/2021	
Richard Wagner	Municipalities	Denis Qualls	11/1/2022	
Kevin Ward	River Authority	Glen Clingenpeel	11/1/2021	Yes