

**Minutes of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
November 7, 2024**

Chair Campbell called the hybrid meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., held both in person and through WebEx online platform.

**24 of the 31** voting members, or their alternates, were present.

**Voting Members Present:**

Tim Andruss	Andrew McBride
Curt Campbell	Daniel Meyer
Andra Wisian	Travis Pruski
Debbie Farmer	Robert Puente
Charlie Flatten	Vanessa Puig-Williams
Erin Cavazos for Steve Metzler	Humberto Ramos
Michelle Shelton for Terrell Graham	Weldon Riggs
Vic Hilderbran	Roland Ruiz
Thomas Jungman	Mitchell Sowards
Aarin Teague	Jonathan Stinson
Jason Ammerman	Ryan Kelso
Scoter Mangold	Dianne Wassenich

**Voting Members Absent:**

Ryan Bayle  
John Byrum  
Gary Middleton  
Darrell Brownlow  
Darren Simmons  
Dan Yoxall  
Adam Yablonski

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Carly Rotzler, TX Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Tony Franklin, Texas Soil & Water Cons. Board  
Tom Hegemier, Region K Liaison  
Michele Foss, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)  
Jami McCool, TX Dept. of Agriculture

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Iliana Delgado, TCEQ  
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison  
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison  
Carl Crull, Region N Liaison

*Beginning with the February 11, 2016, meeting of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group, all recordings are available for the public at [www.regionltexas.org](http://www.regionltexas.org).*

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.1: ROLL CALL**

Ms. Castillo took roll call.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.2: PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES)**

No public comments.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)**

Mr. Andruss motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Riggs seconded, the motion passed by consensus.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.4: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING FILLING EXISTING VACANCIES AND VACANCIES TO RESULT FROM FUTURE TERM EXPIRATIONS OR RESIGNATIONS**

Chair Campbell informed the RWPG that Mr. Tom Taggart retired on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and has submitted a resignation letter to the Region L making there a vacancy for the Municipalities interest group. Chair Campbell provided a recommendation to approve the San Antonio River Authority to solicit for Municipalities interest area to seek filling the vacancy. Mr. Ramos motioned to approve the San Antonio River Authority to solicit for the Municipalities vacancy, Mr. Stinson seconded, the motion passed by consensus.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.5: STATUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY TWDB**

Ms. Foss provided an update from TWDB on their new Executive Administrator, Bryan McMath and new Board members Tonya R. Miller. Additionally, Ms. Foss shared the deadline for IPPs, details on where to find the Draft 2026 RWP Water Supply Needs/Surplus Map, and a reminder on information you can find on TWDB's Conservation Dashboard. She also shared details on the Texas Water Fund (TWF) Implementation. Her presentation is available online at [www.regionltexas.org](http://www.regionltexas.org).

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.6: STATUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING INCLUDING REPORTS BY THE CHAIR, REGIONAL LIAISONS, GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING GROUP**

Chair Campbell provided an update from GMA 9 where they met in September of 2024. He stated that GMA 9 discussed modeling needs for their 4<sup>th</sup> Planning cycle, demands from current round of Regional Water Planning, and factors in accordance with TWC 36.108(d).

Mr. Hilderbran provided an update on GMA 7 stating that they have not met so no further updates to be provided at this time.

Mr. Andruss provided an update on GMA 15 stating that they met recently to follow-up on a stakeholder meeting hosted by TWDB regarding revised water availability models for the Gulf Cost Aquifer and other southern portions. He included that they will meet again in January 2025.

Ms. Teague provided an update on GMA 13 stating that they met on September 20<sup>th</sup> where they asked TWDB to update the GAM at this time.

Ms. Wassenich provided an update on Region K and stated that they are doing much of the same as Region L as of now. She included that the only thing that stood out to her that she felt the RWPG would be interested in was that the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has a desalination project where they have set the price at \$9,600 per acre foot due to pipelines.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.7: CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING PRESENTATION BY TECHNICAL CONSULTANT REGARDING SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS UPDATE**

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update regarding schedule progress, updates on completed efforts/new or ongoing efforts, chapter updates, and water management strategy (WMS) updates. Her presentation is available online at [www.regionltexas.org](http://www.regionltexas.org).

Ms. Gonzalez also shared information on the 2026 Region L Policy and Legislative Recommendations Workgroup and their work updating the Draft Chapter 8. Discussion ensued on rivers, streams, and reservoir designations within the plan.

Motion by Mr. Ramos to approve the 2026 Region L Policy and Legislative Recommendations Draft Chapter 8 for inclusion in the 2026 Region L Water Plan. Mr. Andruss seconded the motion, motion passed by consensus.

Additionally, the Workgroup's Draft Chapter 8 was distributed to RWPG members for review and comment on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Workgroup received on comment regarding substantive changes by Timothy Fousse, City of Cibolo. To address Mr. Fousse's comment, the below language was proposed as a new Section, likely Section 8.3.6 (between the Conservation and Innovative Strategies Sections)

*Proposed Language:*

*Rules in 30 TAC Chapter 290.45 include requirements for minimum water system capacity. Currently, the rules require a minimum of 0.6 gallons per minute (gpm) per connection for the total public water system capacity, as well as capacities for individual water treatment plants, groundwater wells, ground storage tanks, raw water pump stations, transfer pump stations, and others. The 0.6 gpm requirement converts to 315,360 gallons per year per connection, or 0.97 acft/yr per connection. This represents a substantial cost to develop reserve capacities that are unlikely to be used.*

*Legislative Recommendation: None.*

*Other Recommendation: The SCTRWPG recommends the TCEQ reassess the water system capacity requirements in 30 TAC §290.45 to consider decreasing the minimum water system capacity requirement of 0.6 gpm per connection.*

Discussion ensued by planning group members on what the definition for capacity is to the commentor and if the term capacity is defined in the chapter. Ms. Gonzalez stated that in the Chapter it is referred as total public water system capacity.

Motion by Mr. Stinson to table the approval of the addition of language in the Workgroup's Draft Chapter 8 to address Mr. Fousse's comment until the next meeting to allow for the 2026 Region L Policy and Legislative Recommendations Workgroup to discuss the proposed language further. Mr. Hilderbran seconded the motion, motion passed by consensus.

Mr. Gonzalez also presented proposed language for Chapter 7 regarding Uncertainty and Drought Worse Than the Drought of Record, specifically on providing a high-level summary of potential measures and responses that would likely be available to WUGs in the event of near-term onset of a DWDOR to provide additional, potential capacity to withstand a DWDOR. Mr. Puente requested that the Technical Consultant add something to the effect of non-revenue water and considering it as a potential future supply.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO.8: CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO DESIGNATE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (WMS) AS RECOMMENDED, ALTERNATIVE, OR CONSIDERED**

Ms. Gonzales requested input for the RWPG on whether to make initial determination on whether each WMS is Recommended, Alternative, or Considered But Not Recommended. She included that the determination can change before IPP is submitted, or up until final plan adoption; A strategy may need to be "Alternative", based on its sources and yields; Some WUGs/MWPs may have multiple strategies to meet a need, and one strategy can be Recommended, while another is "Alternative"; Plan amendment would be needed to move an "Alternative" strategy to "Recommended" for a WUG to be eligible for SWIFT funding; and included that the Cumulative Effects Analysis in Chapter 6 will evaluate the impact of all Recommended strategies on agricultural and natural resources.

The Technical Consultant provided the RWPG with a list of all WMS (1-32) with details on their designation in previous plan and if they were new, as well as their suggestion for the 2026 plan (Recommended, Alternative, or Considered But Not Recommended). Mr. Pruski motioned to accept the Technical Consultants suggestions as shown on provided handout except for WMSs 11, 12, and 13. Mr. Riggs seconded the motion, motion passed by consensus.

Mr. Flatten spoke on WMS No. 11 regarding Rainwater Harvesting stating that his concern is about the potential high costs making rainwater harvesting unfeasible. He also included understanding the importance of rainwater harvesting in the Hill country. Ultimately viewed as a logical way to facilitate growth. Mr. Pruski motioned to keep WMS No. 11 regarding Rainwater

Harvesting designated as a Recommended strategy. Mr. Hilderbran seconded the motion, motion passed by consensus.

Additionally, the Technical Consultant stated that they suggest making WMS No. 12 and 13 as Considered But Not Recommended due to neither of them having sponsors or any yield. Mr. Pruski motioned to designate WMS No. 12 (Surface Water Rights) and No. 13 (Balancing Storage) as Considered But Not Recommended. Mr. Andruss seconded the motion, motion passed by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES**

No additional subcommittees were established.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.10: SCHEDULE AND POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SCTRWPG**

The next SCTRWPG meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

Mr. Flatten would like to like to discuss concerns for unmet needs in county other specifically in the Hill country, as a lot of Hill County GCDs have exceeded their desired future conditions but they haven't met their MAG.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.11: PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES)**

No public comments.

**AGENDA ITEM NO.12: ADJOURN**

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn as there was no further matters left to address.

The meeting adjourned at 12:23pm.