

**The Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group
for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program**

met on January 26 at 1:30pm

The Meeting was held at the Nueces River Authority Coastal Bend Division.

500 IH 69, Suite 805, Robstown, TX 78380

Minutes

1. Call to order at 1:35 pm

2. Roll call conducted by Travis Pruski

Voting members:

Representing Sector:

Attendance:

Scott Bledsoe	Water Districts	Absent
Dr Pancho Hubert	Small Businesses	Present
Thomas Reding	River Authorities	Present
Lonnie Stewart	GMA 13	Present
Joe Almaraz	Industries	Present
Aron Baggett	Industries	Present
Chuck Burns	Agriculture	Present
Gene Camargo	Other	Absent
Teresa Carrillo	Environment	Absent
Carl Crull P.E.	Other	Present
James Dobson	Environment	Present
Bill Dove	Small Businesses	Absent
Lavoyger Durham	Counties	Present
Gary Eddins	Electrical Generating Utilities	Absent
Andy Garza	GMA 16	Present
John Marez	Water Utilities	Absent
Esteban Ramos	Municipalities	Absent
Charles Ring	Agriculture	Absent
Donna Rosson	Public	Present
Mark Scott	Municipalities	Present
Mark Sugarek	GMA 15	Absent

<u>Non-Voting Members:</u>	<u>Representing Sector:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>
Travis Pruski	Nueces River Authority	Present
Kristi Shaw	HDR	Present
Michelle Foss	Texas Water Development Board	Present
John Byrum	Nueces River Authority	Present
Dr. Jim Tolan	Texas Parks and Wildlife	Present

<u>Public:</u>	<u>Representing:</u>
Ronnie Ramirez	TSSWCB
Luis Pena	Brush County GCD
Jorge Gonzales	Duval County GCD
Athena Frasca	Harte Institute
Adrien Hilmy	CBBEP
Cedric Davis Sr.	Mathis City Manager
Stephan Mary	City of Mathis
Randy Palacheck	Civitas Engineering
Jim Klein	City Councilmen Corpus Christi
Jose Pereida	Senator La Mantia Office
Brian Williams	San Patricio MWD
Rachel Caballero	

3. ACTION ITEM: Consider Approval of October 12, 2023, minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2023, meeting, as submitted was made by Chuck Burns and seconded by Joe Almarez. Passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION ITEM: Schedule Update on RWPG Activities for 2026 Plan Cycle.

During the previous meeting the schedule was proposed and is on track for the next three months.

Key activities since last RWPG meeting

- Water supply and water needs analysis
- Nov 9, 2023, TWDB adopted population and water demand projections for use in the 2026 Plan
- January 8, 2024, TWDB approved Region N's hydrologic variance request to use:
 - Corpus Christi Water Supply Model for water availability for the Corpus Christi Regional Supply System.
 - Safe yield with 75,000 ac-ft reserve and City's reservoir operations policy to evaluate existing surface water supplies for the Corpus Christi Regional Supply System

Near term activities

- January 26-Water utility workshop to receive input on potentially feasible WMS
- February (date TBD)-Region N subcommittee to review potentially feasible WMS and draft scope
- February 22-Region N Meeting
 - Receive comments and consider Region N approval of draft technical memo;
 - Consider draft scope of work for WMS to evaluate for 2026 Plan
- March 3- Technical memo due to TWDB (~60% complete)
 - Documented process to identify potentially feasible WMSs (complete)
 - List of potentially feasible WMS (in progress)
 - Copy of hydrologic variance requests and TWDB approval (complete)
 - Methodology for calculating anticipated sedimentation rate and EAC, summary table of hydrologic models, documentation for RWPG-estimated groundwater availabilities, summary of interregional coordination (in progress)
 - Documentation of the region's process for determining infeasible WMSs. List of RWPG identified infeasible strategies and/or projects from the 2021 RWPs, or a statement that no infeasible strategies or projects were identified (complete)
 - Water availability model files & DB27 data reports (in progress)

5. DISCUSSION And/or ACTION ITEM: Preliminary Results of Water Needs Analysis (2030-2080)

- TWDB-Approved Region N Population Projections show slight decline between 2030-2080
- Few people coming in, as compared to people leaving or passing on
- Comparing to per capita use (how many gallons per person per day) including conservation. Summarizing region N by water use in different categories (Municipal, Manufacturing, Steam Electric, Irrigation, Mining, Livestock)

Summary of Region N water use groups

- Municipal water user groups
 - 41 individual WUGs
 - 11 county – other

- Manufacturing - 6 counties
- Steam Electric – 2 counties
- Irrigation- 9 counties
- Mining – 9 counties
- Livestock – 11 counties

Surface Water Allocation

- Safe Yield Corpus Christi Water Supply System
- NCWCID#3Firm Yield, WAM
- Contract amounts assumed through 2080
- For livestock, assumes on-site stock tanks
- WTP capacity constraints (in progress)

Ground Water Allocation

- Constrained by Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG)
- Municipal Water User Groups
 - TCEQ Public Water Systems (PWS) Drinking Water Watch database
 - Smaller PWS, included in County-Other
 - Average annual capacity = ½ Rated or Tested Capacity
- Non-municipal Water User Groups
 - TWDB water use reports (2010-current). Maximum ground water use reported over the most recent decade.
- Supply = capacity or water demand, whichever is lower

6. DISCUSSION ITEM: Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies for the 2026 Plan, Part 1 of 2

Utilities / Stakeholder Meeting January 26th – 11am – 1pm Lunch Provided

- Currently implementing the process adopted by Region N at the Oct 12th meeting
- Water utility workshop tomorrow to receive input on potentially feasible WMS
- Region N subcommittee to review potentially feasible WMS and draft scope
- February 22nd Region N Meeting-Adopt list of potentially feasible WMS

Preliminary List of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies presented

- Water Conservation
- ON Stevens WTP Regional Water Treatment Plant Facility Expansion
- San Patricio Municipal Water District-Replacement of Nueces River raw water transmission line
- City of Corpus Christi-Inner Harbor Desalination Project 30 MGD

- Evangeline Groundwater Project 24 MGD
- City of Corpus Christi-Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- Port of Corpus Christi Authority-Harbor Island 50 MGD
- Gulf Coast Aquifer Supplies-Additional Groundwater Wells (Rural)
- Nueces River Diversion to Choke Canyon Reservoir
- Lake Corpus Christi Sediment Removal

Other Potentially feasible water management strategies that were brought up to be added to the list were the Lake Corpus Christi to Choke Canyon pipeline, b Nueces off channel storage reservoir, c. Replacement of the Nueces water line for San Patricio Municipal Water District possible pump station on Mary Rhodes pipeline and Corpus Christi's second desalination project (La Quinta)\

7. DISCUSSION ITEM: Update on Desalination Projects

The City of Alice was not present for the meeting.

The Port of Corpus Christi was not present for the meeting. The Port of Corpus Christi is expected to give a report at the February meeting.

City of Corpus Christi – Esteban Ramos

- Past Tuesday City Council moved forward with SWIFT two financing of approximately 220 million that the city of Corpus Christi will use to begin the procurement process for the Inner Harbor Seawater Desalination Plant.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has given the City of Corpus Christi a draft permit for the discharge permit that will be posted on their website within 45 days.
- Moving forward with US Corp of Engineer's permit process.

8. DISCUSSION ITEM: Update from TWDB

Michele Foss gave an update on TWDB Adoption of Final Population Projections and Water Demands

- Approved by the board on November 9th

Status of Region N Hydrologic Variance Requests

- Requests were approved without any revisions or amendments

Recap of Interregional Planning Council Meeting 11/30

- Next meeting will be held in Austin on February 8th

- Going to review final draft for the interregional planning council report that addresses feedback and concerns from legislators and previous planning group members
- Set to release county by county specific information sheets for conservation and rural outreach for entities and at-risk suppliers (smaller projects).
- Additional conservation resources within next 4-6 weeks
- Drought preparedness resources available
- Uniform costing model will be updated and available by early March

Financial Assistance Updates

9. ACTION ITEM: Open Nomination for expired terms

6 expired terms are open this month. Two in Agriculture for Chuck Burns and Charles Ring; One representing Electric Generating Utilities- Gary Eddins, One in Industry for John Marez, and One representing Public Donna Rosson; and for small business Bill Dove.

Nomination forms were handed out to the group and will be announced at the February meeting.

A motion to open forms for nominations was made by Terasa Carillo and was seconded by Mark Scott. Passed unanimously.

10. RWPG/TWDB Administrative and Other Issues

11. General Public Comment Citizens may address the Planning Group concerning an issue of interest that is not listed on the agenda. Agenda item comments must be made when the item comes before the board. The planning group will place a time limit on all comments of 3 minutes.

Coastal bend area resident Rachael Caballero requested to make comments to the RWPG. Ms. Caballero stated public disapproval of the proposed ocean desalination projects and urged RWPG members not to include those projects as feasible water management strategies in the Region N Water Plan.

12. Confirm Next Meeting Date: February 22nd, 2024

13. Meeting adjourned at 3:17pm by Mark Scott and seconded by Joe Almarez.