

**The Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group
for the Senate Bill 1 Regional Water Planning Program
Johnny Calderon County Building.
710 East Main St., Robstown, TX
May 18th at 1:30pm
Meeting Minutes**

I. Called to Order and Welcomed by Co-Chair Scott Bledsoe at 1:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call conducted by Travis Pruski

<u>Voting Members:</u>	<u>Representing Sector:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>
Co- Chair Scott Bledsoe	Water Districts	Present
Co-Chair Dr. Pancho Hubert	Small Businesses	Present
Thomas Reding	River Authorities	Present
Secretary Lonnie Stewart	GMA 13	Present
Joe Almaraz	Industries	Absent
Aron Baggett	Industries	Absent
Chuck Burns	Agriculture	Present
Gene Camargo	Other	Absent
Teresa Carrillo	Environment	Absent
Carl Crull P.E.	Other	Present
James Dodson	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	Present
Charles Ring	Agriculture	Present
Donna Rosson	Public	Present
Mark Scott	Municipalities	Present (Late)
Mark Sugarek	GMA 15	Absent

<u>Non-Voting Members:</u>	<u>Representing Sector:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>
Michele Foss	Texas Water Development Board	Present
Nelda Barrera	Texas Department of Agriculture	Absent
Dr. Jim Tolan	Texas Parks and Wildlife	Present
Tomas Dominguez	USDA-NRCS	Absent
Rusty Ray	TSSWCB	Absent
John Byrum	Region L-South-Central Texas RWPG	Absent
	Nueces River Authority	
David Fuentes	Region M-Rio Grande RWPG	Absent
	Precinct 1 Commissioner, Weslaco	

Note: Quorum.

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Guest:

Kristi Shaw
Kevin Smith
Travis Pruski
Lorie Flores
Javier Ramirez
Ronnie Ramirez
Katie Dahlberg
Yvonne Dives-Gomez
Drew Molly
Maria Corona
Belinda Balderas
Daisy Fuentes
Scott Harris
Demetrio O. Duarte
Kara Smith
Dhruv Deshmukh
Adrien Hilmy
William Causey
Maurico R. Garza II
Tom Yardley
Jorge Gonzalez
Mallory Lightsey
Bech Bruun
Luis Pena
Arlene Medrano
Adrian Montemayor

Representing Sector:

HDR
Texas Water Development Board
Nueces River Authority
Nueces River Authority
Nueces River Authority
TSSWCB
TWDB
PCCA
City of Corpus Christi (CCW)
CCW
CCW
CCW
LAN
City of Alice Director Public Works- Utilities
Texas Dept. of AG
Freese & Nichols
CBBEP
Plummer Associates
City of Alice
San Patricio Co.
Duval GCD
SPMWD
Port of CC
Brush County GCD
COA
City of Falfurrias

III. Motion to approve January 26th, 2023, minutes as presented made by Carl Crull and seconded by Esteban Ramos. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM: Presentation – Overview of the 2026 RWP Population Municipal Water Demands Projections Methodologies – Katie Dahlberg TWDB

The Projections Process has different stages:

- a) TWDB draft projections using statewide methodologies.
- b) Share data with Regional Water Planning Groups
- c) RWPGs review & request
- d) TWDB reviews revision requests
- e) Finalize projections.
- f) TWDB presents Projections to Board.
- g) Any Changes thereafter are amendments.

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Population Projections by County are based on Texas Demographic Center.

- Cohort component method are:
 - age sex, race, ethnicity, birth rates, death rates
- Migration scenarios:
 - Full Migration & Half Migration 2010-2020
 - 2030-2060
 - TDC Projections are online: <http://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/>

TWDB Population Projections:

- Difference this planning cycle: if a county's populations is projected by TDC to decline, then TWDB's county population projections will also decline.
- TWDB draft Projections
 - Extended 2070-2080 both scenarios
 - Provided WUG projections using each scenario to Region N. 2030-2080

Water User Groups:

- Municipal WUGs: Utility water use of 100-acre feet or more
 - 31 TAC § 357.10 (43)
- RWPGs reviewed the WUG list in July 2022
- 2026 RWP: 52 WUGs
- Including 11 County-Other WUGs

Historical WUG Population Estimates:

- Permanent resident population
- Developed 2010 & 2020 population:
 - Census Blocks
 - WUG Boundary
 - Cross-check Water Use Survey
 - Shared in March 2022 & January 2023
- Reviewed historical population growth rate to develop projections.

Population Projections by WUG:

- Sub-allocate County Population Projections to WUGs
- WUG's historical (2010 to 2020) shared of the region-county's growth.
- WUG's 2020 share of the region-county's 2020 population applied each decade.
- Constant population: military bases, universities, primarily group quarter population, or buildout of subdivisions.

Municipal Demand Projections: GPCD

- Gallons per Capita Daily
- Municipal water use
 - Residential
 - CII (commercial, institutional, light industrial)
- Historical GPCDs shared with RWPGs (January 2023)

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Municipal Demand Projections: GPCD

- Draft Baseline GPCD carried over from 2021 RWP.
 - Account for passive savings between historical and projected (2030)
- New WUGs: baseline GPCD=2018
- RWPGs may consider revising baseline GPCDs per Exhibit C
 - Historical WUG GPCDs shared with projections datasets.

Municipal Demand Projections: PC Savings

- Plumbing Code Savings
- Update this planning cycle.
- Residential:
 - Toilets
 - Showerheads
 - Clothes washers
- New this cycle: commercial toilet and urinal water efficiency savings
- 2030-2080
- Recent revisions sent May 5, 2023
- Inadvertently included historical savings in the future demands
- Thus, overstated projected savings.
- Result: higher draft municipal water demands projections
- Projected Demand= (POPULATION * (GPCD – PC SAVINGS) * 365) / 325,851

Draft projections date available online:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/2027/municipal.asp>

Any questions regarding TWDB projections methodology contact:

katie.dahlberg@twdb.texas.gov

Kristi Shaw was asked by Co-Chair Scott Bledsoe to give a little background on this presentation. TWDB sent out the 1.0 migration scenarios results showing Region N population going up by 2040 and decreasing by 2080. Also, provided to Region N was the 0.5 migration scenarios on a county level for the 11-counties. Region N requested additional input from TWDB on 0.5 migration scenario projections down to water group levels. Sub-committee meeting was held in March 2023 to talk about details. The sub-committee also recommended using the highest projection from either 1.0 or 0.5 migration scenarios on the county level. Last year Region N adopted the baseline gallons per capita per day (GPCD) values for the plan. Other agencies that were contacted during review of the projections include Coastal Bend COG, water groups and wholesale water groups. The COG will be putting together a study to estimate regional projections. This is something that will help in the next flood planning process. The updated information is likely to be available in Spring 2024.

V. ACTION ITEM: TWDB Draft Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections and Region N Subcommittee Comments for Region N by Susan Roth

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Overview of TWDB Methodology for 2026 RWP development:

- 2026 Draft Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections align with water utility service areas instead of political boundaries / city limits for WUGs.
- Population projections for some entities may be different from 2021 RWP since the latest projections are based on new 2020 Census data and reflect updated birth / mortality / migration rates (cohort component).
- Growth rates based on proportion of change from county's population projections between 2010 and 2020 from the Texas Demographic Center (TWDB provided both 0.5 and 1.0 migration scenarios for comparison).
- TWDB's county population projections show a decline (not held constant as in 2021 RWP) if TDC projections show county's population to decline.
- Baseline water use (GPCD) for WUGs in Coastal Bend was previously approved by RWPG on August 1, 2022.
- Municipal water demand projections represent drought year conditions; calculated using population, baseline GPCD & projected plumbing code savings.
- Wholesale customer population / water demands not included in draft projections.

Definition of a Water User Group (WUG)

- Privately-owned utilities provide an average of more than 100 acre-feet per year for municipal use for all owned water systems.
- Public water systems serving institutions or facilities owned by the state or federal government that provide more than 100 acre-feet per year for municipal use.
- All other retail public water utilities not covered above that provided more than 100 acre-feet per year for municipal use.
- Collective Reporting Units, or groups of retail public Utilities that have a common association and are requested for inclusion by the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPGs)
- Municipal and domestic water use, referred to as County-Other, are not covered in the above list.
- Region N: 52 WUGs (includes 11 County-Other WUGs: Aransas County, Bee County, Brooks County, Duval County, Jim Wells County, Kenedy County, Kleberg County, Live Oak County, McMullen County, Nueces County, and San Patricio County)

Outreach to Service Area Primary County and Water User Groups

Response List of Region N WUGs:

Aransas	City of Rockport
Bee	City of Beeville, TDCJ Chase Field Facility, El Oso WCS
Brooks	City of Falfurrias
Duval	San Diego MUD No. 1
Jim Wells	City of Alice, City of Orange Grove, City of Premont
Kleberg	City of Kingsville
Live Oak	City of George West, Three Rivers, El Oso WSC, McCoy WSC
Nueces	City of Bishop, City of Corpus Christi, City of Driscoll, Nueces WSC, Nueces County WCID No. 3
San Patricio	City of Aransas Pass, Portland, Rincon WSC, San Patricio MWD

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Population Projection Requests Received:

City of Aransas Pass- requesting to use 1.0 Migration Scenario Projections

City of Premont- requesting to use 0.5 Migration Scenario Projections

City of Three Rivers- requesting to use 0.5 Migration Scenario Projections

City of Orange Grove- requesting to use 0.5 Migration Scenario Projections

City of Driscoll- Commented that 1.0 Migration Scenario Projections are too conservative

City of Rockport- commented that believe aftermath of Hurricane Harvey skewed 2018 Census data and growth projections for Rockport; 1.0 Migration Scenario Projections recommended

San Diego MUD No.1-requesting to use 0.5 Migration Scenario Projections; also, would like to keep their WMS listed in the 2026 Region N Water Plan-currently trying to rehab an additional existing well (offline; 250 GPM)

City of Alice- requesting to use 0.5 Migration Scenario Projections

City of Corpus Christi- historical water use data provided to Region N WPG

San Patricio MWD- historical water use data provided to Region N WPG

City of Portland- alternative population data provided for TWDB's consideration based on future growth of city and annexation plans; city's current growth rate at 1.8 %. If migration represents a direct percent reduction on an annual basis, the city's effective annual growth rate would be 0.8%.

A motion was made by Esteban Ramos to accept the highest of the two migration scenario projections and seconded by Carl Crull. Passed unanimously.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEM: Updates on Manufacturing Projections Based on Stakeholder Outreach by Kristi Shaw

- At the January Region N meeting non-municipal water demand projections were approved except Nueces and San Patricio County.
- Given that about 95% of the Region N manufacturing demand occurs in Nueces and San Patricio Counties and that both counties anticipate substantial growth in the future, the Region N RWPG requested additional outreach and deferring action on the Nueces and San Patricio manufacturing water demand projections to the May 18th meeting.
- Since last Region N Meeting, HDR met with the City and SPMWD on February 27,2023 and received Port of Corpus Christi information on April 26,2023.
- Consider revisions to San Patricio County Stream Electric. The WWP recommendations propose changes to San Patricio County only, based on current water supply contracts as of 2022. Consider adoption of alternative projections from SPMWD.
- Consider revisions to Nueces and San Patricio County Manufacturing. Recommendation is Nueces County revision to match 2021 Plan (2030-2060), based on input provided by the City. San Patricio County based on input from SPMWD.
- Consider adoption of alternative projections from City of Corpus Christi/SPMWD and over-allocate recommended water management strategies in San Patricio County- Manufacturing in excess of needs to account for Port Projections.

Motion to recommend the projections provided by City of Corpus Christi and SPMWD regarding

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manufacturing for the years 2030-2080 by Carl Crull and seconded by Esteban Ramos.
Passed unanimously.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEM: Hydrologic variance request to use Safe Yield and Corpus Christi Water Supply Model to determine water supply availability for the Corpus Christi Regional Supply System. Consider Authorizing the HDR Team to Submit a Request for Hydrologic Variance to TWDB Requesting Approval to use Safe Yield and the Corpus Christi Water Supply Model to Evaluate Water Availability from the Corpus Christi Regional Supply System for development of the 2026 Plan.

Motion to approve HDR request to use Corpus Christi Water Supply Model and Safe Yield was made by Carl Crull and seconded by Chuck Burns. Passed unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM: Update on Desalination Projects:
City of Alice – Michael Esparza

Alice's current source of water is from the City of Corpus Christi and Lake Corpus Christi pumping it 22 miles up hill by 100 feet continuing into Lake Finley and finally into the water treatment plant. This has been going on for 65 years. The City of Alice is currently purchasing raw water from the City of Corpus Christi at the price of \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons. One concern the City of Alice has had for a long time is water loss. They are paying for the water but losing a lot of it due to broken pipes (10-15%), Seepage (15-30%), and evaporation (30-45%). With the droughts in 2011, it only rained 14.8 inches and Lake Corpus Christi was at risk of falling below our intake. City of Alice DCP called for the city manager to explore other water options. Due to the rain conditions this was put off for a while. The City of Alice looked at their options with pros & cons:

- Drill Fresh Wells near City WTP
 - Pros: Limited water treatment, short transmission
 - Cons: Drawdown
- Drill Freshwater Wells along 22-mile-long-pipeline:
 - Pros: Availability of fresh ground water
 - Cons: Drawdown, availability, mixing ground and raw water, evaporation or additional pipeline cost, variable speed drives
- Drill Brackish Wells near water treatment plant:
 - Pros: Colocation at existing plant and drought resistant
 - Cons: Treatment cost and Discharge
- Seawater Desalination:
 - Pros: Adequate water supply
 - Cons: Permitting, water rights, discharge, pipeline, treatment cost

The City of Alice is a standalone community with farming, ranching, oilfield, and healthcare. They want to be good neighbors and if they pull 3000 gallons per day out of the Evangeline Aquifer, the farms and ranches in the area would feel the impact. The city of Alice didn't want to do that, so they went to the 2000 feet water in the Jasper Aquifer. Jasper Aquifer is 2000 feet deep, drought proof source, 3 mgd, 2,000 ppm and Miocene Era. The price for surface water per varies depending on the rain or droughts in the area. The average cost after treatment average \$3.85 per 1,000 gallons. The City of Alice decided to go with the Brackish Water

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Desalination plant. The brackish cost per 1,000 gallons would be \$3.35. The second phase of this project was contracted out to a 3rd party (Seven Seas).

Port of Corpus – Bech Bruun

Harbor Island has received a discharge permit from TCEQ and is still waiting for the water rights permit which is still pending. Everything has been turned in. Just waiting on TCEQ.

La Quinta Channel: The Port of Corpus had not applied for a discharge permit but has submitted a permit for water rights. Should hear something back in September 2023.

City of Corpus Christi – Esteban Ramos

The City of Corpus Christi is excited that the Desalination projects are moving along very well through the TCEQ process. There are two sites which are the Inner Harbor and La Quinta Channel.

La Quinta permits are expected to go to commissioners for approval sometime in the summer for the water right permit. The discharge permit is still pending with TCEQ.

Inner Harbor water rights permit was approved in October 2022. At the end of the year of 2022 City Council gave the City Manager approval to move forward on the land acquisition for the site location in the Inner Harbor. Working with Flint Hills Natural Resources inquiring that the site location of pump station, easements for intake and discharge along with pipelines in the water. The City of Corpus Christi is working with TCEQ on the discharge permit which is under review. This additional water supply will bring a reliable water system and water treatment to the region, and will be drought proof. The City of Corpus Christi looked for affordable interest rate loans and with the help of TCEQ was able to get low interest through SWIFT funding.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEM: TWDB Update – Michele Foss

Reminder of Upcoming Critical Deadlines:

- July 14-Deadline to request revisions to draft non-municipal projections.
- August 11- Deadline to request revisions to draft population and municipal demand projections.
- TWDB staff will present all projections to Board for adoption Fall 2023

Revisions to Plumbing Code Savings Projections

- Revised to adjust aggressive assumption regarding adoption of fixtures.
- Affect demands for 2030 and 2040
- TWDB issuing revised municipal demand projections in mid-May

Interregional Planning Council

- Previous meetings held November 9, 2022 and March 9, 2023
- Next Meeting: May 30, in Austin, TX with Virtual option to attend

Additional Resource Materials Available (Provided 4/5/23)

- Status of 2021 RWPG policy recommendations
- Active RWPG committees
- Liaison materials

New One-Pagers and Educational Materials

- Consistency Waivers
 - <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/education/index.asp>

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- Member Guide
- Administrative Guidance
 - <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2023/documents.asp>

X. RWPG/TWDB Administrative and Other Issues

There were no administrative or other issues to report on. Reminder the Nueces Summit will be June 19-21, 2023 in Portland, Texas.

XI. General Public Comment- No Public Comment

XII. Confirm Next Meeting Date: Oct 12th

Meeting adjourned by Thomas Reding and seconded by Co-Chair Dr. Pancho Hubert at 4:12 p.m.