

REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Jake Hollingsworth, Sarah Kouba, Ken Kramer, Ivan Langford, Alisa Max, Mike O'Connell, Byron Ryder, Loyd Smith, Aubrey Spear, Michael Turco, and Cynthia Wagener.

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ekaterina Fitov for Greg Eyerly, Glenn Clingenpeel for Kevin Ward

MEMBERS ABSENT: WR Baker, Caleb Cooper, Jason Garrard, Robert Istre, Marvin Marcell, and Danny Pierce.

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

2. Introductions

Mr. Evans introduced Ms. Sam Hill, Water Resources Woodland Ecologist with the Texas A&M Forest Service.

3. Review and approve minutes of the August 6, 2025 Meeting

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of August 6, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

4. Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items 5 through 6

There were no public comments.

5. Planning Development and Administration

a. Receive presentation from Consultant Team regarding revisions made to the Initially Prepared Plan in preparation of the draft Final 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).

Mr. Philip Taucer provided a brief summary of the changes that have been made to the RWP since the Initially Prepared Plan. He also explained that no new public comments have been received. Mr. Taucer explained that the Lake Whitney Storage Reallocation recommendation from Region G would not directly impact the Region H RWP, with the primary change being a statement that the RHWPG supports the Brazos G Water Planning Group's recommendation. The Group noted that Lake Whitney reallocation would potentially have a greater impact on the next planning cycle.

b. Consider and take action in adopting the Final 2026 RWP and authorizing submittal of the completed document to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) contingent upon incorporation of comments and inclusion of final required materials.

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to adopt the Final 2026 RWP and authorize submittal of the completed document to TWDB contingent upon incorporation of comments and inclusion of final required materials. Ms. Max seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Consider and take action authorizing the Consultant Team to make any necessary non-substantive changes to the approved Region H RWP, finalize comments, and transmit the completed document and required materials to TWDB.

Mr. Bartos made a motion to authorize the Consultant Team to make any necessary non-substantive changes to the approved Region H RWP, finalize comments, and transmit the completed document and required materials to TWDB. Mr. Bredehoft seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Review and consider taking action to amend the budget for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP and authorizing the Consultant Team and San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) to coordinate with TWDB and execute the subsequent contract amendment issued.

Mr. Taucer explained the final budget clean-up of the cycle to more closely align task and category budgets with required effort, noting that the proposed amendment redistributes current approved funding and does not impact the overall budget.. Mr. Chang made a motion to approve the budget amendment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kramer and carried unanimously.

e. Discuss and consider taking action to authorize SJRA to serve as the Region H Political Subdivision for the 7th cycle of Regional Water Planning.

Mr. Spear confirmed that SJRA is willing to act as the Political Subdivision for Region H. Ms. Max made a motion to authorize SJRA to serve as the Region H Political Subdivision for the 7th cycle of Regional Water Planning. Mr. Bredehoft seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

f. Receive report on the Region H Local Contribution Account and consider taking action authorizing the Region H Political Subdivision to use funds from the account to pay for public notice activities for the 7th cycle of Regional Water Planning.

Mr. Evans provided an introduction to the topic of the Region H Local Contribution Account. Mr. Taucer provided a brief history on the contribution of funds by stakeholders during the inaugural planning cycle and the role the account has played in supporting public notice activities for Region H, with Mr. Spear updating the group on the current balance of the fund. Ms. Rose indicated that the notification activities for the start of the next Planning Cycle will be similar to the IPP notices. Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the use of the funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kramer and carried unanimously.

- g. **Discuss and consider taking action to authorize the Region H Political Subdivision to submit a grant application to the TWDB and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the Region H Water Planning Group for initial funding of the 7th cycle of Regional Water Planning.**

Mr. Chang made a motion to authorize the Region H Political Subdivision to submit a grant application to the TWDB and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the RHWPG for initial funding of the 7th cycle of Regional Water Planning. Mr. Turco seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. General Updates and Outreach

- a. **Receive update regarding schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.**

Mr. Taucer provided an update on the schedule of the 2026 Region H RWP. The first meeting of the 2031 RWP will occur in February of 2026.

- b. **Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.**

There were no updates from other planning groups.

- c. **Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the Region H Water Planning Group.**

Mr. Taucer provided a recap of the past outreach by the Region H Planning Group and noted that the window following RWP adoption is a good opportunity to engage with interested local stakeholders. He also provided a brief update on upcoming Region H website upgrades and new outreach documents.

- d. **Receive update from TWDB.**

Ms. Rose of TWDB congratulated the RHWPG on the adoption of the 2026 RWP. Ms. Rose provided an update on Senate Bill 7, House Joint Resolution 7, and Proposition 4, followed by Group discussion of the timing and details of the potential associated funds. Ms. Rose also presented the tentative schedule for initial activities for the 7th cycle of RWP development.

- e. **Other agency communications and general information.**

Mr. Evans noted the need to fill Mr. Eyerly's position on the Planning Group, with Ms. Fitos noting an interested candidate for the pending vacancy and requesting information on the process for formally requesting consideration.

7. Receive public comments.

There were no public comments.

8. Next Meeting: February 4, 2026.

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting will take place on February 4, 2026.

9. Adjourn.

With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.