

REGION H

Water Planning Group

MEETING MATERIALS

February 4, 2026

Common Region H Terms and Conversion Factors

List of Abbreviations

CRU	Collective Reporting Unit
DCP	Drought Contingency Plan
DFC	Desired Future Condition
DOA	Drought of Record
EA	Executive Administrator
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FWSD	Fresh Water Supply District
GAM	Groundwater Availability Model
GCD	Groundwater Conservation District
GMA	Groundwater Management Area
GPCD	Gallons Per Capita Per Day
GRP	Groundwater Reduction Plan
IFR	Infrastructure Finance Report
IPP	Initially Prepared Plan
MAG	Modeled Available Groundwater
MPC	Master Planned Community
MUD	Municipal Utility District
MWP	Major Water Provider
PDSI	Palmer Drought Severity Index
PWS	Public Water Supply
RFPG	Regional Flood Planning Group
RHWPG	Region H Water Planning Group
ROR	Run-of-River
RWP	Regional Water Plan
RWPA	Regional Water Planning Area
RWPG	Regional Water Planning Group
SWIFT	State Water Implementation Fund for Texas
SWP	State Water Plan
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TWC	Texas Water Code
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
UCM	Unified Costing Model
URS	Unique Reservoir Site
USS	Unique Stream Segment
WAM	Water Availability Model
WCID	Water Control and Improvement District
WCP	Water Conservation Plan
WMS	Water Management Strategy
WRAP	Water Rights Analysis Package
WUD	Water Utility Database
WUG	Water User Group
WWP	Wholesale Water Provider

Water Measurements

1 acre-foot (AF) = 43,560 cubic feet = 325,851 gallons

1 acre-foot per year (ac-ft/yr) = 325,851 gallons per year = 893 gallons per day

1 gallon per minute (gpm) = 1,440 gallons per day = 1.6 ac-ft/yr

1 million gallons per day (mgd) = 1,000,000 gallons per day = 1,120 ac-ft/yr

Region H Water Planning Group
10:00 AM Wednesday
February 4, 2026
San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) Office
1577 Dam Site Rd, Conroe, Texas 77304

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Introductions.
3. Review and approve minutes of the October 1, 2025 meeting.
4. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items 5 through 7.** (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
5. Planning Group Membership
 - a. Receive Nominating Committee report and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG).
 - b. Discuss and consider taking action to elect officers and members of the Executive Committee of the RHWPG.
 - c. Review Region H committee and liaison assignments for development of the 2031 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).
6. Plan Development and Administration
 - a. Receive presentation from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) regarding application for a grant for funding of the seventh cycle of regional water planning.
 - b. Receive presentation on the submittal of an application for funding and the scope of work for the seventh cycle of regional water planning (2026-2031).
 - c. Discuss and consider taking action authorizing SJRA to provide public notice and hold a pre-planning public meeting to obtain public input on development of the 2031 RWP and 2032 State Water Plan.
 - d. Discuss and consider taking action authorizing SJRA to request statements of qualifications to prepare the 2031 Region H RWP on behalf of the RHWPG in accordance with 31 TAC 355.92(d).
 - e. Discuss and consider taking action regarding certification of administrative expenses to be submitted to TWDB for reimbursement for the seventh cycle of RWP development.
 - f. Discuss and consider taking action authorizing SJRA to use funds from the Region H Local Contribution Account to pay for renewal of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance for RHWPG members.
7. General Updates and Outreach
 - a. Receive update regarding schedule and milestones for the development of the 2031 Region H RWP.
 - b. Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.
 - c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG.
 - d. Receive update from TWDB.
 - e. Other agency communications and general information.
8. **Receive public comments.** (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
9. Next Meeting: May 6, 2026.
10. Adjourn.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and would like to request auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Sonia Zamudio at (936) 588-3111 at least three business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Agenda Item 3

Review and approve minutes of the October 1, 2025 meeting.

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.

Agenda Item 5a

Receive Nominating Committee report and consider taking action to approve members to fill vacancies on the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG).

Agenda Item 5a

Vacancies

Action:

Approve members to fill the vacancies on the RHWPG.



NOTICE OF VACANCY FOR REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEMBER REPRESENTING MUNICIPALITIES

The Region H Water Planning Group (WPG) is hereby giving notice of a vacancy on the Region H WPG for a voting member representing municipalities. The Region H WPG may consider making an appointment to fill this vacancy on or after February 4, 2026. The term of this appointment ends in 2026.

Background:

The Region H WPG was established by appointment of an initial coordinating body by the TWDB on February 19, 1998, and one subsequent additional appointment by the initial coordinating body. The purpose of the Region H WPG shall be to provide comprehensive regional water planning and to carry out the related responsibilities placed on regional water planning groups by state law, including Texas Water Code Chapter 16 and TWDB rules, including 31 TAC Chapters 355, 357, and 358, in and for the Region H Water Planning Area (WPA).

Responsibilities:

The Region H WPG shall have the responsibility for performing the functions defined in Texas Water Code, Chapter 16 and in 31 TAC Chapters 355, 357, and 358 related to regional water planning groups for the Region H WPA. Foremost among those responsibilities shall be the development of a regional water plan for the Region H WPA that identifies both short and long-term water supply needs and recommends water management strategies for addressing them.

Conditions of Membership:

In order to be eligible for voting membership on the Region H WPG, a person must represent the interest for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, and abide by the bylaws.

Any municipality within the Region H area interested in nominating a representative to serve as a voting member representing municipalities may submit a letter of interest or recommendation to:

Mark Evans, Chair Region H WPG
c/o San Jacinto River Authority
P.O. Box 329
Conroe, Texas 77305



Re: Region H - Member nomination process

From Fitos, Ekaterina - HPW

Date Tue 2025-10-14 5:12 PM

To Mark Evans

Cc Hailey Myers <Hailey.Myers@freese.com>; Philip Taucer <Philip.Taucer@freese.com>; Goodwin, Phillip - HPW

Molly, Andrew - HPW

Good Afternoon Mark,

I respectfully nominate Drew Molly, P.E., Chief Water Officer for Houston Public Works, for consideration to fill the Region H Board vacancy in the Municipalities category.

Please see his biography below. If you need any additional information please let me know.

Drew Molly, P.E.

Drew Molly is the Chief Water Officer for Houston Public Works, overseeing the city's drinking water and wastewater systems serving over two million residents. A licensed Professional Engineer in Texas, he holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and Class A Water and Class D Wastewater Licenses. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer for Corpus Christi Water. A past Chair of the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), Drew currently serves on the boards of AWWA and Texas Desalination and is a recipient of AWWA's George Warren Fuller Award. Known for his collaborative and forward-thinking leadership, he is dedicated to advancing innovation and sustainability in public water systems. Outside of work, Drew enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, running, and exploring remote wilderness areas.

Thank you,

Ekaterina

Ekaterina Fitos, GISP, MBA

Assistant Director

Regulatory Compliance & Utility Development

Houston Water



Richard W. Stolleis, PE

January 26, 2023

Mark Evans, Chair Region H WPG
c/o San Jacinto River Authority
P.O. Box 329
Conroe, Texas 77305

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2023

SAN JACINTO
RIVER AUTHORITY

RE: Vacancy on the Region H Water Planning Group
Member representing Water Utilities

Dear Mr. Evans,

I would like to introduce myself and express my interest in becoming the voting member of the Region H WPG representing Water Utilities.

I have lived in Region H for 39 plus years. I am a registered professional engineer and I have worked for municipal and county governments and as a consulting engineer for various municipal water utilities over the last 45 years. My experience in the Region and in the water industry includes:

- Regional wastewater and water utility project design in Austin, Texas
- City Engineer, Public Works Director, and Community Development Director for the City of Sugar Land
- Consulting municipal engineer for small cities and water utilities in Fort Bend, Brazoria, Wharton, and other counties in Region H
- County Engineer for Fort Bend County
- Member of two Boards of Directors for municipal utility districts

I have previously served on HGAC's Transportation Planning Council Technical Advisory Committee. I am currently a member of the Association of Water Board Directors Advisory Council and I am serving as President of the Board of Directors for Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 146, Richmond, Texas. Additionally, I am currently semi-retired working part-time as Senior Engineer for Kaluza, Inc. in Rosenberg, Texas.

I believe my broad experience in planning in the Region and in the delivery of water to municipal water customers provides me with the background and experience to contribute to the planning efforts of the Region H WPG. I ask that you and the Region H WPG appoint me to fill your vacant position representing Water Utilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,



Richard W. Stolleis, PE

JUSTIN R. RING, P.E. Principal



Focusing on the people of the industry as well as the “numbers” of the project have allowed Justin R. Ring, P.E. to become successful in the land development community of the Greater Houston area. Graduating from Texas A&M University with a civil engineering degree, Mr. Ring has worked with special district projects for over twenty years.

Justin has worked with municipal utility districts (MUDs) throughout the Greater Houston region and currently serves as consultant engineer for numerous MUDs in the region. He has previously served on Fort Bend County MUDs No. 109 and 106, Fort Bend County Levee Improvement District No. 11 and currently serves as Secretary of Fort Bend County MUD No. 163.

In addition to his work with special districts, Mr. Ring has worked for several cities and other municipalities including the City of Houston Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 1, City of Rosenberg, City of Sugar Land, and Harris and Fort Bend Counties.

As a co-founder of Odyssey Engineering Group, LLC, Justin’s focus has been on the strategic planning functions of the company, in addition working closely with his business partner on the day-to-day activities of the company. His passion is long range planning for the success of the firm, which is directly attributed to the individual employees that make up the team of Odyssey Engineering Group.

While dedication to his projects, clients and employees is a large part of his success, Mr. Ring also builds relationships in his industry and community by working in neighborhood and civic organizations.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Texas A & M University May 2000

REGISTRATIONS

Professional Engineer State of Texas No. 95863 June 2005

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Municipal Utility District/Special Districts in State of Texas
Residential Land Development
Program and Project Management
Low Impact Development/Sustainability Design
Public Procurement Process

EXPERIENCE:

Odyssey Engineering Group, LLC.	02/2016 – Current
Founding Principal	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Co-Founded a Civil Engineering consulting firm which has grown from two to nearly sixty employees with annual revenue of over \$13 million.○ Manage multiple services and sectors, including residential, commercial and industrial development, small government municipalities, including special districts, small cities and counties.○ Program and Project Manager for public and private clients through the Southeast Texas Region○ Municipal Utility District engineer for the variety of Special Districts in Harris and Fort Bend Counties	
Odyssey Outreach	02/2019 – Current
Chairman & Co-Founder	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Co-Founded a Non-Profit Foundation focused on encouraging community organizations where Odyssey Engineering Group creates communities, as well as encouraging education and opportunities in STEM related education fields.○ Organization has donated over \$150,000 to charitable organizations over the past three years.	
Edminster, Hinshaw, Russ and Associates, Inc.	8/2002 – 1/2016
Vice President/Associate Principal	
Land Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Manage land development projects for multiple private developments up to 800 acres in size serving a diverse portfolio of different clients.○ Responsible for directing and supervising a team of designers, drafters and engineers to complete development projects.○ Design sanitary sewer, water distribution, drainage and plant facilities for private developments in numerous municipal utility districts, cities and counties.○ Coordinate with the Construction Management Department and contractors to ensure that projects are built as designed and to resolve any issues that arise during construction.○ Complete development feasibility studies to assist developers in determining if a site is practical for development.○ Active leader in business development efforts in Fort Bend, Harris, and Montgomery Counties.	

EXPERIENCE (cont'd):

Government Projects/Public Works

- Manage capital improvement projects for Harris and Fort Bend County.
- Responsible for coordinating project efforts with respective county staff and consultants.
- Responsible for directing and supervising a team of designers, drafters and engineers to complete C.I.P projects.

Municipal Utility District Engineer

- Municipal Utility District engineer for the variety of Special Districts in Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery and Colorado Counties.
- Collaborate with Developers and Government agencies to create municipal utility districts.
- Orchestrate efforts between consultants to complete bond issues for District projects and Developer reimbursements.

Low Impact Development (LID)

- Designed multiple LID projects in the Greater Houston area, including many of the area's first LID projects
- Frequent speaker at conferences, seminars and symposiums in the Gulf Coast area on implementation of low impact development in projects within the Gulf Coast region.
- Consulted for government agencies for development of LID Design Criteria, including Harris County, City of Sugar Land, and City of League City.

Carter & Burgess, Inc.,

7/2000 – 7/2002

Land Development Design Engineer/Engineer in Training

CURRENT & PAST LEADERSHIP ROLES

Fort Bend Business Coalition – Trustee (2026)

Fort Bend Business Partnership – Trustee (2014 – Current)

Fort Bend Green – Treasurer (2023 – current)

Waller County Economic Development Partnership – Trustee (2024 – Current)

Texas A&M Development Industry Advisory Council for the Master of Land and Property Development Program – Executive Committee Member (2024- Current)

Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 163 – Secretary (2022 – current)

Texas Water Leadership through Texas Water Foundation (2022)

Association of Water Board of Directors – Board of Trustees (2011 through 2016, President 2013-2014)

Agenda Item 5b

Discuss and consider taking action to elect officers and members of the Executive Committee of the RHWPG.

Agenda Item 5b Officers and Executive Committee

Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive officer• Preside over meetings
Vice-Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist chair in duties• Act in chair's absence
Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administer postings• Maintain meeting records
At-Large	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate administrative decisions• Carry out bylaws

Agenda Item 5b Officers and Executive Committee

2026 Region H Voting Membership

Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caleb Cooper• Danny Pierce	Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jason Garrard• Cyndi Wagener	Small Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• W.R. Baker• Ivan Langford• Mike O'Connell
Counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Evans (Chair)• Byron Ryder• Loyd Smith	Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Istre	Water District	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jun Chang• Marvin Marcell (Vice Chair)• Mike Turco
Electric Generating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carl Burch	Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ken Kramer	Water Utility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arthur Bredehoft (Exec)• Jake Hollingsworth• Alisa Max
Enviro.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Bartos (Secretary)	River Auth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brad Brunett• Aubrey Spear• Kevin Ward		
GMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Bailey (Exec)• Sarah Kouba				

Agenda Item 5b

Officers and Executive Committee

Action:

Elect officers and members of the Executive Committee
of the RWPG.



Agenda Item 5c

Review Region H committee and liaison assignments for development of the 2031 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).

Agenda Item 5c Committee Assignments



Non-Population Demand

- Arthur Bredehoft
- Carl Burch (Chair)
- Jasson Garrard
- Loyd Smith
- Cyndi Wagener

Population Demand

- Robert Istre
- Ivan Langford
- Marvin Marcell (Chair)
- Byron Ryder
- Mike Turco

Agenda Item 5c Committee Assignments



Groundwater Supply

- David Bailey
- Carl Burch
- Sarah Kouba
- Mike Turco (Chair)
- Cyndi Wagener

Surface Water Supply

- Brad Brunett
- Jun Chang
- Jake Hollingsworth
- Ivan Langford
- Aubrey Spear
- Kevin Ward (Chair)

Agenda Item 5c Committee Assignments



Water Management Strategies

- John Bartos (Chair)
- Ivan Langford
- Arthur Bredehoft
- Aubrey Spear
- Brad Brunett
- Mike Turco
- Jun Chang
- Cynthia Wagener
- Jake Hollingsworth
- Kevin Ward
- Ken Kramer



Agenda Item 5c Committee Assignments



Liaisons to Other Groups

- Interregional Planning Council: Mark Evans
- Brazos G RWPG: Brad Brunett
- Region C RWPG: Kevin Ward
- Region 6 RFPG: Alisa Max
- Region H RFPG: Jake Hollingsworth



Agenda Item 6a

Receive presentation from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) regarding application for a grant for funding of the seventh cycle of regional water planning.

Regional Water Planning Recent & Upcoming Milestones

- **October 20, 2025:** Final, RWPG-adopted 2026 Regional Water Plans submitted to TWDB
- **January 22, 2026:** TWDB Board approved the 2026 Regional Water Plans
- **March 2026:** Next regional water planning cycle (2031 RWPs) contracting process to begin
- **April/May 2026:** TWDB Board to consider posting initial draft state water plan for public comment/hearing



Anticipated timeline for initial Request for Applications (RFA) for the 7th Cycle of Regional Water Planning (2031 Regional Water Plans)

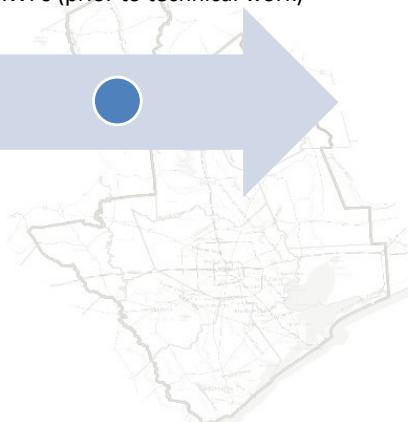
March 2026
RFA posted and
RWPG Political
Subdivisions
notified

June 2026
Board to consider
authorizing
contracts

Fall/Winter 2026
RWPGs hold
pre-planning meetings for
2031 RWPs (prior to technical work)

March/April 2026
Applications from
RWPG political
subdivision sponsor
due

August 2026
Contracts executed
with
TWDB/Political
Subdivision
(deadline 8/31/26)



Agenda Item 6b

Receive presentation on the submittal of an application for funding and the scope of work for the seventh cycle of regional water planning (2026-2031).

Agenda Item 6b Region H Application

- RWPG previously authorized SJRA to:
 - Prepare and submit application
 - Post public notice
 - Negotiate and execute contract
- Upcoming from TWDB
 - Scope
 - Budget



Agenda Item 6b Region H Application

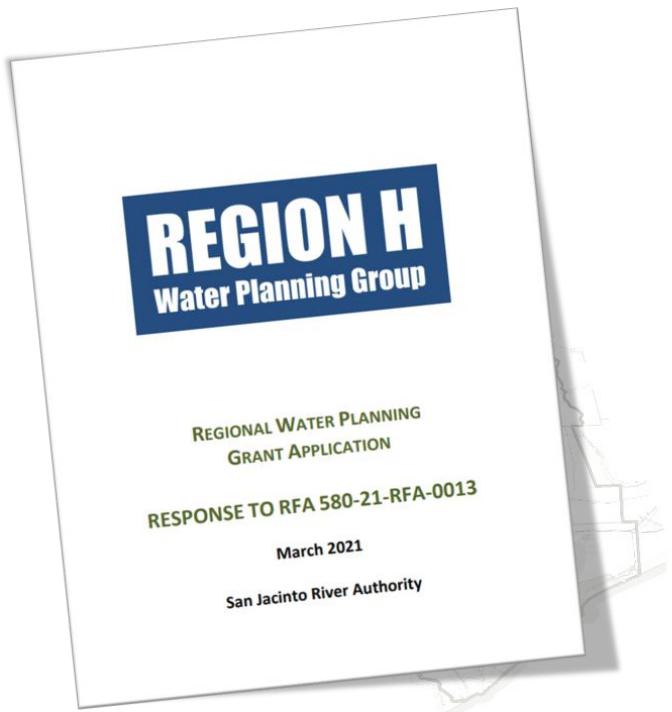
6th Cycle Initial Funding: \$287,657

1	Planning Area Description (\$19,973)
2A	Non-Population Demands (\$27,318)
2B	Population Demands (\$92,769)
8	Recommendations (\$13,082)
10	Public Participation (\$134,515)



Agenda Item 6b **Region H Application**

- Application Package
 - Application Form
 - Scope of Work
 - Schedule
 - Proof of Notification



Agenda Item 6c

Discuss and consider taking action authorizing SJRA to provide public notice and hold a pre-planning public meeting to obtain public input on development of the 2031 RWP and 2032 State Water Plan.

Agenda Item 6c **Pre-Planning Public Meeting**

- Notice 30 days prior to RWPG meeting
- Comments to RWPG
- Similar notice requirements as grant application
- Additional recipients
 - Voting and non-voting RWPG members
 - Interested parties list
 - Adjacent RWPGs
 - Mayors
 - County Judges
 - Special and general law districts
 - Retail public utilities
 - Surface water right holders

Agenda Item 6c **Pre-Planning Public Meeting**

Action:

Authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to provide public notice and hold a pre-planning public meeting to obtain public input on development of the 2031 RWP and 2032 State Water Plan.

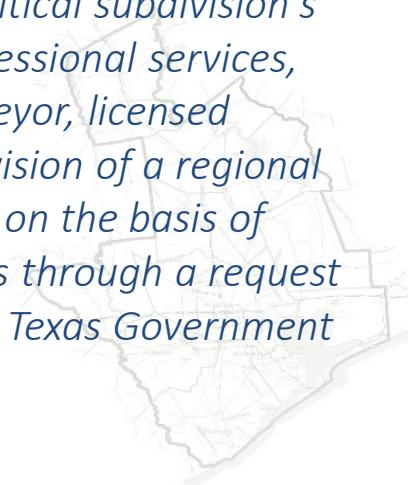
Agenda Item 6d

Discuss and consider taking action authorizing SJRA to request statements of qualifications to prepare the 2031 Region H RWP on behalf of the RHWPG in accordance with 31 TAC 355.92(d).

Agenda Item 6d

7th Cycle RFQ

- *31 TAC 355.92(d): An RWPG through the political subdivision's contractor or subcontractor may obtain professional services, including the services of a planner, land surveyor, licensed engineer, or attorney, for development or revision of a regional water plan only if such services are procured on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications through a request for qualifications process in accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 2254.*

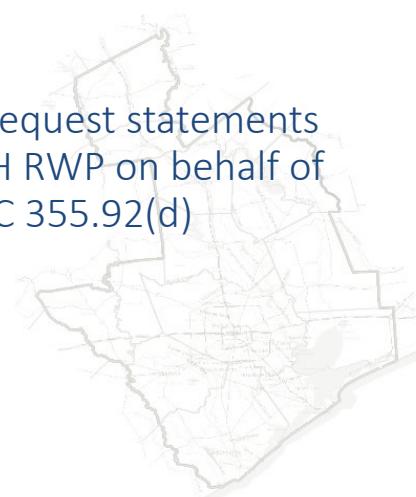


Agenda Item 6d

7th Cycle RFQ

Action:

Authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to request statements of qualifications to prepare the 2031 Region H RWP on behalf of the RHWPG in accordance with 31 TAC 355.92(d)



Agenda Item 6e

Discuss and consider taking action regarding certification of administrative expenses to be submitted to TWDB for reimbursement for the seventh cycle of RWP development.

Agenda Item 6e **Administrative Expenses**

- Certain designated political subdivision expenses now eligible for funding
- Constrained by overall contract budgets
- Requires RWPG certification



Agenda Item 6e **Administrative Expenses**

Action:

Certify administrative expenses to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for reimbursement for the seventh cycle of RWP development.

Agenda Item 6f

Discuss and consider taking action authorizing SJRA to use funds from the Region H Local Contribution Account to pay for renewal of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance for RHWPG members.

Agenda Item 6f

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance

Action:

Authorize SJRA to use funds from the Region H Local Contribution Account to pay for renewal of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance for RHWPG members.

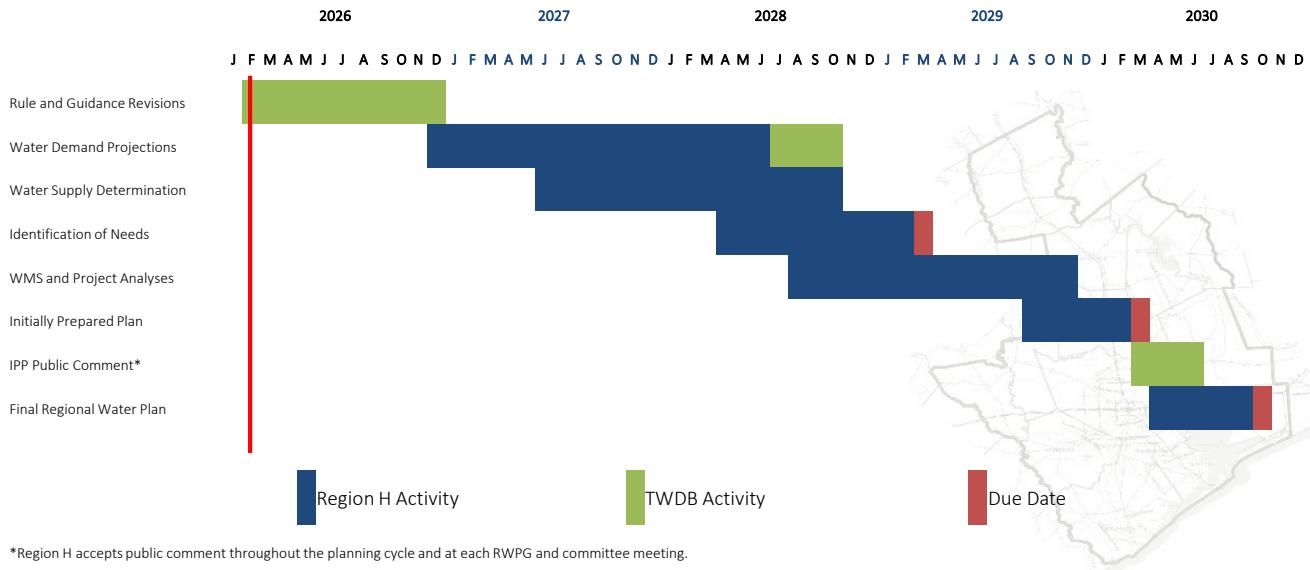


Agenda Item 7a

Receive update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2031 Region H RWP.

Agenda Item 7a

2031 RWP Schedule (RWPG Estimate)



Agenda Item 7a

2031 RWP Schedule

Date	Scheduled Events/Tasks
02/2026	RWPG Meeting
05/2026	RWPG Meeting
Q3/2026	RWPG Meeting / Public Hearing
Q4/2026	RWPG Meeting

Agenda Item 7b

Receive update from liaisons to other planning groups.

Agenda Item 7b Liaison Updates

Region C

Kevin Ward

Brazos G

Zach Holland

Region 6

Alisa Max

Region 8

Jake Hollingsworth

IPC / Chairs

Mark Evans

GMA 12

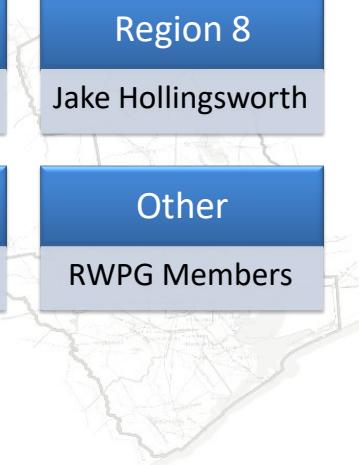
David Bailey

GMA 14

Sarah Kouba

Other

RWPG Members



Agenda Item 7d

Receive update from TWDB.

Region H Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

Updates from the Texas Water Development Board

February 4, 2026, Conroe TX



HB 500 and Water Supply Infrastructure Grants

- HB 500 appropriated \$1.038B in funds for water supply and infrastructure projects.
- One-time opportunity for a limited number of communities to receive grant funding to implement water supply/water infrastructure projects.
- Funds must be appropriated by August 31, 2027.
- Projects must be completed by August, 31, 2031.
- “Shovel ready” projects for smaller communities (less than 150k) will receive 10 additional ranking points.
- **Applications due July 2026**
- Public comment period ends today, February 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- More information can be found on the [**Water Supply and Infrastructure Grants webpage**](#).



Proposition 4 and the Texas Water Fund (TWF)

- Passed in November 2025
- Prop 4 requires the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts each state fiscal year to deposit to the credit of the Texas Water Fund the first \$1 billion of the net revenue derived from the imposition of the state sales and use tax that exceeds the first \$46.5 billion of that revenue coming into the treasury in that state fiscal year.
- Goes into effect September 1, 2027
- Expires August 31, 2047



3

Proposition 4 and the Texas Water Fund (TWF) *continued*

- Funds can only be used for:
 - The New Water Supply for Texas Fund
 - [State Water Implementation Fund for Texas \(SWIFT\)](#)
 - [Flood Infrastructure Fund \(FIF\)](#)
 - [Clean Water](#) and [Drinking Water](#) State Revolving Funds (CWSRF and DWSRF)
 - [Rural Water Assistance Fund](#)
 - [Texas Water Development Fund \(DFUND\)](#)
 - [DFUND State Participation](#)
 - [Economically Distressed Areas Program \(EDAP\)](#)
 - [Agricultural Water Conservation Fund](#)
 - The statewide water public awareness account
 - The Texas Water Fund administrative fund
- More information can be found on the [Texas Water Fund](#) webpage



4

DWSRF and CWSRF

- Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds are federal loan programs for developing and/or rehabilitating water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Project Information Forms (PIF) due **March 6, 2026**.
- More information on the [DWSRF](#) and [CWSRF](#) webpages.



5

SWIFT Updates

- SWIFT 2026 Abridged Applications were due on February 2, 2026
 - TWDB is currently reviewing these applications and will send invitations for full applications in Spring 2026.
 - More information on our [SWIFT webpage](#).



6

Agricultural Water Conservation Grants



- Request for applications due **March 18, 2026** at 2:00 p.m. CST
 - Up to \$1.5M available in grant funding for agricultural water conservation projects.
 - More information on our [**Agricultural Water Conservation Grants Program webpage**](#).



7

Financial Assistance Workshop



- In-depth presentations on TWDB funding opportunities
- Wednesday, March 4, 2026 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
- 210 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont TX 77703
- Reach out to Scott Galaway anytime with questions,
Scott.Galaway@twdb.texas.gov



8

Water Loss, Use, and Conservation webinars

- Required for TWDB funding to have up-to-date Water Conservation Plan, Water Loss Audits, and Water Loss Validation
- Upcoming webinar training sessions:
 - [Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CST](#)
 - [Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CST](#)
- More information can be found on the [Water Loss Auditor Training webpage](#).



9

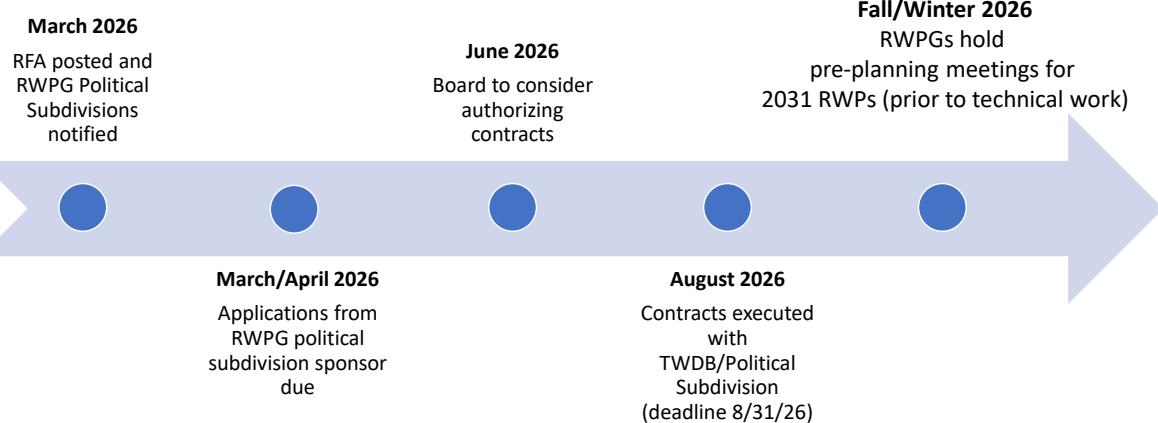
Regional Water Planning Recent & Upcoming Milestones

- **October 20, 2025:** Final, RWPG-adopted 2026 Regional Water Plans submitted to TWDB
- **January 22, 2026:** TWDB Board approved the 2026 Regional Water Plans
- **March 2026:** Next regional water planning cycle (2031 RWPs) contracting process to begin
- **April/May 2026:** TWDB Board to consider posting initial draft state water plan for public comment/hearing



10

Anticipated timeline for initial Request for Applications (RFA) for the 7th Cycle of Regional Water Planning (2031 Regional Water Plans)



Questions?

Heather Rose 
Regional Water Planner, TWDB
Heather.Rose@twdb.texas.gov

Region H 2026 Regional Water Plan – Administratively Complete

From RegionalWaterPlanning <RegionalWaterPlanning@twdb.texas.gov>

Date Mon 2025-10-27 12:07 PM

Dear Chairman Evans and Mr. Spear,

On October 13, 2025, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) received the final, adopted 2026 Regional Water Plan for Contract No. 2148302560 (Region H). As required by Section II, Article III, Paragraph G of the referenced contract, the TWDB has received:

- one (1) electronic copy of all electronic files on which the plan is based (e.g. spreadsheets, maps);
- two electronic copies of the regional water plan: one (1) in searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and one (1) in Microsoft Word (MSWord) format; and
- four (4) bound double-sided hard copies of the regional water plan.

TWDB staff have completed an administrative review of the final plan deliverable and found the submittal to be administratively complete in accordance with Contract Exhibit C, Section 2.12.2.

Congratulations on the completion of your 2026 Regional Water Plan! We anticipate presenting the 2026 regional water plans to the TWDB Board for approval at the January 22, 2026 TWDB Board meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Heather Rose.

Best,

Sarah N. Lee

Senior Advisor, Water Supply Planning
Interim Manager, Regional Water Planning
Texas Water Development Board
1700 N. Congress Ave., Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 936-2387
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www.twdb.texas.gov





Data Center, AI, and Bitcoin Facility Characteristics, Water Use, and Water Demand Projections

October 2025

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) proactively monitors the data center, artificial intelligence (AI), and Bitcoin industries and is exploring ways to collect the associated water use information and to develop associated manufacturing water demand projections to inform Texas' water planning process. This work includes reviewing available research and participating in information sharing and events with other entities like the Bureau of Economic Geology. Furthermore, the TWDB will assist with developing a study that the Public Utility Commission is required to perform under Rider 6 from the 89th Legislative Session to help understand the growth in these industries.

There are two factors of these developing industries that are relevant to water supply planning:

1. Direct water use: Onsite water use at each facility for cooling, operation, onsite power generation, etc.
2. Indirect water use: Water demands associated with the power to run these facilities

How does the TWDB capture data center, AI, and Bitcoin facility water use?

Through its annual water use survey, the TWDB collects information related to direct and indirect water use associated with known data center-related facilities. Depending on the location and scale of these facilities, their annual water use (direct water use)—including for general operations and cooling needs—is generally captured within reported commercial water uses. These reported uses are part of the overall municipal water use category for facilities that purchase their water supply from municipal water utilities.

Starting with the 2025 Water Use Survey (for 2024 water use), data center water use will be reclassified and tracked – to the extent possible – as a part of the manufacturing sector. This change will facilitate more explicit monitoring of the data center industry's water use as it develops. The TWDB also monitors industry developments, collects information on new facilities, and updates the agency water use survey to include newly identified sites each year.

The electricity needs for these facilities have associated water demand captured as part of the water use estimates associated with power generation. The TWDB relies primarily on reported information to develop its annual water use estimates and works to collect and verify water use information through secondary sources—especially for new and growing sectors, such as data centers.

It is important to distinguish water used directly for cooling data centers from water used to generate electricity utilized by these facilities. If these facilities purchase power from the Texas grid (ERCOT), the indirect water use is likely already captured in the water use survey for utility power plants if the power comes from fossil fuels—if the energy source is renewable, there is generally no associated water use. If a data facility has its own power plant that uses water, then this direct water use should be captured in the current water use 2024 surveys. Likewise, if data centers have self-supplied water sources or purchase water for direct cooling, that water use should be captured in the 2024 surveys.

How does the TWDB project future water demand for data center, AI, and Bitcoin facilities?

- The TWDB uses historical water use data to inform draft water demand projections for the regional and state water supply planning processes.
- The TWDB did not have specific and separate water use information for data center, AI, and Bitcoin facilities for the 2022 State Water Plan or the 2026 regional water plans. However, much of the water use associated with existing data centers is embedded in the base year water demands, as well as the near-term projected power-generation water demands to support them. When demand projections were developed for the 2026 regional plans and 2027 State Water Plan, the most current water use data available was from 2020, and the data was limited to one or two facilities.
- Regional water planning groups review draft demand projections and bring locally available data to the process to inform the final set of projections. However, none of the planning groups requested demand revisions based on these types of facilities for the 2026 regional plan projections.
- If a facility purchased its water from a public water system, its water use is already captured in the plans as municipal (commercial) use in the 2022 State Water Plan and 2026 regional water plans.
- The TWDB used projection methodologies for the 2026 regional and 2027 State Water Plan that generally capture the sector growth and use through
 - municipal demand for commercial-scale facilities **or** manufacturing demand for larger-scale facilities, **and**
 - steam-electric power generation for indirect water demands associated with electricity generation.

The TWDB uses projection methodology for manufacturing water demand that increases over the 50-year planning horizon as informed by data on historical manufacturing facility and water use growth. The increase in projected manufacturing demand captures future water use to an extent, even without a current firm estimate of data center, AI, and Bitcoin water use. However, the water demands associated with the long-term power demands related to data centers will remain

difficult to project for multiple reasons, not least of which are the varying amounts of water needed for various power sources and the uncertainty of where future facilities will be located.

Demand projections for future state water plans will consider multiple data sources and will likely rely on triangulation of available information to produce water demand projections, or ranges, for future data center water use due to such complicating factors as the variety of water-cooling methods and the development of behind-the-meter, onsite power generation. One of the most significant difficulties is anticipating where new facilities will be sited, since that information is generally proprietary and only becomes known close to their short build-out periods.

How does the water planning process address data center, AI, and Bitcoin water demand?

Data center, AI, and Bitcoin facility water use should be captured in the near-term projected water demands, and the regional water plans are produced every five years to adapt to changed conditions.

If planning groups have concerns about water demand projections for any water use sector, or if projections are lower than anticipated, planning groups can

- plan for volumes of supply development greater than identified potential water supply needs,
- amend their plans at any time to adjust or add recommended water management strategies, and/or
- amend the demand projections in their plans.



P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

January 15, 2026

Subject: Groundwater Availability Model Update for the northern portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System

Dear Groundwater Conservation District Representatives and Regional Water Planning Group Chairs:

As stated in the Texas Water Code § 16.012(l), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Executive Administrator is required to provide a completed groundwater availability model to each groundwater conservation district and regional planning group within the model study area.

We are pleased to share with you a copy of the updated groundwater availability model for the Gulf Coast Aquifer System (version 4.1). This model represents months of hard work by Keester et al. (2025) and stakeholders like you. We believe this model will be useful as a tool to help assess groundwater availability and the effects of pumping and drought on this aquifer system. Due to the technical nature of the model and associated files, we recommend that an experienced groundwater modeler be consulted to run the model or extract information from the associated files.

The model report and associated model files can be found on the TWDB website at: www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater/models/download.asp. If you would like a copy of this letter, the model report, and associated model files mailed to you, we can provide those upon request.

Please contact Dr. Daryn Hardwick at 512-475-0470 or daryn.hardwick@twdb.texas.gov if you have any questions or comments on this model or the Groundwater Modeling program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan McMath".

Bryan McMath
Executive Administrator

[Our Mission](#)

Leading the state's efforts
in ensuring a secure
water future for Texas

[Board Members](#)

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | W. Brady Franks, Board Member | Ashley Morgan, Board Member
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

Groundwater Availability Model Update for the northern portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer

System

January 12, 2025

Page 2

c w/o enc: Daryn Hardwick, Ph.D., Groundwater, TWDB

Natalie Ballew, P.G., Groundwater, TWDB

Zach Holland, General Manager, Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District

Beverly Hopkins, General Manager, Brazoria County Groundwater Conservation District

Sarah Kouba, General Manager, Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District

Gary Ashmore, General Manager, Lower Trinity Groundwater Conservation District

John Martin, Manager, Southeast Texas Groundwater Conservation District

Mike Turco, General Manager, Fort Bend Subsidence District

Mike Turco, General Manager, Harris-Galveston Subsidence District

John Martin, General Manager, Groundwater Management Area 14

Wayne Wilson, Chairman, Regional Water Planning Group Brazos G

Mark Evans, Chair, Regional Water Planning Group H

John Martin, Chairman, Regional Water Planning Group I

References

Keester, M.R., P. Webster, J. Beach, C. Drabek, and Y.H. Chen. 2025. Northern Portion of the Gulf Coast Aquifer System Groundwater Availability Model for Groundwater Management Area 14 Joint Planning.