

**Minutes of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
August 28, 2025**

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

25 of the 32 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

John Byrum	Robert Puente
Curt Campbell	Vanessa Puig-Williams
Andra Wisian	Humberto Ramos
Debbie Farmer	Weldon Riggs
Marisa Bruno for Charlie Flatten	Roland Ruiz
Steve Metzler	Darrell Brownlow
Michelle Shelton for Terrell Graham	Ryan Smith for Mitchell Sowards
Thomas Jungman	Jonathan Stinson
Aarin Teague	Paul Kite
Jason Ammerman	Mike Short for Ryan Kelso
Scooter Mangold	Dianne Wassenich
Andrew McBride	Adam Yablonski
Dwayne Crocker for Gary Middleton	
Travis Pruski	

Voting Members Absent:

Tim Andruss
Ryan Bayle
Vic Hilderbran
Daniel Meyer
Darren Simmons
Dan Yoxall

Non-Voting Members Present:

Tony Franklin, Texas Soil & Water Cons. Board
Michele Foss, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Jami McCool, TX Dept. of Agriculture
Carl Crull, Region N Liaison

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Carly Rotzler, TX Department of Parks and Wildlife
Tom Hegemier, Region K Liaison
Iliana Delgado, TCEQ
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J 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.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO.4: STATUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY TWDB

a. SUMMARY OF SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS – REGION L

Ms. Foss provided an update from TWDB on Regional Water Planning Area boundaries, noting that TWDB is required to review RWP boundaries at least once every 5 years. The deadline for public comments was June 30, 2025, and TWDB anticipates presenting boundary revision proposals to the Board in October 2025. She included that on the July 28, 2025 RWPG Chairs Call, which included a presentation on the Socioeconomic Impact Analysis for 2026 RWPs. Key deadlines were reviewed, including the September 22, 2025 deadline for RWP data entry and revisions, the October 20, 2025 deadline for final RWP submission to TWDB, and requirements that final DB27 data reports be available September 24, 2025 in SARA. TWDB distributed contract amendments for remaining committed funds for 2026 RWPs and is developing the schedule for 2031 RWPs with more information coming this fall.

She also presented the Socioeconomic Impact Analysis (SEIA), explaining that RWPGs must evaluate social and economic impacts of not meeting water needs under state regulations. TWDB's Projections & Socioeconomic Analysis department conducted the analysis using the IMPLAN 2021 input-output model to estimate potential lost income, taxes, and at-risk jobs during a single-year repeat of the drought of record with no mitigation strategies implemented.

For Region L, the analysis showed current water use totaling 904,179 acre-feet annually, with Municipal (485,732 acre-feet) and Irrigation (245,948 acre-feet) as the largest categories. The analysis projects significant increases in water needs through 2080, with Manufacturing needs growing from 39,765 to 58,272 acre-feet and economic impacts escalating from \$9.19 billion to \$12.10 billion in income losses. Municipal water needs show the most dramatic increase from 38,660 to 361,827 acre-feet, with income losses rising from \$319 million to \$2.798 billion. Irrigation needs remain stable at approximately 71,000-72,000 acre-feet with consistent impacts of \$35-36 million in income losses. Her presentation is available online at www.regionltexas.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5: 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 stating that they don't expect to get a new GAM model running anytime soon and need to hire a third-party consultant. He mentioned they recently had a TAG meeting but the board does not have funds to do what they need to do, and a legislative request is coming.

Mr. Brownlow reported that GMA 13 held a meeting on August 15th in Pleasanton with Kelley Cochran preparing meeting minutes. The meeting included updates from TWDB regarding the groundwater conservation grant program and its implementation process, a presentation explaining their research opportunities for the planning process, and a presentation by Dr. Bill Hutchison who was contracted by GMA 13 to assess the Maverick Aquifer. The assessment found the aquifer is 300-400 feet deep with significant oil content that would make development difficult, so they are not going to create a desired future condition for this aquifer. The most important discussion concerned Dr. Hutchison's presentation on HB 2078, which involves reviewing DFCs based on GAM simulations and comparison analysis, looking at data within the GMA to see how it compares to previous round pre-permitting approaches to reserve water for projects. The agenda also included status reports on Groundwater Availability Model updates/recalibrations and discussion on standardized methodology for tracking DFCs, as well as work schedule and timeline for the 4th round of DFCs. GMA 13 conducted a deep dive review of their groundwater availability model.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6: CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING PRESENTATION BY TECHNICAL CONSULTANT REGARDING SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS UPDATES

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update from Black & Veatch regarding schedule progress, updates on completed and ongoing efforts. Her presentation covered the project timeline leading to key deadlines including March 3, 2025 for the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) and October 20, 2025 for the final plan submission. She reported that the Region L IPP was successfully submitted to TWDB on March 3, 2025 and declared administratively complete on March 5, 2025. Public meetings were held on May 21, 2025 (Public Hearing) and July 2, 2025 (Virtual Informational Meeting), with public and agency comments accepted through July 20, 2025. TWDB released the Region L Socioeconomic Impact Analysis report on June 25, 2025, which will be included as Appendix 6A in the final plan. She outlined ongoing work including updating Chapter 10 on public outreach and interregional coordination, continuing TWDB Database (DB27) data entry with coordination with TWDB for revisions, and preparing responses to comments received during the public comment period. Her presentation is available online at www.regionltexas.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7: CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO APPROVE PROPOSED RESPONSES REGARDING THE PUBLIC COMMENTS AND AGENCY COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN (IPP) FOR THE 2026 SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS (REGION L) REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Ms. Gonzalez presented proposed responses to 64 written comments received during the IPP comment period, including 47 TWDB comments (27 Level 1 and 20 Level 2) and 17 public and other agency comments. The TWDB Level 1 comments primarily addressed corrections to water demand projection tables, clarifying information, correcting values inconsistent with DB27, and implementation status updates for water management strategies. Key TWDB comments addressed advanced metering infrastructure categorization in water conservation strategies, unit costs for municipal water conservation, quantitative measures of reliability for water management strategies, and explanations for unallocated recommended strategy volumes. Public and agency comments included one formal comment from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department commending Region L's emphasis on conservation while raising concerns about groundwater development impacts, two comments from Water User Groups including Aqua WSC and Canyon Regional Water Authority, eleven comments opposing proposed groundwater projects in Gonzales County's Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, and three other public comments. The group was asked to approve proposed SCTRWPG responses to comments submitted by TWDB, TPWD, Aqua WSC, and the public, and approve incorporation of proposed responses into the Final 2026 Region L Regional Water Plan.

Mr. Stinson motioned to approve the proposed SCTRWPG responses to comments that were submitted by TWDB, TPWD, Aqua WSC, and the public as well as approve incorporation of proposed responses into the Final 2026 Region L Regional Water Plan. Mr. Metzler seconded, the motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING PROPOSED UPDATE TO CRWA WELLS RANCH III PROJECT AS PRESENTED IN SCTRWPG 2025 IPP

Ms. Gonzalez presented issues related to Canyon Regional Water Authority's (CRWA) Wells Ranch Phase 3 Project, noting inconsistencies identified between DB27 and the IPP after CRWA requested revisions in May 2025. CRWA submitted formal comments in July 2025 requesting corrections to Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG)-constrained yields, cost estimate updates using sponsor-supplied data, customer allocation revisions, and revision of Major Water Providers definition to identify CRWA as a MWP. The Executive Committee met on August 30, 2025 and evaluated two options to address the inconsistency: a Hybrid Option placing the project in both Guadalupe and Gonzales Counties with no redistribution of MAG-constrained yields, and a Gonzales-only Option placing the project solely in Gonzales County with redistribution of MAG-constrained yields affecting other projects in Gonzales County. The Executive Committee recommended pursuing the Gonzales-only Option. Proposed SCTRWPG responses included updating MAG-constrained yields for consistency, declining to update cost estimates and customer allocations due to missed deadlines, and declining to revise the Major Water Providers definition since CRWA doesn't meet current criteria but noting the definition will be revisited in the next planning cycle. The group was asked to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation for the Gonzales-only Option, approve proposed responses to CRWA comments, and approve incorporation of responses into the Final 2026 Region L Regional Water Plan.

Mr. Puente requested to remove the specific language "and due to time constraints at this stage of plan development" in the proposed response to CRWA on their comments 2 and 3. Consensus was reached to strike this section.

Mr. McBride motioned to approve the recommendation from the Executive Committee to pursue the Gonzales-only Option for the CRWA Wells Ranch (Phase 3) Project; approve proposed SCTRWPG responses to the comments submitted by CRWA *as amended*; and approve incorporation of the proposed responses to CRWA comments into the Final 2026 Region L Regional Water Plan. Mr. Mangold seconded, the 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 October 2, 2025, at 9:30 AM.

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

Mr. Ted Boriack, a Gonzales County resident and vice president of the Water Protection Association, provided oral public comment and submitted extensive written comments criticizing Region L's proposed responses to Gonzales County residents' concerns about groundwater export projects. His comments alleged that Region L's responses constitute a "minimal effort dismissal" that violates TWDB requirements for meaningful engagement. He raised concerns about over-permitting of groundwater, impacts on non-leasing landowners, agricultural importance of Gonzales County, inaccurate population projections, inefficient power generation, unrealistic groundwater availability projections, and opposition to ASR projects. He specifically criticized GBRA's inclusion of 9,000 acre-feet per year of Carrizo groundwater production that was denied by the Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District board on June 10, 2025. He requested detailed IPP revisions, addition of a Gonzales County voting member to the planning group, expanded socioeconomic studies, rejection of ASR projects in Gonzales County, local hearings for groundwater projects, and suspension of exporter projects from the GCUWCD area.

AGENDA ITEM NO.12: ADJOURN

Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.