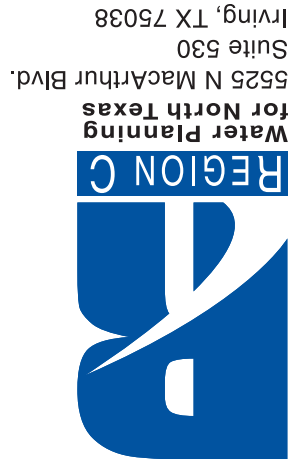


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Parker  
Rockwall  
Tarrant  
Wise

# REGION C

Water Planning for North Texas

Fall 2007 Newsletter



## Region C Water Planning Group Invites Public to Attend Public Meetings

Public attendance is welcome at all Region C Water Planning Group Meetings, and attending members of the public have an opportunity for comment on the Planning Group's activities during each meeting.

**Next Meeting (tentative):**  
Monday, December 10, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

### Meeting Location:

Trinity River Authority  
Central Wastewater Treatment Plant  
6500 W. Singleton Blvd.  
Grand Prairie, TX 75212  
(972) 263-2251

\*Please Note: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend the Region C Water Planning Group meeting – and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as mobility assistance, interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing-impaired, readers, large print, or Braille – are requested to contact Lee Shaffer in the TRA Central Wastewater Treatment Plant at (972) 263-2251 at least (5) work days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

For more information about the Region C Water Planning Group, contact:  
James (Jim) M. Parks, RCWPG Chair  
North Texas Municipal Water District  
P.O. Box 2408  
Wylie, TX 75098  
Phone: 972.442.5405  
E-mail: jparks@ntmwd.com

To be added to the RCWPG newsletter mailing list, send your name and mailing address to Colby Walton via e-mail, colby@cookseypr.com, or via fax to 972-580-0852.

Visit [www.regioncwater.org](http://www.regioncwater.org) for the latest updates on RCWPG activities, meetings and other water planning news.

## Planning Group Undertakes Special Studies for 2007-2009

As regional water planning efforts enter a third round of planning – after two five-year planning periods that commenced in 1997 – Regional Water Planning Groups such as the Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) have been directed by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to take a different approach from that employed in previous planning periods.

For the third round of regional water planning, each Regional Water Planning Group statewide will primarily focus on conducting special studies that advance proposed water management strategies towards implementation, update information due to changed conditions, address problems realized during the previous planning cycle, make refinements for small communities and rural county populations, or provide for interregional cooperation.

Prior to the start of this third round of planning, the RCWPG submitted a request to the TWDB for funding for the first two years' worth of studies. Subsequently, the TWDB approved funding for four types of studies in Region C, as well as administrative and public participation activities to support the Planning Group's efforts. The following is a brief description of the studies that the RCWPG will undertake over the next two years:

**Study 1** *Further Implementation of Water Conservation and Reuse Strategies*  
–Total Cost \$298,800

This study will examine the initial performance of water conservation and reuse strategies that have already been implemented within Region C. The RCWPG and its consultants will gather information on these projects and assess their performance, enhance coordination among Water User Groups and encourage a consistent approach to water conservation across Region C. In addition, this study will update the recommendations for implementation of water conservation and reuse strategies.

The study will include four critical tasks, with a final report expected to be completed by Sept. 2008:

(1) *Survey of water providers in Region C*, to identify which of the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force water conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been implemented within Region C, see how effective these BMPs have been, assess public reaction to the BMPs implemented, determine future water conservation plans, gather information on the cost of BMP implementation and gather information on reuse projects and supplies.

## Planning Group Elects New Members and Officers, Appoints Regional Liaisons

Since the conclusion of the second round of Regional Water Planning, the Region C Water Planning Group (RCWPG) elected new members to replace members with expiring terms in late 2006. The following members have been newly elected, or re-elected, to the RCWPG, for the term Nov. 2006 through Nov. 2011 (with interest group representation noted after each name):

**Steve Berry (new member) – Environment**  
**Jerry Chapman (re-elected) – Water Districts**  
**Frank Crumb (new member) – Municipalities**  
**Bill Lewis (new member) – Small Business**  
**Jim McCarter (re-elected) – Water Utilities**

**Jim Parks (re-elected) – Water Districts**  
**Paul Phillips (re-elected) – Municipalities**  
**Jody Puckett (new member) – Municipalities**  
**Mary Vogelson (re-elected) – Public**  
**Dr. Tom Woodward (new member) – Agriculture**

Additionally, the following officers have been elected to serve as leaders of the RCWPG through the end of 2007:

**Jim Parks, Chairman**  
**Jody Puckett, Vice Chair**  
**Secretary – currently vacant**

The RCWPG also recently re-appointed the following individuals as liaisons to neighboring water planning regions:

**Region B – Jerry Chapman**  
**Region D – Mike Rickman**  
**Region G – currently vacant**  
**Region H – Danny Vance**  
**Region I – Connie Standridge**

We salute the individuals listed above, as well as all members of the RCWPG, for their commitment to the regional water planning effort and for their dedication of a significant amount of time and attention to regional water issues.

(2) *Information and data gathering*, to identify changed conditions that may affect conservation and reuse strategies in Region C, assess water quantities used before and after implementation of the BMPs, gather additional cost information on BMP implementation, review public education and information approaches implemented by various entities and review the procedures used to address water loss, leakage and leak detection issues by selected water suppliers within the region.

(3) *Assessment of performance*, including detailed analysis of water data and reuse data, comparison of actual BMP performance versus the proposed performance indicated in the Water Conservation Implementation Task Force report and the 2006 Region C Water Plan, cost analysis relative to the proposed costs anticipated by the committee report and Regional Water Plan, assessment of the probability of achieving Region C water conservation and reuse goals and various other assessments.

(4) *Update implementation plan*, based on the information developed above, including development of new implementation recommendations, coordination with Region H on environmental flow considerations, assessment of regional development patterns that could impact future population densities, projection of future return flows from Region C, review of the instream flow model in coordination with Region H and delivery of a report describing this study.

## Study 2 Interregional Study of Toledo Bend Reservoir –Total Cost \$40,500

Region I will lead this study, with input from Regions C and D, to analyze the water supply available in the Toledo Bend Reservoir for delivery to the northern area of Texas. This study is a cooperative effort designed to examine inter-regional coordination, potential pipeline routes, importation of species, potential impacts to bays, estuaries and instream flows, and updated cost estimates.

Region C will coordinate with Region I on demand refinement and the potential for supplying raw water to smaller entities along the proposed pipeline route, and Region C will also review routing studies, the impacts on receiving reservoirs, impacts to bays and estuaries, and updated cost estimates.

A final memorandum for this project is anticipated to be presented in mid-2008.

## Study 3 Further Implementation of Direct Reuse and Indirect Reuse Pilot Projects –Total Cost \$139,900

This study includes the City of Fort Worth's direct reuse project, which will serve a developing area in the southwest portion of the city, and the Athens Municipal Water Authority/City of Athens indirect reuse project, which is designed to augment their water supply. To further the implementation of these water reuse projects, the RCWPG will develop information to establish appropriate barriers for protecting the safety and health of water users, to confirm the financial feasibility of the projects and to further develop design and operational considerations.

Final reports relating to each reuse pilot project are anticipated to be presented to the RCWPG and TWDB in early 2009.

## Study 4 Regional System Implementation Plans –Total Cost \$435,600

This study will develop implementation plans for regional water supply systems in rapidly urbanizing and rural areas in Region C. Groundwater will be insufficient to meet the growing demands in these areas, so an immediate shift from groundwater to surface water supplies is necessary. This study will coordinate various approaches and develop specific implementation strategies for regional systems.

Three critical tasks will be undertaken as part of this study, to address the specific regional system needs of areas within Region C:

(1) *Water supply study for Ellis County, Southwest Dallas County, Southeast Tarrant County and Johnson County.* This area in the southern part of the Metroplex is undergoing rapid growth, so the creation of a regional water supply system to meet future needs may be desirable. Region C work items will be related to Dallas, Ellis and Tarrant County participants, and work efforts will be coordinated with the Brazos G Region for those water users in Johnson County. Activities anticipated as part of this task will include initial meetings and data gathering, review of population and demand projections through 2030 in the study area, water supply plan development, final coordination and production of a report in conjunction with the Brazos G Planning Group.

(2) *Parker and Wise Counties.*

The City of Weatherford and Walnut Creek Special Utility District (SUD) are wholesale water providers that supply treated water to several of the water user groups in Parker County. The Trinity Aquifer also serves as a primary water supply source for Parker County. Water user groups in Wise County also obtain a considerable amount of water from the Walnut Creek SUD. This task anticipates meetings with various water user groups in both Parker and Wise Counties to discuss population and demand projections, planned water management strategies, other water issues and strategies, and possible roles for the City of Weatherford and Walnut Creek SUD as regional providers. The RCWPG will develop a specific implementation plan with water management strategy recommendations.

(3) *Other county meetings, with Cooke, Grayson, Fannin, Freestone, North Kaufman and Navarro Counties.*

RCWPG consultants will meet with water user groups in each of these counties to discuss their population and demand projections and seek input on other water issues and management strategies.

Final reports on the Dallas-Ellis-Johnson-Tarrant County Area plans and Parker-Wise County plans are anticipated in late 2008, and a memorandum summarizing input from other studies counties will also be prepared in 2008.

## New Legislation Supports Proposed Region C Reservoirs, Conservation Activities, Groundwater Regulation

During the 80th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, the state's elected representatives made water planning one of their key priorities and passed an omnibus water bill, SB 3, along with other critical legislation that, taken together, gauges the flow of rivers, promotes conservation and identifies new reservoir sites.

The new **reservoir site designations** were the most controversial element of the proposed legislation. As approved, the final version of SB 3, authored by Sen. Kip Averitt and sponsored by Rep. Robert Puente, does not explicitly contain any reservoir designations, but the bill does stipulate that if the Texas Water Development Board's (TWDB) State Water Plan recommends those sites for designation, then they are so designated.

The compromise worked out by the House-Senate Conference Committee effectively restores the proposed Marvin Nichols and Fastrill reservoirs included in the 2006 Region C Water Plan, which had previously been omitted from SB 3. As a protection to rural property owners, the bill sunsets reservoir designations on Sept. 1, 2015, unless the project sponsor votes prior to that deadline to pay for the filing of permit applications.

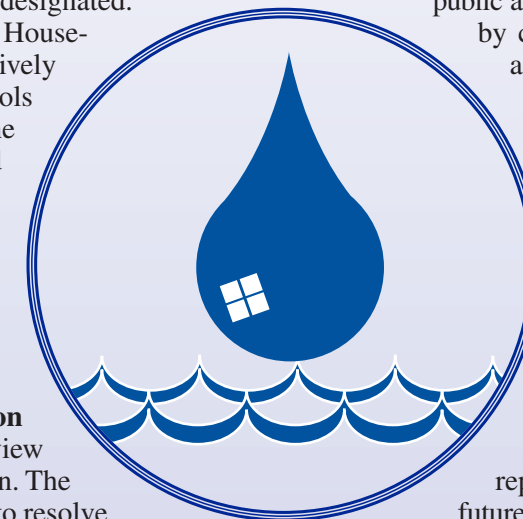
SB 3 also creates a **Study Commission on Region C Water Supply**, to review water supply alternatives for the region. The special study approach was designed to resolve differences between the Region C and Region D (Northeast Texas) Water Planning Groups. The commission will consist of three members selected by the RCWPG and three members selected by the RDWPG. On Oct. 1, 2007 the RCWPG designated State Senator Florence Shapiro, State Representative Jodie Laubenberg and RCWPG Chairman Jim Parks as its appointees to the joint study commission. The commission's efforts are expected to begin in late 2007 and conclude with the delivery of a report to the TWDB by Dec. 1, 2010.

SB 3 protects the state's rivers, bays and estuaries by creating an **Environmental Flows Advisory Group** to oversee regional, consensus-based Bay and Basin Stakeholders Committees, which would be responsible for developing environmental flow standard recommendations for consideration by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Similarly, HB 3, authored by Rep. Puente and sponsored by Sen. Averitt, contains certain provisions protecting environmental flows and requiring the involvement of a TWDB member on the Environmental Flows Advisory Group.

SB 3 and HB 4, authored by Rep. Puente and sponsored by Sen. Averitt, together promote water conservation through the establishment of a **Water Conservation Advisory Council**, whose 23 members representing various federal and state agencies and water interest groups will report annually on the best conservation practices being implemented around the state. On Aug. 27, 2007, the TWDB appointed RCWPG Chairman Jim Parks to represent River Authorities on the council, with a term expiring in 2009.

The new legislation also authorizes a **statewide awareness program to educate citizens about water conservation.**

Private businesses, nonprofits and members of the public are encouraged to support the campaign by contacting the TWDB's Carla Dawes at [carla.dawes@twdb.state.tx.us](mailto:carla.dawes@twdb.state.tx.us), as legislators did not provide funding for the campaign as part of the authorizing legislation.



However, the Texas Legislature did pass a critical appropriations measure, HB 1, which provides total project funding from bond proceeds of \$762.4 million, for **implementation of water management strategies** included in the 2007 State Water Plan. These funds represent a critical investment in the future water supply, distribution and delivery systems that serve communities statewide, including those in Region C.

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In other measures, the Legislature passed bills establishing the **Northern Trinity Groundwater Conservation District (GCD)** – located in Tarrant County – and providing for the formation of the **Upper Trinity Groundwater Conservation District**, which consists of Hood, Montague, Parker and Wise Counties. These bills were initiated in response to local concerns about the impact of Barnett Shale natural gas exploration and rapid population growth on groundwater supplies, in areas where groundwater forms a significant percentage of currently available water supplies.

The Northern Trinity GCD has no taxing or bond-issuing authority and requires no confirmation election to be established. The Upper Trinity GCD has no taxing power but may impose specified fees and may require exempt wells to comply with spacing regulations. The district must be confirmed by a local election before Sept. 1, 2009.