

CHAPTER 10
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
AND PLAN ADOPTION

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10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PLAN ADOPTION

The Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) members recognized from the beginning the importance of involving the public in the planning process. Chapter 10 contains an overview of the Plateau Water Planning Group (PWPG) representation, the Group's commitment to public involvement, rural outreach, administrative planning process, specific activities that insured that the public was informed and involved in the planning process, and the implementation of the *Plan*. Chapter 10 appendices contain comments and responses on the Initially Prepared Plan by the Public (Appendix 10A), TWDB (Appendix 10B), and TPWD (Appendix 10C).

10.1 PLATEAU WATER PLANNING GROUP

The TWDB appointed an initial coordinating body or PWPG for the original Region J based on names submitted by the public for consideration. The PWPG then voted to change its name to Plateau and expanded its membership based on their knowledge of additional persons who could appropriately represent water user groups (WUGs) (Table 10-1). Non-voting members representing interested State agencies and adjacent planning regions are listed in Table 10-2. State planning provisions mandate that one or more representatives of the following WUGs be seated on each planning group: agriculture, counties, electric generating utilities, environment, industries, municipalities, river authorities, public, small business, water districts, and water utilities. An electric generating utility does not exist within the Plateau Region and is therefore not represented. In addition to the other 10 categories, the PWPG chose to appoint a member to represent the tourism industry because of its prevalence in the Region. Also, to insure adequate geographic representation, the PWPG made sure that at least one member was selected from each of the six counties. Membership was also extended to represent the three Groundwater Management Areas within the Region. Staff persons from both the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Department of Agriculture were also appointed as non- voting members.

**Table 10-1. Plateau Water Planning Group Voting Members
(Effective August 8, 2024)**

Water Use Category	Committee Member	County	Entity
Agricultural	Wes Robinson	Kinney	Kinney County
Counties	Vacant	Edwards	Edwards County
Environmental	Tully Shahan	Kinney	Attorney At Law
Industries	Jess Erlund	Kerr	Aqua Texas
Municipalities	Carlos Velarde	Val Verde	Val Verde County
	Vacant	Kerr	City of Kerrville
Other	Jerry Simpton	Val Verde	The Bank and Trust
	Feathergail Wilson	Bandera	Strata Geological Services
Public	Dell Dickinson	Val Verde	Skyline Ranch
	Max Martin	Edwards, Kinney, Val Verde	Martin Ranch Mgmt.
	Brian Leiker	Bandera, Kerr, Real	Real-Edwards Conservation & Reclamation District
River Authorities	Tara Bushnoe	Kerr	UGRA
Small Business	Jonathan Letz (Chair)	Kerr	Kerr County
Tourism	Homer Stevens	Bandera	The Farm Country Club & RV Park
Water Districts	Roland Trees	Real	Real-Edwards Conservation & Reclamation District
	Gene Williams (Secretary)	Kerr	Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District
	David Mauk	Bandera	Bandera County River Authority & Groundwater Conservation District
	Marti Payne	Kinney	Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District
Water Utilities	Charlie Wiedenfeld	Kerr	Wiedenfeld Water Works, Inc.
GMA	Genell Hobbs (Vice Chair)		GMA 7
	David Jeffery		GMA 9
	Genell Hobbs (Vice Chair)		GMA 10

Table 10-2. Plateau Water Planning Group Non-Voting Members (Effective August 8, 2024)

Committee Member	Entity
Lann Bookout	Texas Water Development Board
Carol Faulkenberry	Texas Department of Agriculture
JD Lawrence (Alternate)	
Lindsey Elkins	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
Sarah Robertson (Alternate)	
Kendria Ray	Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board
Kenn Norris	Region E Liaison
Paul Tybor	Region K Liaison
Con Mims	Region L Liaison
Tomas Rodriguez	Region M Liaison
Carl Schwing	Region J Liaison to Region M

10.1.1 Interregional Planning Council

The TWDB is required by Texas Water Code Section 16.052 to appoint an Interregional Planning Council made up of one member from each regional water planning group (RWPG). The purpose of the Council is to:

- Improve coordination among the RWPGs, and between the RWPGs and the TWDB in meeting goals of the State water planning process;
- Facilitate dialogue regarding regional water management strategies; and
- Share operational best practices of the regional water planning process.

The PWPG has appointed Jonathan Letz to this position.

10.1.2 Rural Outreach Efforts

The majority of the Plateau Planning Area encompasses a multitude of rural communities. Engagement with these communities has always been a critical component of regional water planning for the PWPG. Rural outreach has helped to improve data accuracy, promote sustainable practices, build stronger relationships which has increased participation, provide opportunities for learning, better understand the unique needs and priorities of the communities, and help to spread knowledge, connecting people with resources.

This *Plan* is largely supported by information provided by WUGs based on numerous survey results. For example, information needed to report on population and water demand projection revisions were collected through a survey (Section 2.1.1 and 2.1.2). Information needed to report on existing supplies and supply capacity (Chapter 3), infeasible water management strategies (WMSs) (Chapter 5), implementation and timing of the WMSs (Chapter 9) and drought information, activities and responses (Chapter 7) are all examples of where rural outreach and engagement were performed for the development of this *Plan*.

Surveys were distributed to all the identified WUGs within the Region. In addition, telephone follow-up calls were conducted to ensure responses from each WUG had been received. The results of these surveys are presented in multiple tables throughout the *Plan*.

10.2 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The PWPG functions through procedures set forth in their adopted bylaws and follow planning guidelines established by Legislative rule and TWDB contractual guidelines. With planning funds administered through TWDB, the PWPG then hires technical consultants to perform the work of preparing the regional plan for planning group review and adoption. Work required completing the Plan follows well-defined guidelines intended to meet the mandated legislation and to establish a degree of format uniformity between plans submitted by all 16 planning regions. The PWPG operates its administrative function through the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA), which oversees contractual and budgetary obligations. All meetings of the PWPG are open to the public and meet Open Meetings Act requirements.

To provide a public access point, an internet website called the [Plateau Water Planning Group](#) contains timely information that includes names of planning group members, bylaws, meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, meeting backup materials, and important documents, including groundwater conservation district management plans, technical reports, draft chapters for review, planning schedules and budgets, and links to water-related sites. Summaries of most of the planning group meetings were e-mailed to the full list of interested parties, to enable persons who were unable to attend to stay up to date on the planning process. Every document that was e-mailed or mailed to Planning Group Members for their review was also e-mailed to the interested parties list, made available on the PWPG website, and provided in hard copy at all public meetings. In addition, news stories concerning water planning-related issues were regularly distributed to all interested parties.

10.3 PLANNING GROUP MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

All activities associated with the Regional Water Planning Process were performed in accordance with the State Open Meetings Act. All meetings of the PWPG, including committee meetings, are open to the public where visitors are afforded the opportunity and encouraged to voice their opinions, concerns, or suggestions. Meetings are primarily held in Kerrville Texas. Meeting notices are posted with the County Commissioners' Courts of each county.

All material to be presented at public meetings and all draft and final *Plan* documents were made available for public inspection on the Planning Group's website hosted by the UGRA in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act.

A public hearing was held on February 20, 2025, to receive comments on the *2026 Initially Prepared Plan*. Notice of the Public Hearings was sent to 334 down-river water rights holders as well as to each county commissioner's court and designated libraries. A hard copy of the *Initially Prepared Plan* was provided to UGRA, made available at the front desk. An electronic copy was made available on the [Upper Guadalupe River Authority](#) website. In addition, electronic copies were made available in the courthouse and a designated library in each of the Regions' six counties listed below.

- Bandera County Library
- Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library (Kerr County)
- Claud H. Gilmer Memorial Library (Edwards County)
- Kinney County Public Library
- Real County Public Library
- Val Verde County Library

Prior to receiving official comments during the public hearing, a question and answer session was held so that the public attendees would have an opportunity to gain a better understanding of how the draft *Plan* was formulated. At the conclusion of the hearing, the public was notified that there would be a 60-day period in which the PWPG would continue to receive written comments. The TWDB and TPWD also reviewed the *Initially Prepared Plan* and provided comments. Responses to agency and public comments are provided in Appendix 10A, Appendix 10B and Appendix 10C. On X, the PWPG met in a public forum and approved the final *2026 Plateau Region Water Plan* for submittal to the TWDB.

10.4 COORDINATION WITH OTHER REGIONS

Coordination with other regions was accomplished through liaisons shared with adjacent regions (Regions E, F, K, L and M) and through active participation in Chairs Conferences scheduled by the TWDB.

10.5 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Following final adoption of the *2026 Plateau Region Water Plan*, copies of the *Plan* were provided to each municipality and county commissioners' court in the Region. An electronic copy of the *Plan* is also available on the UGRA and TWDB websites.

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APPENDIX 10A

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

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RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

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APPENDIX 10B

RESPONSE TO TWDB COMMENTS

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RESPONSE TO TWDB COMMENTS

APPENDIX 10C

RESPONSE TO TPWD COMMENTS

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RESPONSES TO TPWD COMMENTS