



**NOTICE OF THE SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
A REGULAR SRBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.  
AT THE MOUNT PLEASANT CIVIC CENTER, 1800 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
MOUNT PLEASANT, TEXAS  
ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

*Notice is hereby given per the Texas Open Meeting Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, that the Board of Directors of the Sulphur River Basin Authority will conduct a meeting open to the public, on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., at the Mount Pleasant Civic Center, 1800 North Jefferson Street, Mount Pleasant, Texas.*

*The Board of Directors may discuss, consider, and take all necessary action, including possible expenditure of funds, regarding any of the items below. The Board of Directors is authorized by The Texas Open Meeting Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, to convene in a closed executive session for certain purposes at any time to discuss items on the board meeting agenda. These purposes include receiving legal advice from its Attorney (Section 551.071); discussing real property matter (Section 551.072); discussing gifts and donations (Section 551.073); discussing personnel matter (Section 551.074); discussing security personnel or devices (Section 551.076); or discussing economic development matter (Section 551.087). If the Board of Directors makes a determination to go into closed executive session on any item on this agenda, the Presiding Officer, will announce that a closed executive session will be held and will identify the item to be discussed and provision of The Open Meeting Act that authorizes the closed executive session.*

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Call to Order.**
- 2. Invocation.**
- 3. Roll Call and Announcement of Quorum.**
- 4. Public Comments.**

*Public comments will be accepted only during designated portions of the Board meeting. If a member of the public inquires about an item that is not on the agenda, the Board may not deliberate or discuss the topic except to provide brief factual information or direct the Executive Director to place the topic on a future agenda. At the presiding officer's discretion, speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes to facilitate the opportunity to comment by all those so interested and to support the orderly flow of the meeting.*

- 5. Consent Agenda Items.**

*The Consent Agenda allows the Board of Directors to approve all routine, noncontroversial items with a single motion, without the need for discussion by the entire Board. Any item may be removed from consent agenda and considered individually upon request of a Board member or Authority staff, or at the request of a member of the public.*

**(A) Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on the Minutes for the October 15, 2024, Board Meeting and the October 29, 2024, Board Workshop.**

**(B) Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on the Monthly Financial Reports.**

This item will include a presentation of the Board Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Reports. Staff recommends approval.

Action Item: Consider the Motion to Adopt the Consent Agenda.

**6. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approving the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report, Wilf & Henderson, P.C.**

This item will include a presentation by Carol Wilder with Wilf & Henderson, P.C. and discussion and possible action on the FY 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Reports. Staff recommends approval.

Action Item: Consider a Motion to approve the FY 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditors Report.

**7. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approving Additional Vendor on the ACH/Electronic Payment List.**

This item will include discussion and possible action on adding Music Mountain Water Company to the list of authorized vendors to be paid by ACH/Electronic Payment. Staff recommends approval.

Action Item: Consider a Motion to approve the addition of Music Mountain Water Company to the Authorized ACH/Electronic Payment List.

**8. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approving the Canceling of the December 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.**

This item will include discussion and possible action on canceling the December 17, 2024 Board of Directors meeting. Staff recommends approval.

Action Item: Consider a Motion to cancel the December 17, 2024 Board Meeting.

**9. Updates on the Clean Rivers Program (Randy Rushin-Water Monitoring Solutions).**

*Prepared in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.  
The preparation of this report was financed in part through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.*

This item will include discussion and possible action regarding activities with the Clean Rivers Program.

**10. Regional Entities Reports:**

**(A) Funding Partners**

**(B) Riverbend Water Resources District**

**(C) Region D Water Planning Group**

**(D) Region 2 Flood Planning Group**

This item will include a discussion and possible action regarding the activities of the above-listed entities.

**11. Reports and Update from Executive Director:**

- (A) Nowhere to Go – Dallas Morning News**
- (B) Lake Texoma Pump Station, Redraw Border With Oklahoma – Texas Tribune**
- (C) Rural River Authority Coalition**
- (D) Board Tour of Lake Ralph Hall**
- (E) Grant Workshop Update**
- (F) Partner Outreach and Development**

This item will include discussion and possible action regarding the above-listed reports and updates.

**12. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on New Business to be Placed on a Future Meeting Agenda.**

This agenda item will include discussion and possible action on future agenda items.

Action Item: Possible Motion to place items discussed on the agenda of a future meeting.

**13. Announcements from the Chairman/Board and/or Staff.**

**14. Next Regular Meeting**

Sulphur River Basin Authority Regular Meeting, January 21, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Mount Pleasant Civic Center, 1800 North Jefferson Street, Mount Pleasant, Texas.

**15. Adjournment.**

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Sulphur River Basin Authority is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please call David Weidman, Executive Director, at (903) 223-7887 for information.



# AGENDA

NOTICE OF THE SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
A REGULAR SRBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.  
AT THE MOUNT PLEASANT CIVIC CENTER, 1800 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
MOUNT PLEASANT, TEXAS  
ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

*Notice is hereby given per the Texas Open Meeting Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, that the Board of Directors of the Sulphur River Basin Authority will conduct a meeting open to the public, on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., at the Mount Pleasant Civic Center, 1800 North Jefferson Street, Mount Pleasant, Texas.*



- 
- 1. Call to Order.**
  - 2. Invocation.**
  - 3. Roll Call and Announcement of Quorum.**





#### 4. Public Comments.

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**5. Consent Agenda Items.**

*The Consent Agenda allows the Board of Directors to approve all routine, noncontroversial items with a single motion, without the need for discussion by the entire Board. Any item may be removed from consent agenda and considered individually upon request of a Board member or Authority staff, or at the request of a member of the public.*

**(A) Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on the Minutes for the October 15, 2024, Board Meeting and the October 29, 2024, Board Workshop.**

**(B) Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on the Monthly Financial Reports.**

This item will include a presentation of the Board Meeting Minutes and Monthly Financial Reports. Staff recommends approval.

Action Item: Consider the Motion to Adopt the Consent Agenda.



**SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
TITUS COUNTY CIVIC CENTER  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024**

## **MINUTES**

PRESENT: Wally Kraft, Vice President  
Kirby Hollingsworth, Director  
Emily Glass, Director  
Reeves Hayter, Director

STAFF: David Weidman, Executive Director  
Christi McIntosh, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT: Kelly Mitchell, Chairman, Gary Cheatwood, Director

VISITORS: Sandy Cash, Brandon Walker, Matthew McAdoo

**ITEM# 1: Call to Order:**

Vice President, Wally Kraft called the meeting to order at 1:07 P.M.

**ITEM# 2: Invocation:**

The Invocation was given by Director Reeves Hayter.

**ITEM# 3: Roll Call and Announcement of Quorum:**

Vice President Wally Kraft, and Directors Kirby Hollingsworth, Emily Glass, and Reeves Hayter were in attendance. A quorum was present.

**ITEM# 4: Public Comments:**

None.

**ITEM# 5: Consent Agenda Items:**

**(A). Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approving the Minutes for September 17, 2024 Board Meeting.**

**(B). Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on the Monthly Financial Reports:**

A motion was made by Director Kirby Hollingsworth and seconded by Director Emily Glass to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion carried with all members present voting AYE.

September 17, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes and the Monthly Financial Reports are attached.

**ITEM# 6: Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approving the Sponsorship and Funding for Grant Workshop in Partnership with ATCOG, Region 2 Flood Planning Group, and Halff Engineers.**

A motion was made by Director Reeves Hayter and seconded by Director Kirby Hollingsworth to approve the Sponsorship and Funding for the Grant Workshop not to exceed the amount of \$2,000.00.

The motion carried with all members present voting AYE.

**ITEM# 7: Updates on the Clean Rivers Program (Randy Rushin – Water Monitoring Solutions)**

Water Monitoring Solutions provided a written update.

The update is attached.

**ITEM# 8: Regional Entities Reports:**

**(A) Funding Partners** – Sandy Cash gave a brief report on behalf of Upper Trinity Regional Water District. He stated that the weather has been great for moving things along on construction at Lake Ralph Hall.

**(B) Riverbend Water Resources District** – No report.

**(C) Region D Water Planning Group** – The Executive Director stated that Region D has a Special Called Meeting on October 30, 2024, as a follow-up to the Region C Meeting last month regarding the Marvin Nichols Reservoir.

**(D) Region 2 Flood Planning Group** – Director Reeves Hayter gave a report for Region 2 Water Planning Group stating that the group met at North Texas Municipal Water District's new operations center at Bois D'Arc Lake on October 3, 2024. The meeting was

mainly discussing the cycle two schedule, as well as the seminar-workshop. The next meeting will be in Mount Pleasant on November 2, 2024.

**ITEM# 9: Reports and Updates from Executive Director:**

- (A) 2026 Region C Presentation on Marvin Nichols Reservoir Project** – The Executive Director stated earlier in the meeting that the staff and Director Kirby Hollingsworth attended the Region C Presentation on Marvin Nichols Reservoir Project. He noted that Region C invited Region D to attend the meeting and voice their concerns regarding the project. Region D will have a follow-up meeting for interested Region C parties to attend on October 30, 2024.
- (B) Texas Old and New – The Perryman Group** – The Executive Director provided a population article by The Perryman Group.  
The Article is attached.
- (C) How Storms Like Helene Will Transform the American South – New York Times**  
The Executive Director provided an article from the New York Times regarding the storms that are transforming the American South.  
The article is attached.
- (D) The Lone Star Lithium Boom – Texas Monthly** The Executive Director stated that Director Reeves Hayter provided an article on The Lone Star Lithium Boom.  
The article is attached.
- (E) Region D Water Planning Group Special Called Meeting – October 30, 2024** The Executive Director discussed this earlier in the meeting during the Regional Entities Report stating that Region D has invited Region C to attend this Special Called Meeting to hopefully come to a compromise regarding the Marvin Nichols Reservoir Project.
- (F) Partner Outreach and Development**  
The Executive Director is continuing partner outreach. He spoke with the Cass County Judge at the Region C Meeting and intends to ride with Mr. Darrell Grubbs of Titus County Fresh Water Supply District to the TWCA Fall Conference next week.
- (G) Rural River Authority Coalition** - The Executive Director reported that the Rural River Authority Coalition has completed a draft of their brochure, but it is not ready for public distribution yet.
- (H) Board Tour of Lake Ralph Hall - October 29, 2024** The Board will be meeting at 9:00 in Ladonia.

The Executive Director provided an additional handout regarding water supply evaporation.

**ITEM# 10: Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on New Business to be Placed on a Future Meeting Agenda.**

**ITEM# 11: Announcements from the Chairman/Board and/or Staff.**

**ITEM# 12: Next Regular Meeting:**

Sulphur River Basin Authority Regular Meeting, November 19, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Mount Pleasant Civic Center, 1800 North Jefferson Street, Mount Pleasant, Texas

**ITEM# 13: Adjournment.**

Vice President Wally Kraft announced meeting Adjourned at 1:22 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kelly Mitchell, Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Attested By: David Weidman, Secretary**

**THESE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 15, 2024 WERE ADOPTED ON \_\_\_\_\_.**

**SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
A SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP MEETING  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 29, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.  
AT LAKE RALPH HALL CONSTRUCTION OFFICE, 8 EAST PLAZA  
LADONIA, TEXAS**

## **MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Kelly Mitchell, Chairman  
Wally Kraft, Vice President  
Kirby Hollingsworth, Director  
Reeves Hayter, Director

**STAFF:** David Weidman, Executive Director  
Christi McIntosh, Administrative Assistant

**ABSENT:** Gary Cheatwood, Director and Emily Glass, Director

**VISITORS:** Larry Patterson, Ronna Hart, Randy Rushin, Kevin Spence, Bobby Johnston, Sandy Cash, Allen McCracken, Jim Bolz, Jason Pierce, Ed Motley

**ITEM# 1: Call to Order:**

There was no Call to Order.

**ITEM# 2: Invocation:**

There was no Invocation.

**ITEM# 3: Roll Call and Announcement of Quorum:**

Chairman Kelly Mitchell, Vice President Wally Kraft, and Directors Kirby Hollingsworth, and Reeves Hayter were in Attendance. A Quorum was Present.

**ITEM# 4: Lake Ralph Hall Construction Site Tour Workshop:**

The Board attended a presentation and tour of the Lake Ralph Hall construction site. No action was taken.

**ITEM# 5. Adjournment.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kelly Mitchell, Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Attested By: David Weidman, Secretary**

**THESE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 29, 2024, WERE ADOPTED ON \_\_\_\_\_.**

Sulphur River Basin Authority

Checking-Guaranty, Period Ending 10/31/2024

RECONCILIATION REPORT

Reconciled on: 11/05/2024

Reconciled by: Kathy Williams

Any changes made to transactions after this date aren't included in this report.

Summary

USD

Statement beginning balance	35,630.84
Interest earned	9.21
Checks and payments cleared (23)	-23,730.60
Deposits and other credits cleared (2)	20,000.00
Statement ending balance	<u>31,909.45</u>

Uncleared transactions as of 10/31/2024	-3,452.36
Register balance as of 10/31/2024	28,457.09
Cleared transactions after 10/31/2024	0.00
Uncleared transactions after 10/31/2024	-5,134.53
Register balance as of 11/05/2024	23,322.56

Details

Checks and payments cleared (23)

DATE	TYPE	REF NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT (USD)
09/19/2024	Bill Payment	9546	Network Technologies	-6,270.00
09/19/2024	Bill Payment	9545	Wally Kraft	-50.00
09/19/2024	Bill Payment	9544	Reeves Hayter	-115.00
10/04/2024	Tax Payment		QuickBooks Payroll	-1,123.02
10/04/2024	Payroll Check	DD	David I. Weidman	-2,667.99
10/04/2024	Payroll Check	DD	Christi McIntosh	-900.67
10/04/2024	Bill Payment	DD	Kathy Williams	-236.36
10/07/2024	Bill Payment	9550	Network Technologies	-495.00
10/07/2024	Bill Payment	9551	Red River Valley Association	-500.00
10/07/2024	Bill Payment	9548	David Weidman	-652.85
10/07/2024	Bill Payment	9549	Mt. Pleasant Civic Center	-2,200.00
10/17/2024	Expense	042636	USPS	-14.60
10/18/2024	Bill Payment	DD	Emily Glass	-102.40
10/18/2024	Tax Payment		QuickBooks Payroll	-1,123.00
10/18/2024	Bill Payment	DD	Kirby Hollingsworth	-78.82
10/18/2024	Payroll Check	DD	David I. Weidman	-2,668.01
10/18/2024	Payroll Check	DD	Christi McIntosh	-865.66
10/21/2024	Bill Payment	ACH	Nextiva, Inc.	-82.38
10/28/2024	Bill Payment	ACH	AT&T Mobility	-104.84
10/28/2024	Bill Payment	9556	Wally Kraft	-115.50
10/28/2024	Bill Payment	9555	David Weidman	-839.02
10/29/2024	Bill Payment	DD	Kathy Williams	-228.11
10/31/2024	Bill Payment	ACH	Blue Cross and Blue Shield	-2,297.37

**Total** -23,730.60

Deposits and other credits cleared (2)

DATE	TYPE	REF NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT (USD)
10/07/2024	Transfer			10,000.00
10/28/2024	Transfer			10,000.00

**Total** 20,000.00

Additional Information

Uncleared checks and payments as of 10/31/2024

DATE	TYPE	REF NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT (USD)
08/27/2024	Bill Payment	9536	Reeves Hayter	-50.00
10/07/2024	Bill Payment	9552	Texas Water Conservation As...	-1,425.00
10/28/2024	Bill Payment	9554	Gooseneck Graphics	-212.50
10/28/2024	Bill Payment	9553	Reeves Hayter	-50.50
10/31/2024	Bill Payment	9558	David Weidman	-180.78
10/31/2024	Bill Payment	9559	Reeves Hayter	-94.54
10/31/2024	Bill Payment	9560	Wally Kraft	-50.00
10/31/2024	Bill Payment	9557	Edward Jones	-904.04
10/31/2024	Bill Payment	ACH	Paris Conference & Event Ce...	-485.00

**Total** -3,452.36

Uncleared checks and payments after 10/31/2024

DATE	TYPE	REF NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT (USD)
11/01/2024	Payroll Check	DD	Christi McIntosh	-833.01
11/01/2024	Payroll Check	DD	David I. Weidman	-2,668.00
11/01/2024	Bill Payment	DD	Kelly Mitchell	-375.10
11/01/2024	Tax Payment		QuickBooks Payroll	-1,108.86
11/01/2024	Bill Payment	DD	Kirby Hollingsworth	-149.56

**Total** -5,134.53

Sulphur River Basin Authority

TexPool, Period Ending 10/31/2024

RECONCILIATION REPORT

Reconciled on: 11/05/2024

Reconciled by: Kathy Williams

Any changes made to transactions after this date aren't included in this report.

Summary

USD

Statement beginning balance.....	224,932.65
Interest earned.....	902.02
Checks and payments cleared (4).....	-20,941.27
Deposits and other credits cleared (0).....	0.00
Statement ending balance.....	<u>204,893.40</u>

Register balance as of 10/31/2024..... 204,893.40

Details

Checks and payments cleared (4)

DATE	TYPE	REF NO.	PAYEE	AMOUNT (USD)
10/07/2024	Transfer			-10,000.00
10/28/2024	Bill Payment	ACH	Titus County	-900.00
10/28/2024	Bill Payment	ACH	Ashley Office System	-41.27
10/28/2024	Transfer			-10,000.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>-20,941.27</b>

Sulphur River Basin Authority

Certificate of Deposit (6 Months), Period Ending 11/04/2024

RECONCILIATION REPORT

Reconciled on: 11/05/2024

Reconciled by: Kathy Williams

Any changes made to transactions after this date aren't included in this report.

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Summary

USD

Statement beginning balance.....	105,785.92
Interest earned.....	978.16
Checks and payments cleared (0).....	0.00
Deposits and other credits cleared (0).....	0.00
Statement ending balance.....	<u>106,764.08</u>

Register balance as of 11/04/2024..... 106,764.08



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# Monthly Financial Report

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Sulphur River Basin Authority  
For the period ended October 31, 2024

Prepared by  
**David Weidman, Executive Director**

Prepared on  
**November 12, 2024**

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# Balance Sheet

As of October 31, 2024

	<b>Total</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Certificate of Deposit (6 Months)	105,785.92
Checking-Guaranty	28,457.09
TexPool	204,893.40
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>339,136.41</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
Accounts Receivable	26,777.50
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>26,777.50</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Other Current Asset	
Firewall License	557.34
Mt Pleasant Civic Center	2,566.70
Network Technologies	333.20
Prepaid Web Services	400.00
TWCA Legislative Monitoring	1,424.68
<b>Total Other Current Asset</b>	<b>5,281.92</b>
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>5,281.92</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>371,195.83</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$371,195.83</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
Accounts Payable	524.66
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>524.66</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
Payroll Liabilities	
Retirement Plan	-264.32
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>-264.32</b>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>-264.32</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>260.34</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>260.34</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening Balance Equity	345,044.11
Unrestricted Net Assets	64,119.58
Net Income	-38,228.20
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>370,935.49</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$371,195.83</b>

# Profit and Loss by Class

September - October, 2024

	Maintenance and Operating	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>		
Interest Income		0.00
Guaranty Bank and Trust	24.33	24.33
TexPool	1,928.77	1,928.77
<b>Total Interest Income</b>	<b>1,953.10</b>	<b>1,953.10</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,953.10</b>	<b>1,953.10</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>1,953.10</b>	<b>1,953.10</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Board Meeting Venue	366.66	366.66
Director's Fees	700.50	700.50
Employee Benefits		0.00
Employee Health Insurance	4,594.74	4,594.74
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>4,594.74</b>	<b>4,594.74</b>
Employee Bonds	114.82	114.82
Information Technology		0.00
Equipment and Supplies	143.86	143.86
Information Technology Services	330.00	330.00
Website	6,835.00	6,835.00
<b>Total Information Technology</b>	<b>7,308.86</b>	<b>7,308.86</b>
Mileage		0.00
Administration	779.45	779.45
Director	793.36	793.36
<b>Total Mileage</b>	<b>1,572.81</b>	<b>1,572.81</b>
Office Expense		0.00
Cellular Telephone	209.68	209.68
Copier	71.57	71.57
Miscellaneous Office Expense	212.50	212.50
Office Supplies	57.80	57.80
Office Telephone	164.67	164.67
Postage	14.60	14.60
<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b>730.82</b>	<b>730.82</b>
Office Rental	1,800.00	1,800.00
Payroll Expenses		0.00
Company Contributions		0.00
Retirement	539.72	539.72
<b>Total Company Contributions</b>	<b>539.72</b>	<b>539.72</b>
Taxes	1,376.25	1,376.25
Wages	17,990.16	17,990.16
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>19,906.13</b>	<b>19,906.13</b>
Professional Services		0.00

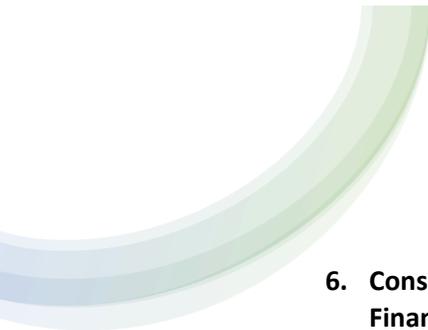
	<b>Maintenance and Operating</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bookkeeping	222.75	222.75
<b>Total Professional Services</b>	<b>222.75</b>	<b>222.75</b>
Reimbursements	70.00	70.00
Special Projects	485.00	485.00
Subscription		0.00
Firewall-Sophos	111.38	111.38
Legislative Monitoring	118.76	118.76
NextCloud Business	333.26	333.26
Quick Books	241.72	241.72
<b>Total Subscription</b>	<b>805.12</b>	<b>805.12</b>
Travel and Training		0.00
Training and CEU	450.00	450.00
Travel Expense	1,053.09	1,053.09
<b>Total Travel and Training</b>	<b>1,503.09</b>	<b>1,503.09</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>40,181.30</b>	<b>40,181.30</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>-38,228.20</b>	<b>-38,228.20</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -38,228.20</b>	<b>\$ -38,228.20</b>

# Open Invoices Report

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CUSTOMER	DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	TERMS	DUE DATE	OPEN BALANCE
TCEQ						
TCEQ	08/31/2024	Invoice	16	Net 30	09/30/2024	\$26,777.50
<b>Total for TCEQ</b>						<b>\$26,777.50</b>
						<b>\$26,777.50</b>

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**6. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approving the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Report, Wilf & Henderson, P.C.**

This item will include a presentation by Carol Wilder with Wilf & Henderson, P.C. and discussion and possible action on the FY 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditor’s Reports. Staff recommends approval.

Action Item: Consider a Motion to approve the FY 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditors Report.





**7. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approving Additional Vendor on the ACH/Electronic Payment List.**

This item will include discussion and possible action on adding Music Mountain Water Company to the list of authorized vendors to be paid by ACH/Electronic Payment. Staff recommends approval.

Action Item: Consider a Motion to approve the addition of Music Mountain Water Company to the Authorized ACH/Electronic Payment List.





**8. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on Approving the Canceling of the December 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.**

This item will include discussion and possible action on canceling the December 17, 2024 Board of Directors meeting. Staff recommends approval.

Action Item: Consider a Motion to cancel the December 17, 2024 Board Meeting.



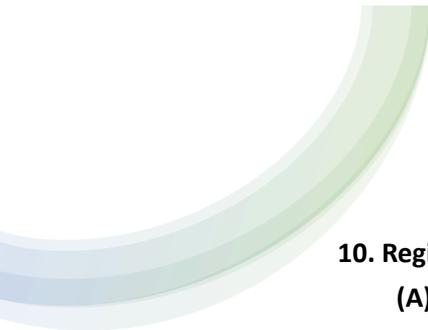


**9. Updates on the Clean Rivers Program (Randy Rushin-Water Monitoring Solutions).**

*Prepared in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.  
The preparation of this report was financed in part through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.*

This item will include discussion and possible action regarding activities with the Clean Rivers Program.



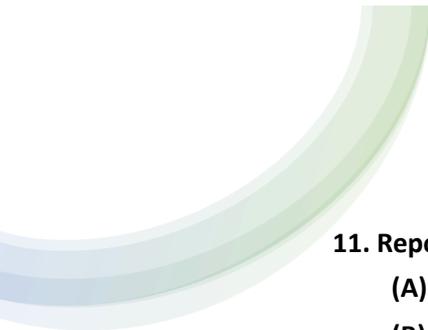


**10. Regional Entities Report:**

- (A) Funding Partners**
- (B) Riverbend Water Resources District**
- (C) Region D Water Planning Group**
- (D) Region 2 Flood Planning Group**

This item will include discussion and possible action regarding the above-listed reports and updates.





**11. Reports and Update from Executive Director:**

- (A) Nowhere to Go – Dallas Morning News**
- (B) Lake Texoma Pump Station, Redraw Border With Oklahoma – Texas Tribune**
- (C) Rural River Authority Coalition**
- (D) Board Tour of Lake Ralph Hall**
- (E) Grant Workshop Update**
- (F) Partner Outreach and Development**

This item will include discussion and possible action regarding the above-listed reports and updates.



MORE FROM HOMEPAGE

City of Dallas pauses funding for Dallas Black Dance Theatre until further notice



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NEWS > TEXAS

# 'Nowhere to go': Northeast Texans beg officials to drop Marvin Nichols Reservoir plans

The proposed \$7 billion, 66,000-acre reservoir along the Sulphur River would pump water more than 100 miles to Dallas-Fort Worth.



By **Lana Ferguson**  
Breaking News Reporter

Oct. 18, 2024 | Updated Oct. 19, 2024 at 5:35 p.m. CDT | ⌚ 12 min. read



Eddie Belcher, 63, looks out from the porch of the home he built on land in Red River County that has been in his family for seven generations on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, near Cuthand, Texas. Residents in the Sulphur River Basin will be impacted if the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir in northeast Texas is built. "You can't put a price on generational land but that doesn't matter because it's not for sale," Belcher said. (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

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**RED RIVER COUNTY** — In Cuthand, people greet each other with hugs and never let a car pass by without a friendly wave and nod.

They ask how their grandkids are or how they're holding up since their mama died.

### Why This Story Matters

The Marvin Nichols Reservoir, proposed for construction in northeast Texas by 2050, would pump water more than 100 miles away to places like Dallas-Fort Worth. It has been presented as a solution to meet the needs of North Texas' booming population. Those in opposition say the reservoir would displace residents, destroy natural habitats and negatively impact the timber industry.

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They love to cook, whether it's for the volunteer fire department's annual fish fry the last Saturday of April that people mark in pen on their calendars, or when neighbors need the reminder that someone loves them.

This community in southern Red River County is largely older but has pockets of young families seeking the country life they grew up in. They are proud of their close-knit, predominantly blue-collar, God-fearing town where you can see the stars at night or hear gravel crunching under the tires of a passing pickup from more than a mile away. Bogata, the nearest city to Cuthand, had a population of 1,074, according to the 2020 U.S. Census.

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**Related:** Marvin Nichols Reservoir has made headlines for decades. Who is the namesake?

For decades, regional planners from other counties have been planning to build a reservoir that would eat up more than 100,000 acres of their land to bring water to rapidly expanding Dallas-Fort Worth. They've sat through long public meetings, written letters to state lawmakers, called and pleaded for someone to listen to their concerns that the Marvin Nichols Reservoir will destroy natural habitats, negatively impact the timber industry and force them to move.

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They want the reservoir dropped from future state water plans.

“It’s the same fight again,” said John Brooks, a 76-year-old Cuthand resident. “They do not need this.”

Residents here and throughout most of northeast Texas tirelessly care for each other, but now, maybe more than ever, they say they need others to care about them.

## ‘It’s not for sale’

The Marvin Nichols Reservoir is designed to be roughly 66,000 acres along the Sulphur River with tens of thousands of additional acres that will be used for mitigation to offset adverse impacts of development. In addition to the construction of the reservoir, infrastructure for pipelines and pump stations will be built.

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The number of residents, homes and ranches that would be directly impacted by the construction has not been detailed by state officials. By pure acreage, residents say, it’s vast.

First introduced in the 1968 state water plan, the project has loomed like a black cloud over residents for decades. It’s impacted their mamas and daddies, it’s impacted them, and now they’re watching it impact their kids, their kids’ kids and their kids’ kids’ kids.

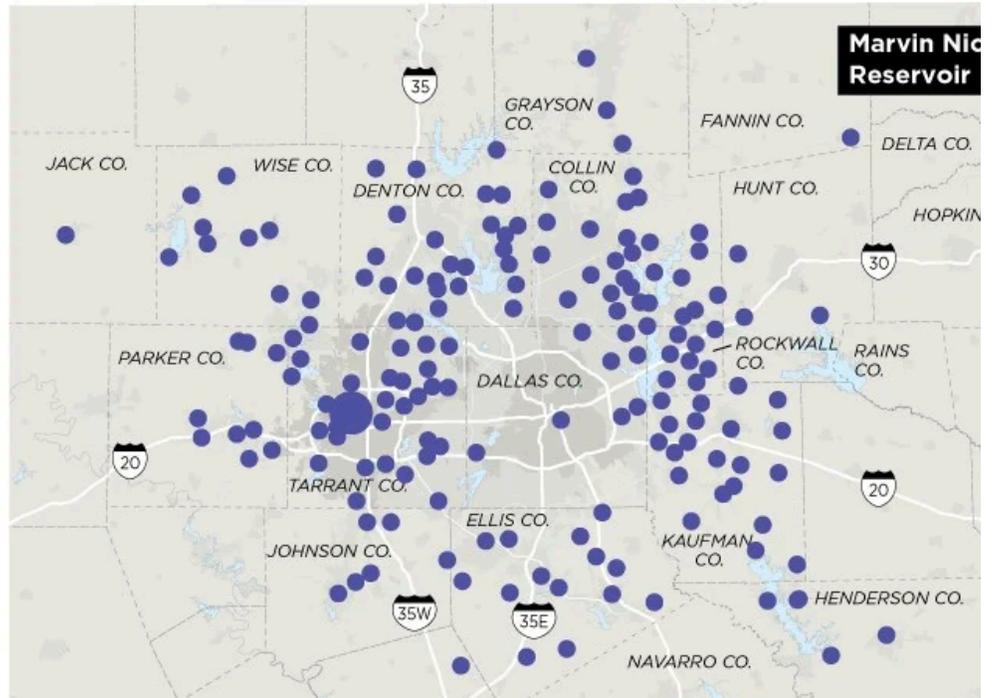
Some compared it to the Grim Reaper.

Most can’t recall the first time they heard about the reservoir but usually after a few moments of searching their memories and some math, they say “at least more than 20 years ago.”

The manmade lake — planned to pump the majority of the water more than 100 miles back to thirsty, booming North Texas — would wash out homes, historic landmarks and cemeteries, and disrupt the way

of life for the people and animals in its path and surrounding areas. A recent estimate for the cost of the project came to more than \$7 billion.

### Marvin Nichols Reservoir's anticipated users by 20



State water planners have said the reservoir is one of the best solutions to get water to a fast-growing area, but opposition has called the approach antiquated and pitched solutions that avoid bulldozing communities that don't benefit from the project.

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Residents say their properties would be inundated, leaving them nowhere to go. Executives at a local timber mill fear their business would feel “catastrophic impacts” from the destroyed bottomland forests. One state legislator is calling for water officials to look elsewhere for solutions that wouldn’t involve such a massive use of eminent domain.

**Related: What the draft feasibility report on Marvin Nichols Reservoir says, how to submit feedback**

After its introduction in the ‘60s, plans for Marvin Nichols hit a standstill for decades but regained traction in the early 2000s before being returned to the backburner.

Now, urgency is at an all-time high because the Region C Water Planning Group that covers Dallas-Fort Worth and surrounding areas said it needs the reservoir online by 2050, and the state water board [completed a review](#) that found there were no time, economic or ecological barriers to prevent that from happening. Public comment on the draft feasibility study, viewable at [twdb.texas.gov](https://twdb.texas.gov), is open until 11:59 p.m. Friday.

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Texas Water Development Board officials told *The Dallas Morning News* that “Region C is a good resource” and pointed to the feasibility review on their website.

The review says the reservoir is an “important water supply strategy” for North Texas, and is anticipated to serve roughly 213 water user groups by 2070 when the projected population of the area could rise to 10.4 million.

“I just want to be left alone,” Eddie Belcher said, standing on his piece of the roughly 700 acres that’s been nurtured and enjoyed by seven generations of his family. “You can’t put a price on generational land but that doesn’t matter because it’s not for sale.”

Belcher, 63, is one of the more recognizable residents who attends public meetings across the state to speak against the reservoir. He’s hard to miss with his height, small round glasses, thick handlebar mustache, signature flat-bill cap and Round House blue denim overalls.

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Eddie Belcher, (left) sits with his sister Monica Townes and looks out from the porch of the home he built on land in Red River County on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, near Cuthand, Texas. The land would be submerged by the propose Marvin Nichols Reservoir. "A lot of people say this battle can't be won, but I think it can be," Belcher said. "I pray it can be." (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

The way the reservoir would disrupt his family's life can be hard to talk about, he said, but he recites speeches that he hopes will change officials' minds.

His life and land can't be replicated elsewhere, he said.

Little moments make his property less than a mile from the Sulphur River special, like watching his grandkids run around the front yard, getting to sit on the front porch he built from hand, watching herds of deer eat from the corn feeder or seeing hummingbirds flock to the deck all at once in such numbers that they sound like a helicopter.

Monumental moments, too. Like when his mother died and her will said the family property should never be sold.

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"A lot of people say this battle can't be won, but I think it can be," he said, looking at his feet, slowly shaking his head. "I pray it can be."

## Grassroots opposition

Just before supertime Monday, Gary Cheatwood, 85, and son Gary Cheatwood Jr., 48, hovered over a map the elder Cheatwood made years ago while trying to find answers.

He wanted to figure out the full extent of what the Marvin Nichols Reservoir would wash away. He printed pieces of a Red River County map on sheets of paper, pasted them to a poster board and made his own key. Reinforcers highlighted hot pink marked the homes he knew existed and X's were put atop cemeteries. Bright orange marked the Cuthand Volunteer Fire Department, where the community frequently gathers. The church and cemetery, both built in the 1800s, are steps away.

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Gary Cheatwood, (top left) and son Gary Cheatwood Jr., (bottom) go over a map the elder Cheatwood made to assess properties impacted by the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir with John Brooks (top) and Jim Vignali (right) on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, in Cuthand, Texas. (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

The older Cheatwood boasts he was born in Cuthand and has spent most of his life there. He'll humbly tell people he "doesn't know much about nothing" but can spout off the history of where Cuthand got its name, when Talco's population boomed because oil was found and snippets of history from when Indigenous

people lived on the land, something residents are frequently reminded of when they find arrowheads in their backyards.

“This will wipe out these communities here,” he said. “We’ll be history with nowhere to go.”

Nine other residents from Cuthand, Johntown and the Pine Branch community, joined the Cheatwoods outside the fire station Monday, some sitting on pickup tailgates, others hovering around the map to point out where their family’s land is.

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They repeated the sentiments they’ve shared at countless meetings, in interviews and across the kitchen table the past couple decades.

They’re frustrated they aren’t being listened to. They’re frustrated they’re fighting a battle that feels impossible to win but also impossible to give up. And, they’re frustrated feeling as though the people who would benefit from the project look down on them.

“We’re more than just rednecks and hicks, you know,” Lindy Guest, 70, said as everyone stood in a circle around Cheatwood’s map, laid out on a plastic folding table.

The residents have bonded through all the years of going to meetings, writing to public officials and trying to educate their neighbors on something that could displace them. Some said the stress of uncertainty has taken a toll on their health.

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Aaron Rolen, 34, stood among the group. Though he was raised in Cuthand, just a few doors down from the fire station, he's about half their age and showed up to the tailgate dressed in his work clothes; a button-down shirt, sport coat and boots.

An attorney who stayed in the Dallas area after graduating from Southern Methodist University's law school, Rolen moved his family back in 2019. He, wife Mandi — a teacher at Rivercrest Elementary School — and their two sons and daughter, ages 2, 5, and 9, now live on the same street Rolen grew up on.



As one of the family's dogs looks on, Aaron Rolen pushes his son Reid, 9, on a tire swing while holding his brother Lane, 2, while mom Mandi Rolen, holds his sister Lyla, 5, on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024, at their home in Cuthand, Texas. Rolen, an attorney who stayed in the Dallas area after graduating from SMU, grew up in Cuthand and moved his family back in 2019. "It's fun to watch my kids play in the same places I did," he said. (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

"It's fun to watch my kids play in the same places I did," he said, pointing to the road behind him talking about how he and his brother used to race down the street. Now his children ride their 4-wheelers and bicycles down it or take a fishing pole to their grandad's land nearby.

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Rolen said he knew about the reservoir before they made the decision to move, but thought it wouldn't become an issue until 2070 when his children were more than grown. The chatter around the project becoming a reality much sooner has been scary and heartbreaking.

While Rolen understands there needs to be a solution to the demand for water and long-term planning is ideal, he said he thinks most people in Dallas-Fort Worth would be opposed to the reservoir if they knew about it.

"No one thinks about, 'Where does the water in my faucet come from?'" he said.

## **'Absolute paradise'**

Though Bill Wilson, 70, and his wife Joyce Wilson, 63, have owned land in the area since the early 2000s, they're considered newcomers.

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Bill, president and CEO of world-renowned custom pistol manufacturer Wilson Combat, and Joyce, executive director of the International Defensive Pistol Association, moved to their 8,500-acre property from Arkansas.



Cuthand Creek cuts through Bill and Joyce Wilson's 8,500-acre property in Red River County, Texas, on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024. The Wilson's describe their Circle WC Ranch, which would be flooded by the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir as "absolute paradise." (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

Circle WC Ranch is a massive swath of land with their home, shooting ranges, multi-car garage, airstrip and the hunting lodge Joyce calls "the dead zoo" because it's adorned with hundreds of exotic taxidermy animals the Wilsons have hunted around the world.

The couple, who each wear a pistol on their hip, talked about the "absolute paradise" they created. They work hard in a place not too far from Bill's business headquarters but also eat lunch together on a private lake off their back deck from noon to 1 p.m. daily, drink a sundowner each evening, enjoy all their hobbies and host guests.

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They're proud to say they once made it about two weeks without needing to leave and would be OK if they could go a longer stretch.

Bill said they were warned about the possibility of the reservoir before they bought the land that borders Cuthand Creek on two sides and the Sulphur River on a third.

"I think it was worth the chance," Bill said, in spite of the uncertainty he said they feel. "I don't know anywhere else in the world to find something like this."

Riding around the property on a utility vehicle, the Wilsons point out landmarks.

Bill talks about where the water floods after a good rain, and Joyce describes the process of filling the 46 corn feeders. Encounters with wildlife, including hogs, deer, opossums and armadillos.

They say friends and clients from across the country ask about the reservoir, hoping it won't flood the ranch so they can come back and visit.



With a hunting rifle handy on their Kawasaki Mule, Bill and Joyce Wilson drive through their 8,500-acre property in Red River County, Texas, on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024. (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

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Bill calls the plan a boondoggle, while Joyce said it's cultural elitism that angers her.

The Wilsons said they are one of the largest landowners who will be affected, so they feel a responsibility to be vocal. They even traveled to Austin to make sure they're being listened to, a trip Bill said reminded him why he doesn't live in the city.

"Like it or not, it's kind of our duty to protect and help everybody," Joyce said.

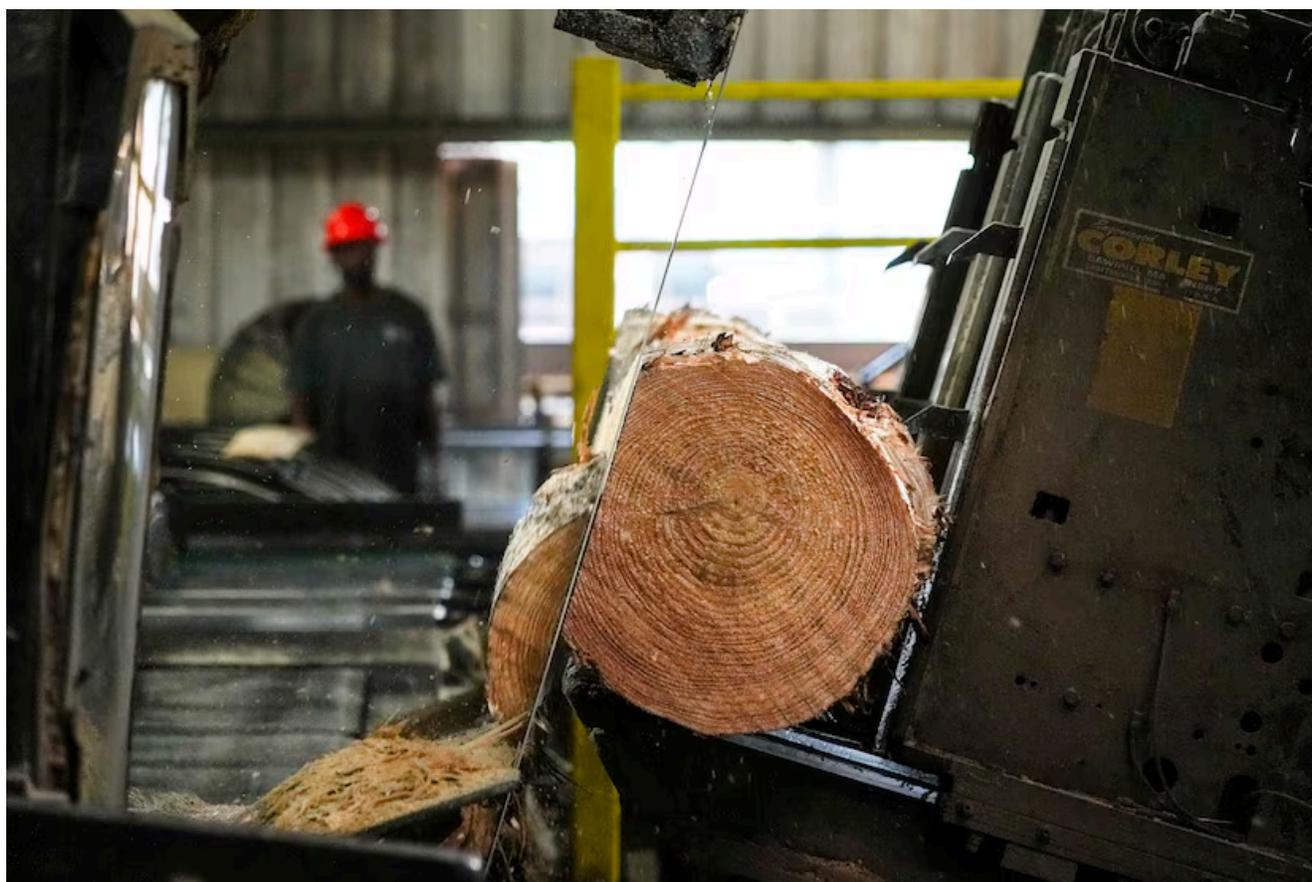
## 'A battle that can be won'

People living and working outside the reservoir's proposed area have taken notice.

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Employees at Ward Timber in Linden, roughly 60 miles southeast of Cuthand, inspect pieces of lumber as they move through the loud, metal machinery at an expedited pace. The mill is the largest hardwood sawmill operating in the state.

The machines cut and shape logs — both hardwood and pine — to make products that can be sold and turned into things like crown molding for houses, food-safe pallets to transport goods, toilet paper and parts of diapers. Virtually all pieces of the wood are utilized, which the mill says is a win for conservation and efficiency.



A log is cut at the Ward Timber mill on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, in Linden, Texas. The proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir could have a trickle effect, Ward Timber officials said, if the abundance of trees in northeast Texas takes a hit, the mill and jobs could be in jeopardy. (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

Jim Thompson, chief financial officer and legal counsel for the company, said the goal is to utilize trees within a 100-mile radius of the mill and the reservoir would likely be detrimental to the forests they currently harvest from.

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“That in mind, Marvin Nichols will force us to be less competitive, if not non-competitive,” he said.

Thompson and mill manager Bret Lowery stood in an operations room above the machinery Tuesday, wearing hard hats and neon yellow vests, discussing what an inundation of some of the local bottomland forests would do to their operation that employs more than 100 people and works with numerous contractors.

It would be a trickle effect, Lowery said. If the abundance of trees in northeast Texas takes a hit, the mill and jobs could be in jeopardy, the cost of the operation could rise and the customers would feel it in their wallets, too.

Thompson said the impact to the industry would be catastrophic, a message he’s tried to convey at multiple meetings on the Marvin Nichols Reservoir.

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“As long as we don’t muck it up, [the industry] will be here forever,” he said.



The faint streak of comet Comet A3 Tsuchinshan-ATLAS is seen over the banks of the Sulphur River, which is illuminated by moonlight, on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, in Red River County, Texas. (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)

In a much quieter space 40 miles due north from the mill, state Rep. Gary VanDeaver, 66, worked in his office in the Bowie County Courthouse.

VanDeaver's district includes Bowie, Cass, Lamar, Morris and Red River counties. He's become noticeably more vocal against the Marvin Nichols Reservoir in recent years, but says he's always opposed it.

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In a recent letter to the Region C water planning group, he said all Texans should be alarmed by the proposed project and said it would be one of the largest land grabs by eminent domain in Texas history, as well as one of the most expensive public works projects.

VanDeaver was one of the driving forces behind the TWDB being made to conduct the feasibility study that will be presented to Gov. Greg Abbott next year.

VanDeaver said he was disappointed by the report and had hoped it would be more of a “reset back to zero” where more options than just the reservoir would be explored.

He said there’s been tunnel vision around Marvin Nichols for so long that other solutions don’t seem to have been considered, with all the advancements in technology since the 1960s and already existing infrastructure throughout the state or neighboring Oklahoma and Arkansas that could provide the needed water.

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He said he hopes Texans will be able to come together on this issue and help people like the Belchers and the Cheatwoods.

“I think it is a battle that can be won,” VanDeaver said. “I think there’s a possibility for a victory.”

Back on the edge of Red River County, 83-year-old Dickie Dalby tinkered with his gold pickup as his two small dogs ran around his ankles.

The truck was parked feet away from his family’s homestead oak-log cabin constructed in 1841, before Texas was a state.

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The house was deemed a Texas Historic Landmark and received a marker in 1966 that stands at the front of the property. A framed black-and-white photo of the Dalbys in front of their cabin in the early 1900s hangs on one of the walls inside.

Dalby looks at it with a smile then slowly makes his way out to the front porch and gazes at the newer house where he and his wife, Genita, live. It's crisp white with deep green roofing and shutters.

"My grandson is getting married on the lawn in a couple of weeks," he said, beaming with pride that he was asked to be the officiant.

The sixth-generation Texan has boasted about his family's property in meetings on Marvin Nichols since the '90s. He said his land wouldn't be inundated but will likely be used for mitigation.

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"Maybe we'll get it stopped again, but I likely won't be around to see it," Dalby said, looking toward where the wedding will be. "Something's got to give, though."



Dickie Dalby, 83, walks toward a small house that is built around a log cabin, which was first constructed by his family at the site in 1841, on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, in Red River County, Texas. He said his land wouldn't be inundated by the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir but will likely be used for mitigation. (Smiley N. Pool / Staff Photographer)



By **Lana Ferguson**

Lana Ferguson joined The Dallas Morning News after reporting in South Carolina's Lowcountry for The Island Packet & Beaufort Gazette newspapers. She graduated from the University of Mississippi where she studied journalism and Southern studies. She's a Virginia native but her work has taken her all over the U.S., southern Africa, and Sri Lanka.

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# How zebra mussels and a Lake Texoma pump station spurred Texas to redraw its border with Oklahoma

The two states agreed to a land swap to ensure that a Dallas-area water district's pump station lies wholly within Texas. Neither state gained in size from the small change.

BY **KAYLA GUO** NOV. 7, 2024 16 HOURS AGO

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Texas just altered its border with Oklahoma. Well, a small sliver of it, anyway. And, no, Texas didn't become any bigger.

After years of dispute over how the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma should be drawn at the Red River, the two states [reached an agreement](#) last month that shifted Texas' northern border just slightly, Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham [announced on Thursday](#).

The problem began in 2009 when the North Texas Municipal Water District, which provides water to several Dallas-area cities, learned about invasive zebra mussels in Lake Texoma, where it was operating a water pump station.

That raised the question of whether the pump station was in Texas, or in Oklahoma. Federal law prohibits transporting zebra mussels across state lines. The North Texas water district paused pumping to avoid violating federal law. And Texas began investigating which state exactly the pump station sat in.

The state found that the pump station was within Texas borders when it was built in 1989. But a new boundary established by Texas and Oklahoma in 2000 — the vegetation line along

the south bank of the Red River — meant that part of the station now sat in the state's northern neighbor.

In 2021, Texas sent Oklahoma a proposal for a new boundary that would ensure the station lived wholly in Texas. After years of discussion, the two states finally reached an agreement on how the boundary should be drawn. The Texas and Oklahoma Red River Boundary Commissions executed the new border on Oct. 30.

“This redrawn boundary line will ensure that millions of north Texans' water comes from a secure source in Texas,” Buckingham said.

Texas and Oklahoma exchanged approximately 1.34 acre of underwater land, or about a football field each. Neither of the states grew or shrunk — if either state had gotten bigger, approval from the U.S. Congress would have been required.

The North Texas Water Municipal District also agreed to pay Oklahoma \$10 million for water projects that benefit North Texas and up to \$800,000 to cover the University of Oklahoma's legal, engineering and surveying fees related to the boundary, the [water district](#) said.

The swapped land is controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for Lake Texoma. The lake serves as the primary water source for all of Sherman and Denison, two cities in North Texas, according to the North Texas water district.

The Texas General Land Office said that the new boundary would ensure the availability of around 30% of the drinking water supply for more than 2 million people in the area.

The final agreement, which maps will be updated to reflect, closes the latest chapter of controversy over the Texas-Oklahoma border, which was the subject of [long-running disputes](#) throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the Red River served as the boundary between the United States and Mexico, and, after the Texas Revolution, between the United States and Texas.

But as the size of the river waxed and waned through natural processes, federal treaties created Indigenous reservations and oil was discovered in North Texas, the actual site of the border became the subject of an ongoing turf war with the federal government, Texas,

Oklahoma and Indigenous peoples all laying a stake in the matter.

The U.S. Congress passed the Red River Boundary Compact in 2000, based on legislation signed by then Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating establishing a permanent border marked by visible landmarks.

Twenty-four years later, thanks to zebra mussels and a water pump station, the states' boundaries have shifted again.

*Disclosure: Texas General Land Office has been a financial supporter of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that is funded in part by donations from members, foundations and corporate sponsors. Financial supporters play no role in the Tribune's journalism. Find a complete [list of them here](#).*

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# WORKING TOGETHER FOR TEXAS WATER

## TEXAS RURAL RIVER AUTHORITY COALITION



# RURAL WATER

Approximately 6,500, or 85%, of all water systems in Texas are small systems, serving 3,300 people or less. 40% of these small systems serve areas where a disproportionate number of residents live below the poverty line.



# TOGETHER WE CAN CLOSE THE GAP FOR RURAL WATER SECURITY

Photo Credit: Sulphur River Basin Authority. Jim Chapman Lake.

**29%**  
of rural or small  
communities  
served by Coalition

649 communities across the State

**371**  
years of combined  
agency experience  
protecting Texas  
water

**37.4%**  
of Texas counties  
represented by  
the Coalition

31 Texas House Districts  
12 Texas Senate Districts

**16.7%**  
average poverty  
rate of communities  
served by the  
Coalition

13.9% State Average

**85,825**  
square miles of  
Texas land

32% of the State

**8,810+**  
linear miles of  
Texas rivers

# ABOUT THE COALITION

The Texas Rural River Authority Coalition (TRRAC) is a strategic partnership between the Angelina & Neches, Nueces, Red River, Sulphur River Basin, and Upper Colorado River Authorities. The Authorities formed the Coalition to provide a cooperative, collaborative way to address some of the most pressing water needs in rural Texas. By pooling expertise, experience, and knowledge, TRRAC will develop a comprehensive, data-driven approach to enhance water management, stormwater and floodplain management, infrastructure development, and long-term planning for rural regions in Texas, supporting the economic vitality and environmental health of areas that are often underserved.

To accomplish this goal, **the Coalition is requesting an initial \$5 million in State funding, allocated as \$1 Million per Authority, to complete studies to identify and prioritize water projects in their respective basins, resulting in data-driven decision-making to support water supply and water quality in rural Texas.** Additional requests for \$20 million total in State funding, allocated as \$1 Million per Authority per year, would then be made over the subsequent 4 years to close the gap in existing funding programs.

The impact of this funding will be transformative for rural Texas communities. Strengthened water infrastructure means more reliable water supplies, improved service delivery, and the ability to support population growth, agriculture, and local industries. This leads directly to significant economic, social, and public health benefits. This funding will create lasting economic and infrastructure resilience for rural Texas.



*Texas' water is not just a natural resource; it is the pulse of our State, and safeguarding its future is essential to preserving our way of life.*

# OUR STORY OUR WATER

**Water is the lifeblood of Texas, shaping our State's history, culture, economy, and future.**

From the early days when settlers built their communities along fertile river banks, water has determined where Texans live, work, and grow. Texas' water and rivers have sustained generations of farmers, powered industry, and provided life to countless towns and rural areas. But as vital as it is, our water faces increasing pressures, and it is our responsibility to protect it.

As urbanization and population growth increase the demand for water, it becomes even more critical to manage it sustainably. We must ensure that those who rely on water and rivers—farmers, businesses, industries, and rural communities—can continue to thrive. The balance between human needs and environmental conservation will ensure that future generations can continue to benefit from our Texas water.

# 1

## INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

**Phase 1 of the Comprehensive Rural Water Strategy** is a comprehensive inventory and assessment of existing water systems, services, and infrastructure across the 95 counties served by the Coalition. By gathering detailed data on system conditions, capacity, and vulnerabilities, the Coalition will develop a clear understanding of the most urgent needs, and establish a baseline against which to measure progress.

OF THE 1,210 CITIES IN TEXAS,  
70% HAVE A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 5,000.  
**THESE SMALL WATER SYSTEMS  
NEED MORE THAN \$130 BILLION**

**TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR CUSTOMERS  
AND SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
SAFE DRINKING WATER & CLEAN WATER ACTS.**

## CLOSING THE FUNDING GAP FOR RURAL WATER SECURITY

There is a critical gap in infrastructure funding programs in Texas that disproportionately impacts small, rural communities and water systems with limited financial resources. Many of these rural areas are in urgent need of infrastructure improvements, but they often struggle to access state and federal funding because they cannot afford the costly preliminary studies required for funding applications. Without the upfront capital to develop these studies, small systems are effectively excluded from even being considered for much-needed infrastructure support.

TRRAC has a solution - a Comprehensive Rural Water Strategy that will provide the data and information needed to identify and prioritize critical water projects for funding. This three-phase approach will take innovative steps to help close the funding gap, ensuring that TRRAC's rural Texas communities have access to safe, clean water regardless of size or financial capability.

# 2

### PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

In **Phase 2 of the Comprehensive Rural Water Strategy**, based on the findings from Phase 1, the Coalition will assess each system's needs and create a data-driven list of high-priority water infrastructure projects, addressing the most urgent and impactful needs first. It will also provide technical assistance to rural communities, guiding them through complex planning, engineering, and regulatory processes. Additionally, the Coalition will identify water systems suitable for regionalization, focusing on efficiency, capacity building, and equipping local operators with the resources needed to manage and sustain infrastructure long-term.

# 3

### PROJECT FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION

**Phase 3 of the Comprehensive Rural Water Strategy** focuses on developing the detailed project elements and reports required to secure funding for a variety of small rural water infrastructure projects. This includes engineering assessments, environmental reviews, and feasibility analyses necessary for rural communities to qualify for state and federal grants. In some cases, the Coalition may move forward with directly undertaking smaller, high-priority projects where immediate action is needed. This phase ensures that rural systems are fully prepared to access funding opportunities, and implement critical water infrastructure upgrades.

COMPREHENSIVE RURAL WATER STRATEGY PHASING



ANGELINA & NECHES RIVER AUTHORITY

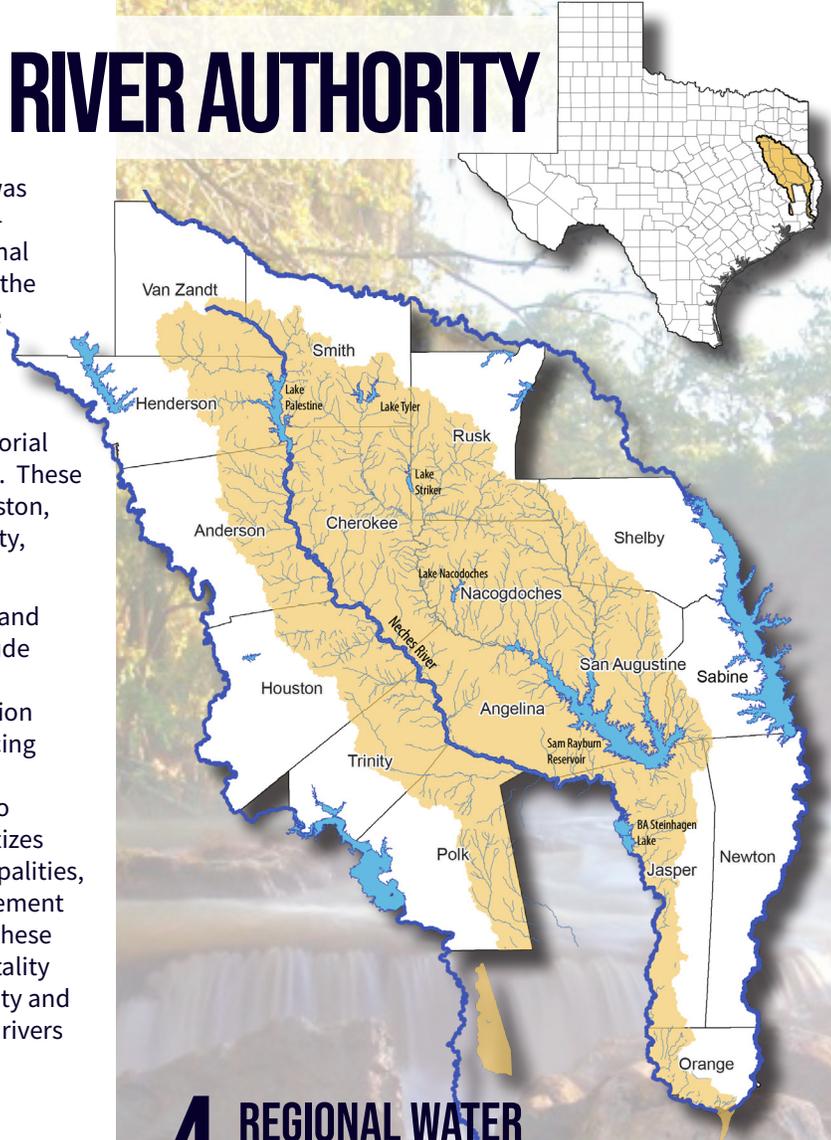
# ANGELINA & NECHES RIVER AUTHORITY

The Angelina & Neches River Authority (The Authority) was created by an act of the Texas Legislature as the Sabine - Neches Conservation District, in 1935. In 1949, the original district was separated in the Sabine River Authority and the Neches River Conservation District. In its early years, the district's role was largely as a planning entity. In 1977, in response to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act, the district was renamed the Angelina & Neches River Authority. The Authority's territorial jurisdiction includes all or part of 17 East Texas counties. These include Anderson, Angelina, Cherokee, Henderson, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Rusk, Trinity, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, and Van Zandt.

With a mission to safeguard water resources for current and future generations, the Authority's major functions include water supply, water quality management, water quality protection, water resource development, and conservation of water resources. The Authority is dedicated to balancing the need to conserve and protect the waters within the Neches River Basin, with the need to develop it for use to the economic benefit of the region. The Authority prioritizes collaboration with neighboring river authorities, municipalities, and community organizations to enhance water management practices and promote responsible water use. Through these efforts, the Authority not only supports the economic vitality of East Texas but also fosters a strong sense of community and environmental responsibility, ensuring that the region's rivers remain healthy and accessible for all.

## COMPREHENSIVE RURAL WATER STRATEGY POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- » **Water System Support & Regionalization:** Of the 511 water systems in the Authority's jurisdiction, more than 87% (446) serve populations less than 3,300 people. Through the Comprehensive Rural Water Strategy, we will inventory small rural water systems and identify those systems that may be at risk of failure.
- » **Strategy Development:** The Authority will develop strategies to reduce the risk of failure for each water system identified as "at risk." Risk mitigation may include acquisition, regionalization, or providing technical assistance.
- » **Funding Support:** Work with local project sponsors and consultants to develop applications for projects that bring those systems back into compliance and that are suitable for submission to a variety of funding agencies.



**4** REGIONAL WATER SYSTEMS OPERATED

**5** WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS REGIONALIZED

**17** COUNTIES IN JURISDICTION

**65%** OF WATER SYSTEMS HAVE FEWER THAN 500 CONNECTIONS

**8,500** SQUARE MILES OF LAND



# NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY

The Nueces River has long been a vital water source for South Texas, supporting early settlers and continuing to serve the region's agriculture, energy, and industrial sectors. Established in 1935, the Nueces River Authority (NRA) is dedicated to the stewardship of the river and its tributaries. The NRA plays a critical role in managing the Nueces River Basin, ensuring the availability and quality of water resources that sustain local communities, agriculture, and industry.

Stretching across 22 counties and covering over 17,000 square miles, the NRA jurisdictional area covers diverse terrain and it at the heart of the Eagle Ford Shale formation. The basin is comprised of three sub-basins stretching from the edge of the Hill Country (Upper Basin) across the Brush Country (Middle Basin) before reaching the Coastal Bend and the Gulf of Mexico (Lower Basin).

The Authority is responsible for protecting and developing water resources, flood control, water quality monitoring, and the development of infrastructure. By working closely with local stakeholders and state and federal agencies, the NRA helps balance the region's diverse water needs while promoting environmental sustainability.

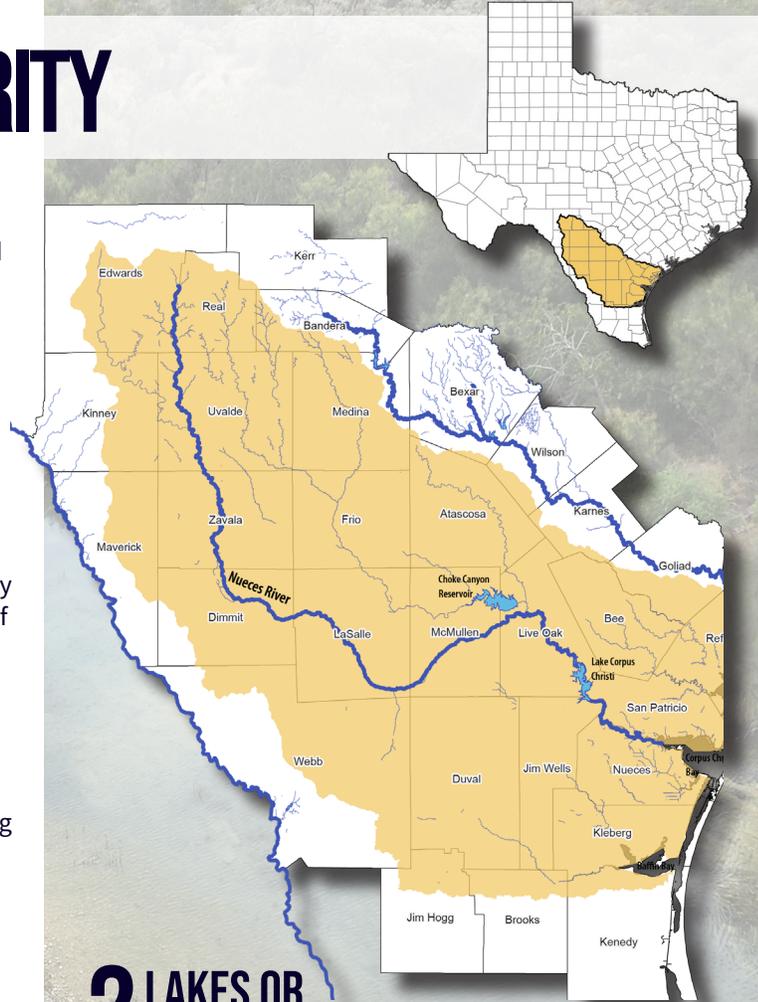
The NRA has extensive experience in fostering partnerships and collaborating with stakeholders throughout South Texas to support sustainable water management. The NRA operates over a dozen water and wastewater treatment plants for small cities and built the Leakey Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. In collaboration with the Texas Department of Agriculture, the NRA is working to identify and support underserved colonias, ensuring these areas receive vital infrastructure.

The Authority partners with organizations like the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program and The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M Corpus Christi to protect and enhance coastal ecosystems.

With over 90 years of experience protecting Texas water, the NRA stands ready to undertake and implement the Comprehensive Rural Water Strategy.

## COMPREHENSIVE RURAL WATER STRATEGY POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- » **Brackish Groundwater Treatment for Additional Water Supply in Duval County and Surrounding Area.**
- » **Nueces River Basin Drought & Water Supply Strategy.**



**2 LAKES OR RESERVOIRS IN REGION**

**22 COUNTIES IN JURISDICTION**

**60% EDWARDS AQUIFER RECHARGE IN BASIN**

**~250 COLONIAS IN JURISDICTION**  
MORE THAN 10% OF COLONIAS IN THE STATE

**18.7% AVERAGE POVERTY RATE OF REGION**  
13.9% STATE AVERAGE

**17,796 SQUARE MILES OF LAND**



# RED RIVER AUTHORITY

The Red River Authority of Texas was established in 1959 to conserve and manage water resources across the Red River Basin, which spans the entire northern part of the state, and covers over 40,000 square miles. The Authority's mission is the orderly conservation, reclamation, protection, and development of the water resources throughout the Red River Basin for the benefit of the public and the environment.

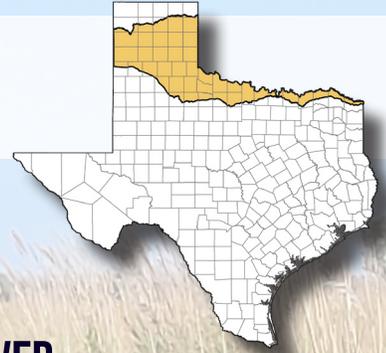
The Authority is charged with maintaining a basin-wide inventory of water resources, providing administrative and technical assistance to public entities for development and maintenance of water for economic growth, providing financial assistance toward pollution control, public facilities, and flood control, and giving legal sponsorship to any feasible public works project.

With that, the Authority supports the needs of local communities, industry, agriculture, and the environment playing a critical role in the management and coordination of the water systems that sustain this vast region.

In addition to its water management efforts, the Red River Authority works closely with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as private entities, to maintain a balanced approach to resource development. This includes not only ensuring reliable water supply, but also preserving the natural ecosystems that depend on the Red River Basin. The Authority is committed to addressing modern water challenges like drought, aging infrastructure, and population growth, making it an essential partner in the future water sustainability of North Texas.

## COMPREHENSIVE RURAL WATER STRATEGY POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- » **Regional Wholesale Drinking Water Plant at Lake Texoma.**
- » **Red River Desalination Plant/Brine Lake Reclamation.**
- » **Regional Wastewater Treatment Plants in Northeast Texas.**



**2 MAJOR RIVER BASINS**

**2 REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS OPERATED**

**20 LAKES OR RESERVOIRS IN JURISDICTION**

**31 REGIONAL WATER SYSTEMS OPERATED**

**43 COUNTIES IN JURISDICTION**

**14.6% AVERAGE POVERTY RATE OF REGION**  
13.9% STATE AVERAGE

**40,270 SQUARE MILES OF LAND**

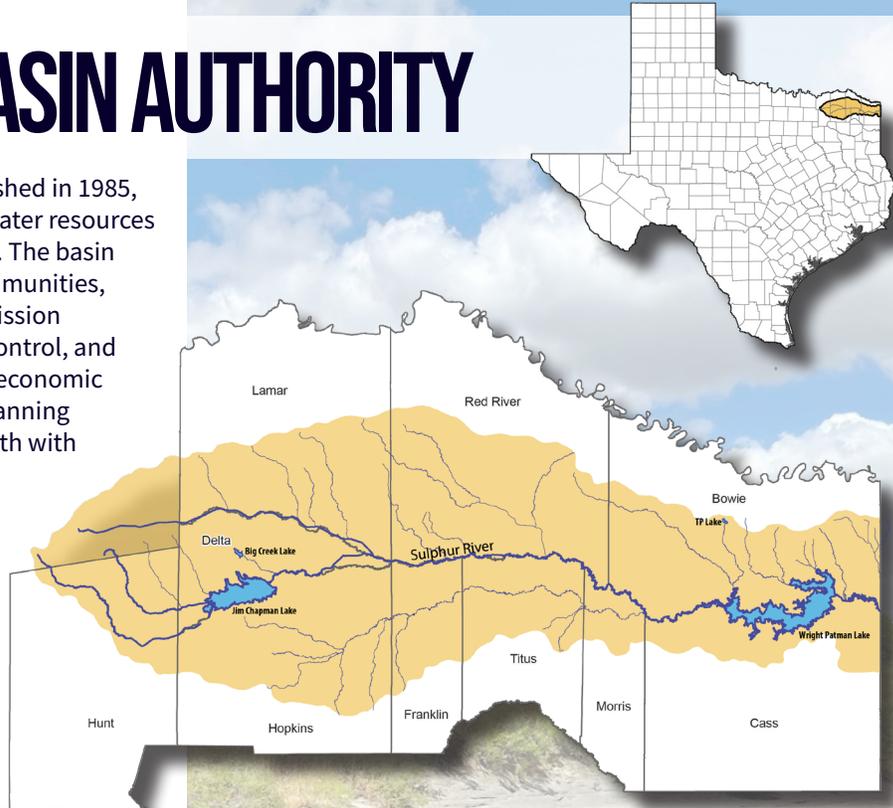
Photo Credit: Red River Authority. North Fork Wichita River.



# SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY

The Sulphur River Basin Authority (SRBA), established in 1985, is responsible for overseeing and managing the water resources within the Sulphur River Basin in Northeast Texas. The basin spans over 3,500 square miles, covering rural communities, agricultural lands, and natural habitats. SRBA's mission includes ensuring adequate water supply, flood control, and environmental protection while supporting local economic development. The Authority plays a key role in planning for future water projects, balancing regional growth with conservation efforts to meet the needs of both residents and industry.

SRBA works closely with state and local agencies, stakeholders, and the public to manage projects such as watershed management, and conservation initiatives. Notably, the Sulphur River Basin holds some of the most significant unappropriated water in the state, making it a crucial resource for future water development in Texas. SRBA is committed to sustainable water use through long-term planning and education, helping ensure the continued vitality of the region's water resources for generations to come.



## COMPREHENSIVE RURAL WATER STRATEGY POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- » **Water supply development:** Planning and managing water resources for current and future needs, including the development of reservoirs.
- » **Flood control:** Developing strategies to mitigate the impact of flooding within the basin, particularly from the Sulphur River and its tributaries.
- » **Water quality management:** Monitoring and improving water quality to ensure that it meets state and federal standards.
- » **Community Capacity Building:** Providing essential water management expertise, infrastructure support, and educational programs that empower local stakeholders to develop the skills and infrastructure needed to sustainably manage water resources, enhance public health, and foster economic resilience.

**4 RESERVOIRS  
IN REGION**

**10 COUNTIES  
IN JURISDICTION**

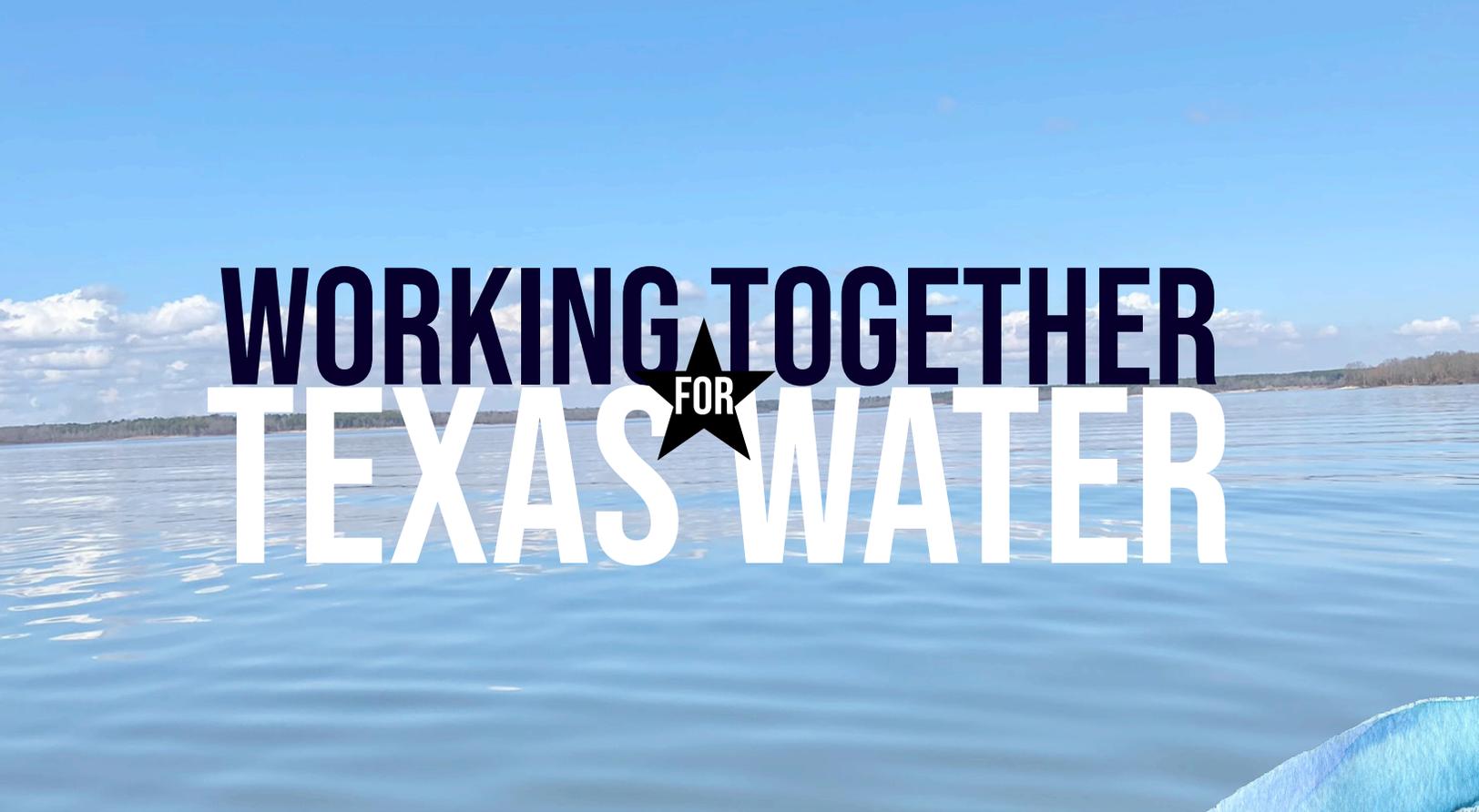
**16.5% AVERAGE POVERTY  
RATE OF REGION**  
13.9% STATE AVERAGE

**1,360 LINEAR MILES OF  
WATERWAY**

**3,558 SQUARE MILES  
OF LAND**

Photo Credit: Sulphur River Basin Authority. The Sulphur River.





# WORKING TOGETHER FOR TEXAS WATER

## PROTECTING RURAL TEXAS IS PROTECTING ALL OF TEXAS

**The Texas Rural River Authority Coalition (TRRAC) is seeking a \$5 million per year over five years (\$25 million total) in State funding to address the critical gap that prevents small rural communities and water systems from accessing infrastructure improvement programs.** These funds will support the implementation of Comprehensive Rural Water Strategies to assist communities that lack the financial resources for essential studies, such as engineering assessments and environmental reviews, which are prerequisites for state and federal funding. By bridging this funding gap, TRRAC aims to create a pathway for rural communities to achieve long-term water security and reliability.

TRRAC is well-equipped to tackle the complex challenges facing rural water systems. We are the most logical choice to implement Comprehensive Rural Water Strategies because of our unique ability to work across jurisdictional boundaries with broad access to technical and operational resources. Our core mission is sustainable water management, and by leveraging our existing partnerships and knowledge, we can efficiently prioritize and implement projects that address the diverse needs of rural Texas communities. This combination of local knowledge, jurisdiction, commitment to transparency, stakeholder engagement, and resource management makes the Texas Rural River Authority Coalition uniquely qualified to protect and manage rural water resources effectively.

**Help us protect rural Texas. Help us protect all of Texas.**

**We look forward to working with the legislature to ensure that rural Texas has the water security it needs for continued growth and prosperity.**

**ANGELINA & NECHES RIVER AUTHORITY**

Kelley Holcomb, General Manager  
Chair, Texas Rural River Authority Coalition  
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anra.org

**NUECES RIVER AUTHORITY**

John Byrum, Executive Director  
830-278-6810 | jbyrum@nueces-ra.org  
nueces-ra.org

**RED RIVER AUTHORITY**

Fabian Heaney, General Manager  
(940) 723-8697 | fabian.heaney@rra.texas.gov  
rra.texas.gov

**SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY**

David Weidman, Executive Director  
(903) 223-7887 | dweidman@srbatx.org  
srbatx.org

**UPPER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY**

Scott McWilliams, General Manager  
(325) 655-0565 | scottm@ucratx.org  
ucratx.org



# LAKE RALPH HALL



Fannin County, Texas



UTRWD owned & operated



Fossil Park fossil hunting sites



16,000 total acres



180,000 acre-ft water storage capacity

Lake Ralph Hall is one of Texas' newest lakes and will provide crucial water for an area whose population is expected to increase nearly five-fold in the next 50 years.

1

TEMPORARY AND 1 PERMANENT FOSSIL PARK SITE TO SUPPORT LOCAL FOSSIL HUNTING

1.1

MILE NEW PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY BRIDGE OVER LAKE

12

SQUARE MILES OF LAKE SURFACE AREA

2026

WATER DELIVERY BEGINS

54

MILLION GALLONS OF WATER AVAILABLE DAILY

385

NEW CONSTRUCTION JOBS TO BUILD LAKE AND PIPELINE

2.3

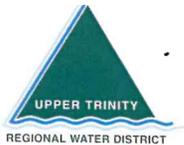
MILE LONG LEON HURSE DAM

32

MILES OF UNDERGROUND PIPE

59

BILLION GALLONS OF LAKE STORAGE CAPACITY



[lakeralphhall.com](http://lakeralphhall.com)

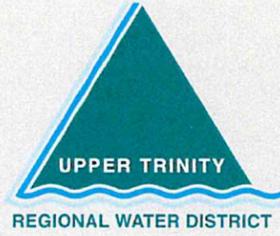


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For questions or business inquiries, please contact **Jason Pierce, Gov't Affairs & Communications: [jpierce@utrwd.com](mailto:jpierce@utrwd.com) / (469) 635-8151**

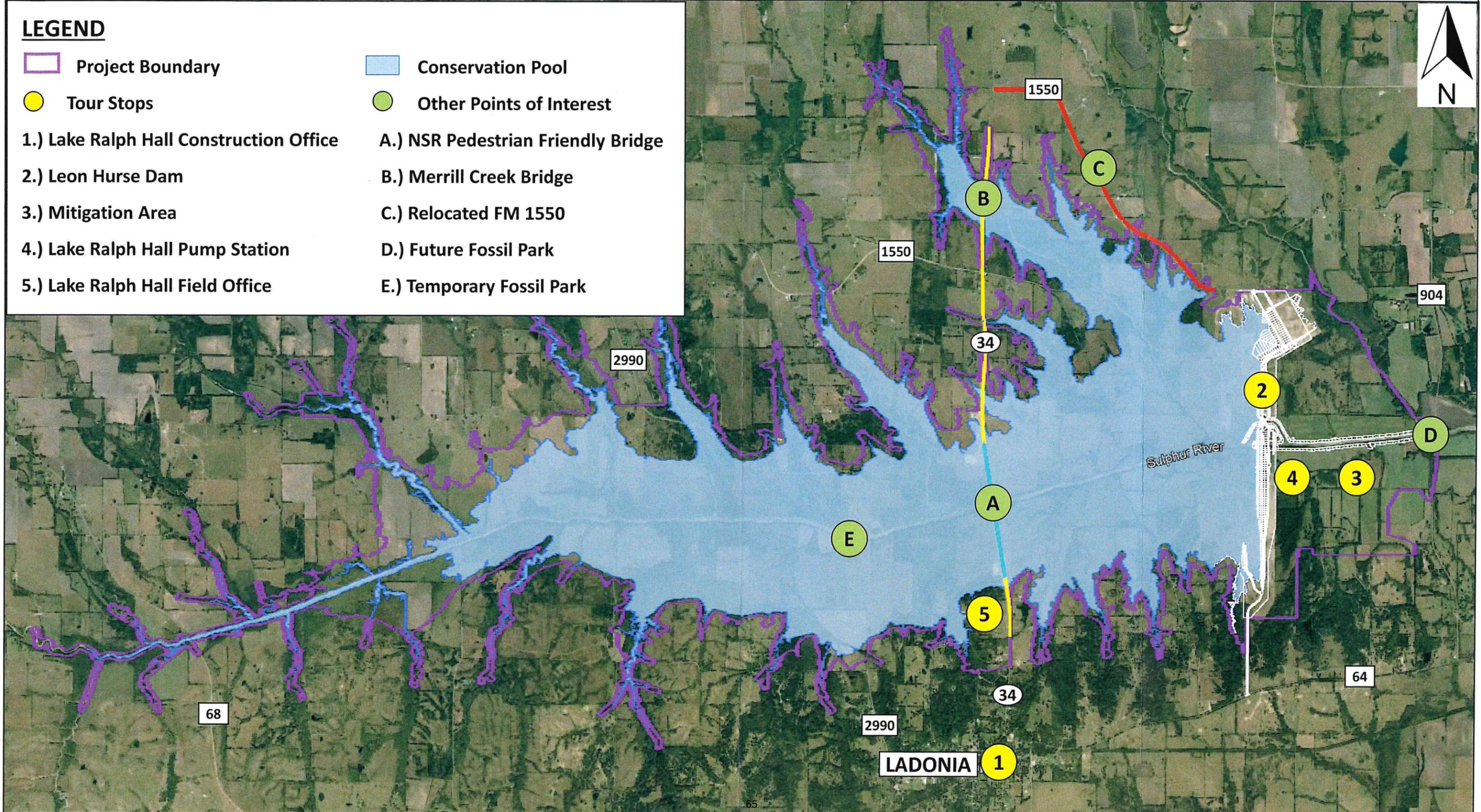


# LAKE RALPH HALL



## LEGEND

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Project Boundary                        | Conservation Pool                  |
| Tour Stops                              | Other Points of Interest           |
| 1.) Lake Ralph Hall Construction Office | A.) NSR Pedestrian Friendly Bridge |
| 2.) Leon Hurse Dam                      | B.) Merrill Creek Bridge           |
| 3.) Mitigation Area                     | C.) Relocated FM 1550              |
| 4.) Lake Ralph Hall Pump Station        | D.) Future Fossil Park             |
| 5.) Lake Ralph Hall Field Office        | E.) Temporary Fossil Park          |



# PROJECT UPDATE

*Lake Ralph Hall is a special place (a natural place, a quiet place, a hospitable place) both for people and for the environment, assuring a reliable water supply for generations to come.*

## Local DM Services Clears the Way for Lake Ralph Hall



*DM Services prepares the site for the new Lake Ralph Hall Maintenance Facility (by the pump station).*

DM Services, a local subcontractor based in Telephone, Texas, has been working behind the scenes to set the stage for many parts of the project.

Since the company's founding in 2016, DM Services has provided various excavation, aggregate and grading services, typically for environmental restoration projects. Their expertise in mass grading and site prep has been instrumental for the Walsh Group and other contractors building the reservoir's many components. DM's first task for the Lake Ralph Hall project was clearing grass, trees and soil for the lake's footprint. They have since excavated the pump station site and excavated/prepared the area for the Lake Ralph Hall Maintenance Facility (currently underway next to the pump station).

"We got involved early on through clearing work and have continued to support the project by helping with the access road to the pump station and other vital tasks," explained Manager of Business Development Drew Davis.

For Davis, working on Lake Ralph Hall is special. "It's marvelous to work on a project that's so close to home,"

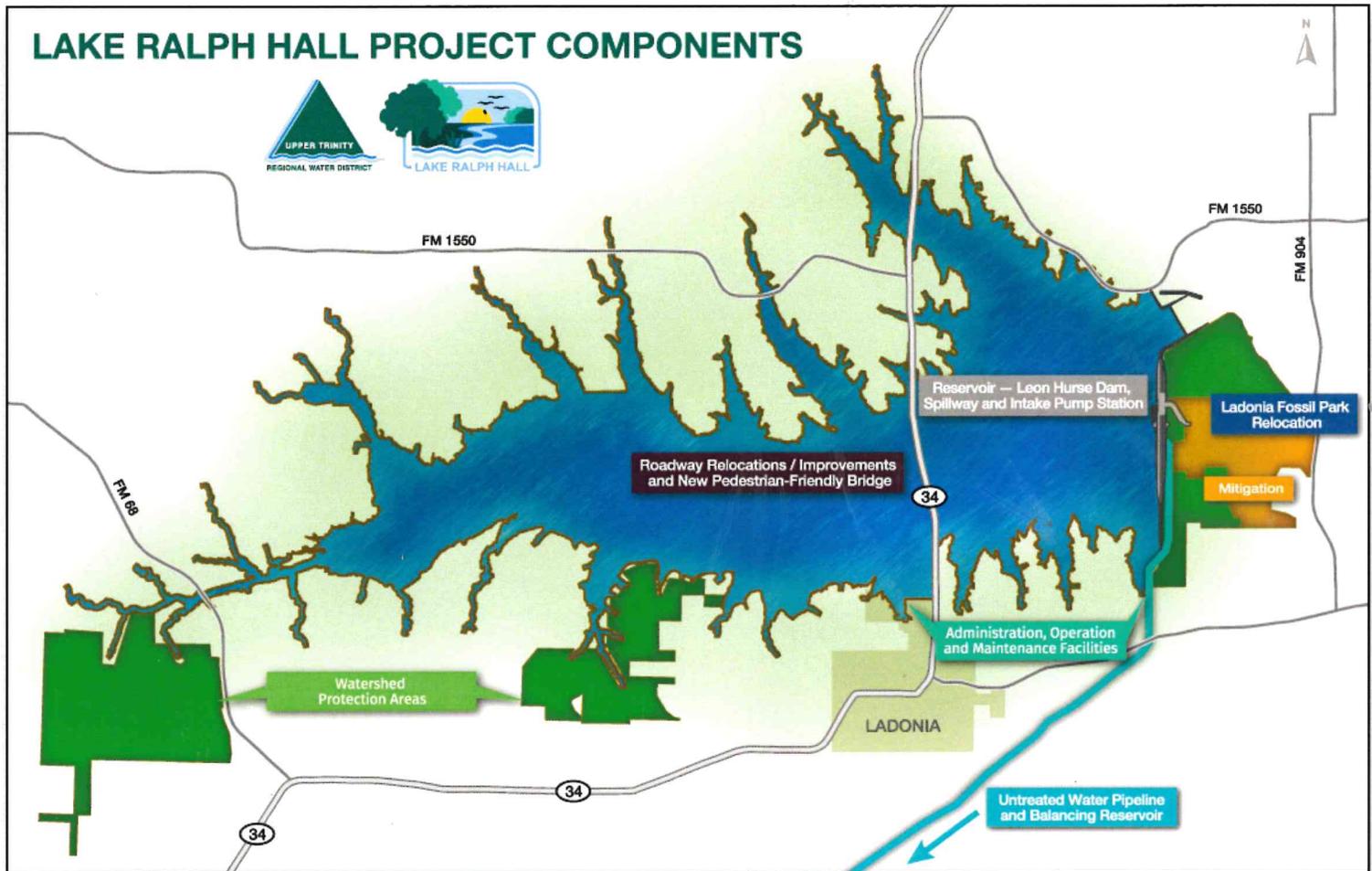
he said. "Seeing familiar faces and knowing that we're contributing to something that will benefit our local community for years to come – it's really gratifying."

The project's proximity to Telephone has also benefited Davis's approx. 25-30 full-time team members, who mostly live in the area.

Davis also praised Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD) and the Walsh Group for creating a positive and collaborative work environment. "They have been great to work with," he said. "Building rapport and gaining their trust on areas within our expertise has been a great opportunity."

Looking ahead, Davis is optimistic about the benefits of Lake Ralph Hall for the region. "I think long-term, it adds another area for recreation... it will open new opportunities for development and jobs in our rural community. It's exciting to be part of something that will be around for the rest of our lives."

# PROJECT COMPONENTS UPDATE



## Reservoir, Leon Hurse Dam & Spillway

Constructing a 2.3 mile-long dam, intake pump station to pump water into the untreated water pipeline and spillway to release excess water back into the North Sulphur River.

- Close to 300 construction workers are now onsite. Many are placing and compacting dirt for the embankment on both ends of the dam. So far they have placed over 2.63 million cubic yards of dirt.
- Crews have placed 51% of the roller compacted concrete and 47% of the reinforced concrete for the spillway.
- Crews have completed clearing of the general lake area east of SH 34.

## Roadway and Bridge Improvements

Constructing a new pedestrian-friendly SH 34 lake bridge, relocating part of FM 1550 and improvements and closures to various county roads.

- The North Sulphur River and Merrill Creek Bridges are finished and open to the public.
- A new section of FM 1550 is complete and open to the public.
- Contractors finished their work on the county roads.

## Administration, Operation and Maintenance Facilities

*Building facilities for the lake's day-to-day operation, management and maintenance facilities.*

- Halff Associates and Freese & Nichols are currently planning/designing all lake facilities.
- The maintenance building's design is completed and construction should begin next fall.

## Conveyance

*Installing a 32-mile underground pipeline and creating a balancing reservoir to provide water to Upper Trinity's water system for treatment and delivery.*

- UTRWD has acquired all necessary land for the pipeline, balancing reservoir and delivery point facility.
- The suction pipe, pump room foundation and walls are complete, with work continuing on electrical and the exterior of the structure.
- Crews have installed 78% of the pipeline for the project and are on schedule to finish early next year.
- Construction on the balancing reservoir began earlier this summer, and the work is 12.5% complete.

## Mitigation

*Returning a portion of the former North Sulphur River to its natural, meandering path. Leaving other areas in their natural condition to protect water quality in the lake.*

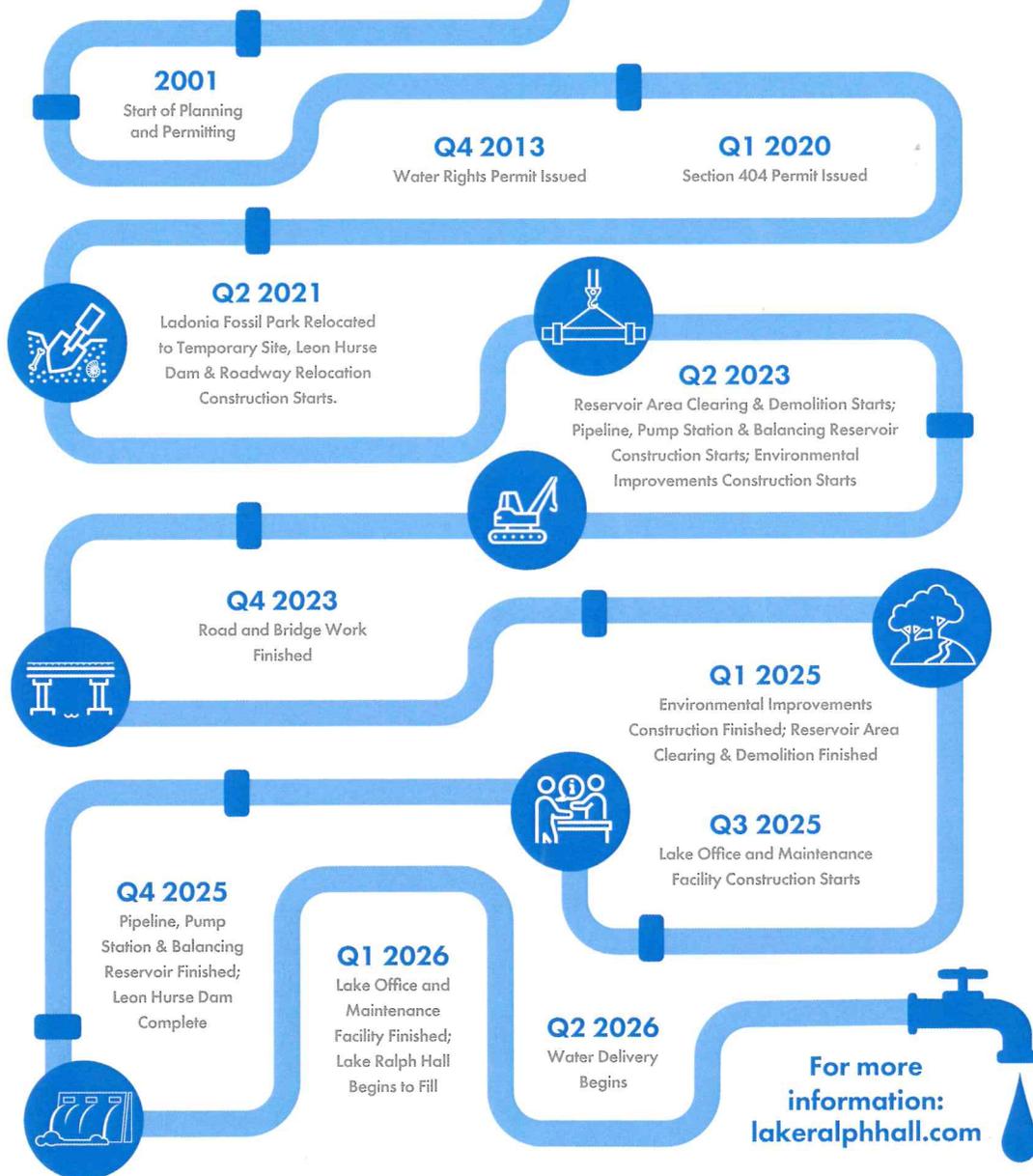
- Site fencing and ground preparations for mitigation have been completed, and crews are over halfway finished creating the restored river tributaries.
- The temporary fossil park continues to attract fossil hunters.
- The lake's fishing jetty has been completed, and Texas Parks and Wildlife are installing fish habitat structures throughout the lake area.

## SPOTLIGHT

# Designed with Community in Mind

Over the last several years UTRWD collaborated with the City of Ladonia, Fannin County, and local business leaders and citizens to develop a comprehensive plan that will serve as the blueprint for future development around Lake Ralph Hall. The plan and subsequent zoning will ensure local community benefits while also protecting the lake's water quality. Watch our new video that explains how the plan was created to shape Fannin County and Ladonia's future.

# Lake Ralph Hall Project Schedule



# UPPER TRINITY REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT



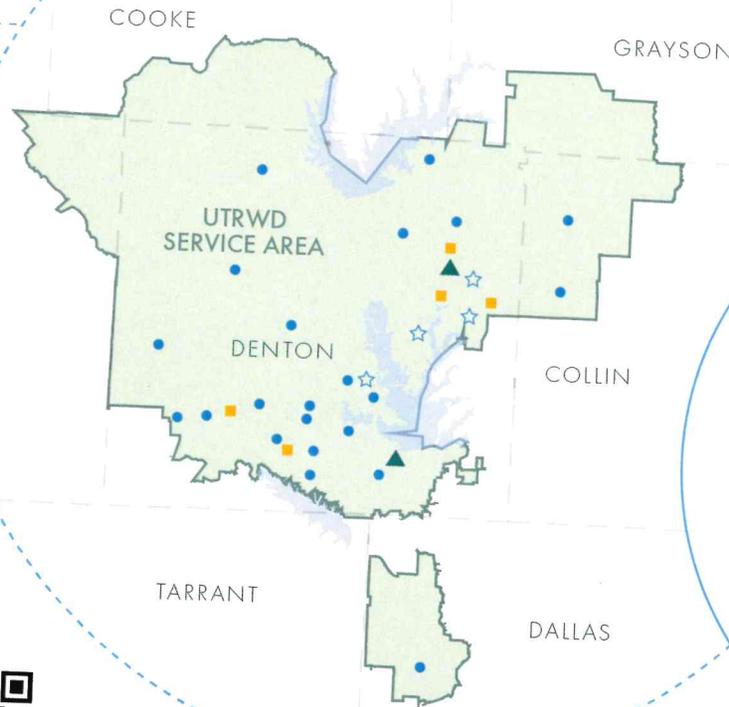
- ▲ Water Treatment Plant
- ☆ Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Member City/Utility
- Customer City/Utility

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Treated Water
- Wastewater Treatment
- HHW Collection
- Water Conservation
- Watershed Protection

## LAKE WATER SOURCES

- Ray Roberts Lake
- Lewisville Lake
- Jim Chapman (Cooper) Lake



Providing wholesale water and wastewater services on regional basis to cities and utilities in Denton and Collin counties.

## by the numbers...

**400K**  
people served

**2**  
water treatment plants (100mgd)

**29**  
North Texas communities served

**22**  
miles of wastewater pipelines

**103**  
miles of water transmission pipelines

**3**  
treated water pump stations

**4**  
wastewater treatment plants

**1,100**  
square miles of service area



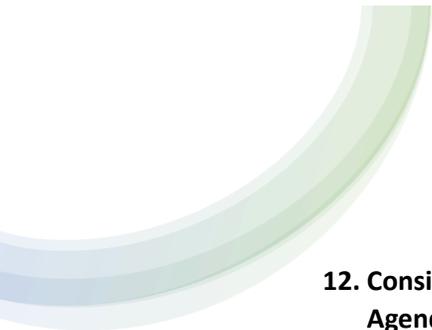
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For questions or business inquiries, please contact **Jason Pierce, Gov't Affairs & Communications**: [jpierce@utrwd.com](mailto:jpierce@utrwd.com) / (469) 635-8151



**12. Consideration, Discussion, and Take Action on New Business to be Placed on a Future Meeting Agenda.**

This agenda item will include discussion and possible action on future agenda items.

Action Item: Possible Motion to place items discussed on the agenda of a future meeting.





**13. Announcements from the Chairman/Board and/or Staff.**





#### **14. Next Regular Meeting**

Sulphur River Basin Authority Regular Meeting, January 21, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.  
at Mount Pleasant Civic Center, 1800 North Jefferson Street, Mount Pleasant,  
Texas.

