

Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority
Fact Sheet
April 10, 2023

North Central Texas – especially counties like Parker, Palo Pinto, and Stephens – is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Families from across the United States and the world are moving here to take advantage of what our wonderful state and region have to offer.

Unfortunately, with two severe droughts over the last decade, this growth has begun to put a severe strain on the area's water resources. It is vital that this growing problem be addressed before it becomes an unmanageable crisis.

The Texas Legislature only meets for 140 days in odd numbered years. Therefore, as time is of the essence, State Representative Glenn Rogers has begun the process of filing a bill to create the Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority.

As proposed, the Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority will undertake the task of coordinating water conservation and procurement efforts for the region, which will include Parker County, Palo Pinto County, and Stephens County.

This will save time and decrease costs by eliminating duplication of effort, identifying opportunities for cooperation, and leveraging economies of scale.

Substantial Surplus funds (several \$B) are likely going to be designated for Texas water infrastructure in the 88th legislative session.

As has been proven across the State, regional authorities are much better positioned to acquire funds from the Texas Water Development Board and other sources. Regional, cooperating authorities are also better suited to assist struggling small water utilities with the technical and financial expertise needed to gain compliance and funding.

Bringing forward collaborative, coordinated plans on behalf of the region will give the Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority a stronger voice as it competes for funding on both the state and federal level.

The Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority Will have Contracting authority, Bonding authority and Eminent Domain authority, but will not have Taxing authority.

Participation with the Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority, while highly recommended, is voluntary.

The Bill is in draft form and is currently being polished and reviewed for legal conflicts by the Legislative Counsel office.

30 day notice of the filing of the bill was published in the Weatherford Democrat (the newsprint of record for Palo Pinto & Parker Counties) on March 24 (30 days would be approximately April 22nd)

30 days public notice is required before the Bill can be filed and proceed to a committee. Time must be allowed for a hearing in the Natural Resources Committee and then be sent to one of the calendar committees. Finally, time must be allowed for the bill to be brought to the House floor. *Rep. Rogers is a member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Reasons why this action should be taken now by the 88th Texas Legislature;

§ Texas has a \$32.7 Billion surplus and a significant portion will be earmarked for water projects

§ Water is a top priority for the Governor, the Speaker and the Lt. Governor

§ Water Restrictions are currently in place in Weatherford, Mineral Wells, Aledo, Hudson Oaks, Gordon, Graford, Millsap, Brock, North Rural, Palo Pinto, Santo, Lake Palo Pinto, Cool, Sturdivant and most of Western Park County. ***This is most concerning given that it's Spring 2023, our wettest time of year.***

Abundant, dependable, safe water is a legacy we owe to our children and grandchildren. Establishing the Cross Timbers Regional Utility Authority is a responsible first-step in creating the plans and obtaining the funding to make sure future water supplies are available to meet future water demands. - State Representative Glenn Rogers