



# Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership

*Henry Horton State Park  
Duck River Education Room  
May 5, 2025*

# **Duck River**

**Watershed Planning Partnership**



**Where water,  
community, and  
conservation meet.**

# Agenda

10a	<b>Welcome Partnership Updates</b>	<b>Park Manager Rainone Commissioner Salyers</b>
10:15	<b>TDEC Updates</b>	<b>April Grippo</b>
11a	<b>Duck River Watershed Historical Lookback</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major Milestones &amp; Events – Doug M.</li><li>• Regionalization Initiatives – Randal B.</li></ul>	
12n	<b>Lunch – “<i>Down the Duck</i>” with John Guider</b>	
1p	<b>Working Group Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regionalization – Randal B.</li><li>• Drought Management – Amanda T.</li><li>• Conservation, Water Loss Reduction, Education &amp; Engagement – Grace S.</li></ul>	
1:30a	<b>Next Steps Questions &amp; Discussion</b>	<b>Commissioner Salyers All Members</b>
2p	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Commissioner Salyers</b>

# TN Drought Monitor - Current Conditions







## U.S. Drought Monitor Tennessee

April 29, 2025

(Released Thursday, May. 1, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

### Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

### Author:

Richard Tinker  
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



# TVA Normandy Optimization Plan

On March 28, TVA announced updates to their management of **Normandy Reservoir: Optimization Plan for Reservoir Releases**. This policy and management change will go into effect on June 1, 2025.

- This change would help preserve water in storage in Normandy Reservoir. Additional water in storage during a drought would help alleviate water needs in the basin.
- The change would also give TVA greater flexibility to meet operational goals during normal conditions while continuing to meet key operational goals related to water quality, aquatic habitat, and water supply.

The proposal, developed in collaboration with the **Duck River Development Agency (DRA)** provides TVA with greater flexibility to meet operational goals during normal conditions while continuing to meet key objectives related to downstream water quality, aquatic habitat, and water supply. The proposal also has the potential to assist TVA and its partners in addressing drought conditions in the watershed that may affect water supply in the region.

# Local Happenings of Note

On March 4, **Danny Rochelle**, VP of the Duck River Conservancy, was appointed to the Duck River Agency Board by Gov. Lee. Representing Hickman Co.

On April 10, voters in Spring Hill elected **Matt Fitterer** as new Mayor of Spring Hill.

On April 21, the **Maury County Commission** voted unanimously to approve a resolution supporting reconstruction of the Columbia Dam project that was discontinued in 1983.

# DRWPP Working Groups

DRWPP's three (3) Working Groups have met:

- **Regionalization** – Randal B.
- **Drought Management** – Amanda T.
- **Conservation/Water Loss  
Reduction/Community Engagement,  
Education & Outreach** – Grace S.

# Communication Channels & Platforms

Established a **dedicated email account** for the Planning Partnership.

[DuckRiver.Partnership@tn.gov](mailto:DuckRiver.Partnership@tn.gov) is live beginning today.

The Partnership will also be accepting resident input and comments on the Duck River Watershed and these water supply planning activities at this address.

Developed a **web presence** for the Planning Partnership  
[www.tn.gov/environment/duckriverpartnership](http://www.tn.gov/environment/duckriverpartnership)

This webpage will be home of information about the Planning Partnership, including information about the Partnership, resources presented to the group, and opportunities to engage and share input with the Partnership.



# Funding for Duck River Activities

Gov. Lee and the Legislature demonstrated their support for our initiative in the state's Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget that is effective on July 1, 2025. The General Assembly appropriated **\$90million** for the Duck River in the next state budget:

- **\$65 million** toward implementing project activity for an effective regional water supply strategy for the Duck River Watershed
- **24.5 million** for TDEC to support regional watershed planning with funds used in three ways:
  - to contribute to the state's Habitat Conservation Plan,
  - to develop an integrated data/GIS network to immediately assess the impact of policies and operational changes,
  - and to contract with an engineering firm to evaluate, study, design and develop a long-term solution to the challenges that face the Duck River Watershed.



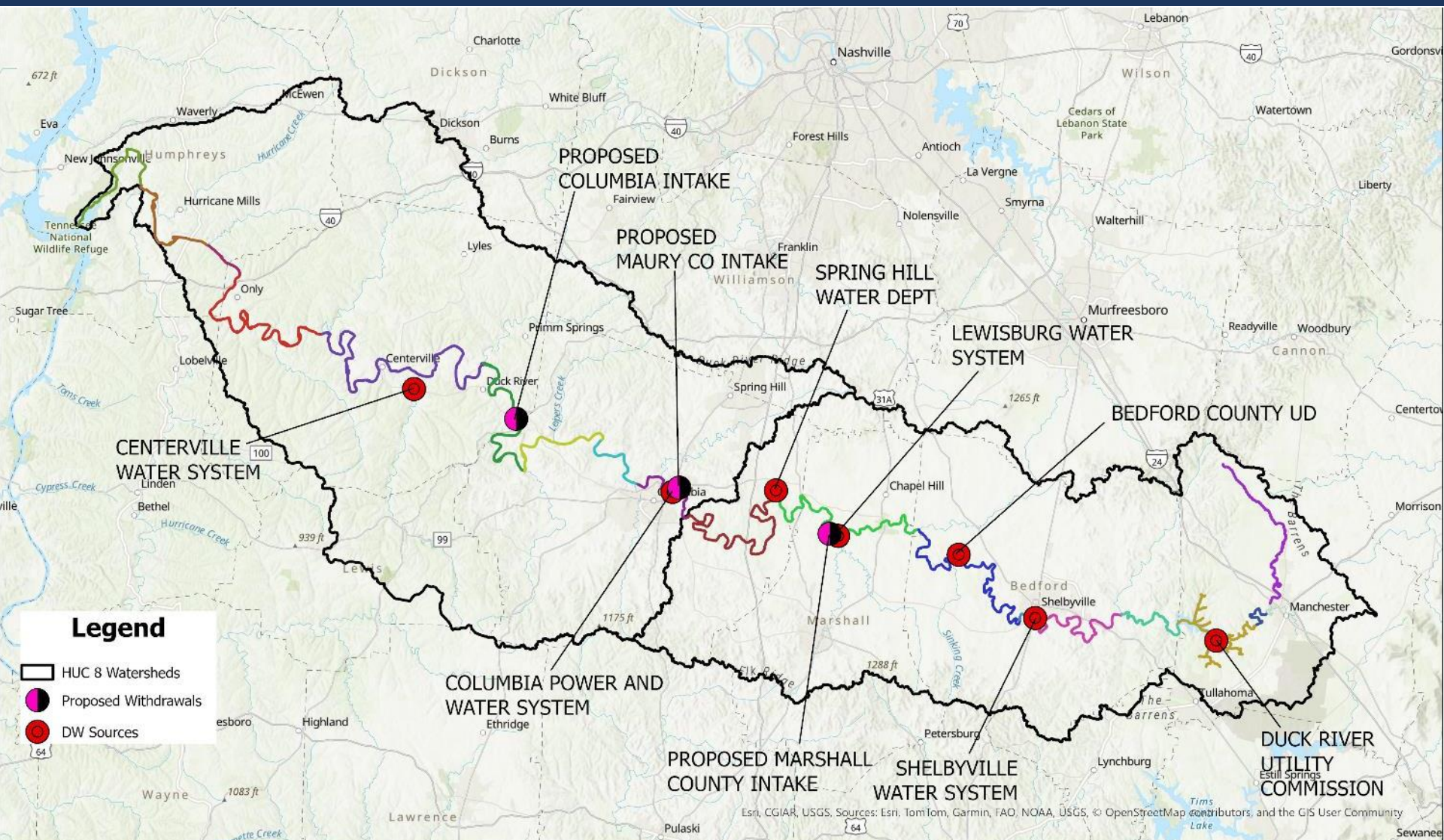
Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**

# TDEC Updates

# Overview

- Comprehensive Water Withdrawal Permitting Pilot Project
- Habitat Conservation Plan
- Water Use Portal

# Duck River Watershed



# Current Status of ARAPs

## Duck River Utility Commission

- Permit issued on March 15, 2024
- Appealed by third parties
- Settlement in January 2025
- Revised draft permit on public notice on April 16, 2025
- Currently accepting public comments on this revised draft

## Bedford County Utility Commission

- Permit issued on March 15, 2024
- Appealed by third parties
- Settlement in January 2025
- Revised draft permit on public notice in March 2025
- Reviewing public comments on revised draft

# Current Status of ARAPs

## **Marshall County Board of Public Utilities**

- Permit issued on August 6, 2021
- Appealed by MCBPU and DRA; cases consolidated
- TWF and TNC granted intervention
- Settlement reached in February 2022
- Revised permit issued May 3, 2022

NO CHANGE SINCE MARCH 4, 2025



# Current Status of ARAPs

## **Shelbyville Power, Water, & Sewerage Systems**

- Draft permit fall 2023
- Public hearing October 30, 2023
- Requested increased volume from 8.35 MGD – 10 MGD
- Draft permit on public notice Dec. 17, 2024
- Public hearing on March 18, 2025 at HHSP
- Currently evaluating comments

## **Lewisburg Water System**

- Draft permit fall 2023
- Public hearing October 30, 2023
- Requested increased volume from 4.58 MGD – 6 MGD
- Draft permit on public notice Dec. 17, 2024
- Public hearing on March 18, 2025 at HHSP
- Currently evaluating comments

# Current Status of ARAPs

## Spring Hill Water System

- Draft permit fall 2023
- Public hearing October 30, 2023

NO CHANGE SINCE MARCH 4, 2025

## Maury County Water System

- Draft permit fall 2023
- Public hearing October 30, 2023
- Many public comments

NO CHANGE SINCE MARCH 4, 2025



# Current Status of ARAPs

## Columbia Power and Water Systems

- Permit issued on June 24, 2019 for existing intake
- Permit including additional intake with floating rate/volume limit of 32 MGD issued on March 15, 2024
- Appealed by multiple third parties
- CPWS intervened
- Settlement reached January 24, 2025
- Revised draft permit on public notice in March 2025
- Currently evaluating comments\*

\*USFWS Biological Opinion issued March 14, 2025

# Habitat Conservation Plan

- EO 108 directs TDEC to lead development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and partner with TWRA
- HCP described in Section 10 of Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973
- HCP will be component of application for USFWS Incidental Take Permit to ensure ARAPs comply with ESA by authorizing limited and unintentional take of listed species
- HCP describes effects on listed species, how impacts will be minimized and mitigated, and funding for conservation measures
- USFWS Conservation Planning Assistance Grant funding request submitted on 3/11/25
- Advisory committee
- Letters of support



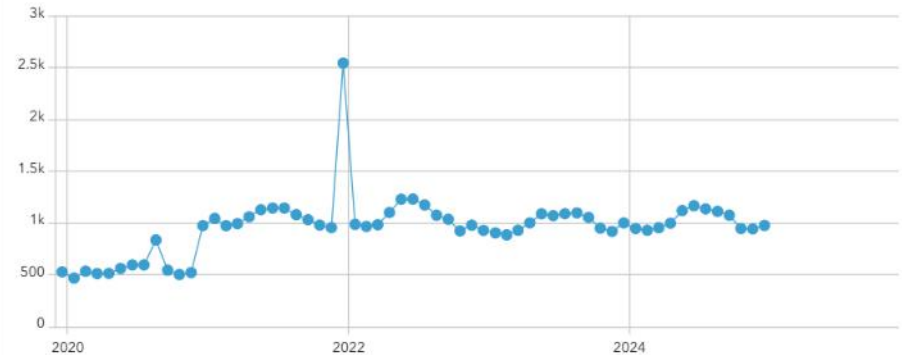
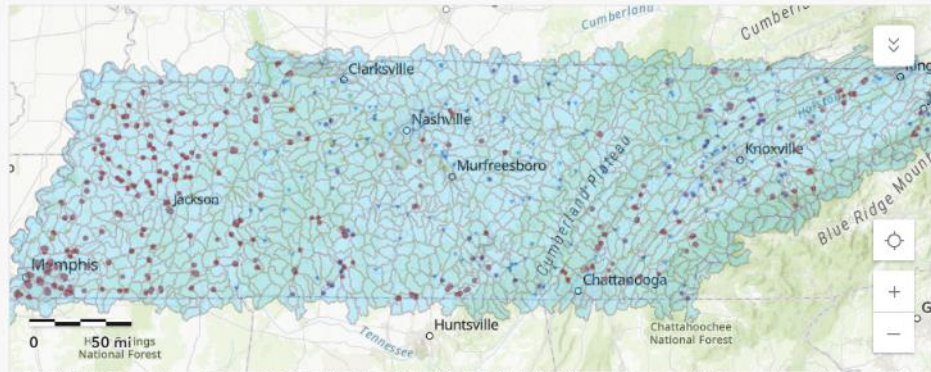
# Water Use Dashboard



PWS\_Water\_Use\_Dashboard



Brian Ham  
Brian.Ham\_TDEC



Sum of Monthly Average Pump Rate - 2024

12.5k

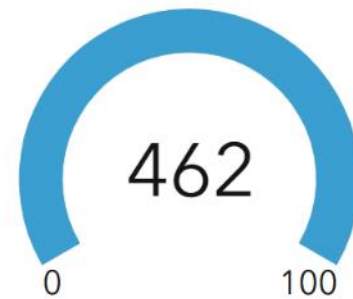
Unit = Million Gallons Per Day

Number of Individual Sources Reporting

1.7k

Includes intakes, wells, spring, and consecutive connections

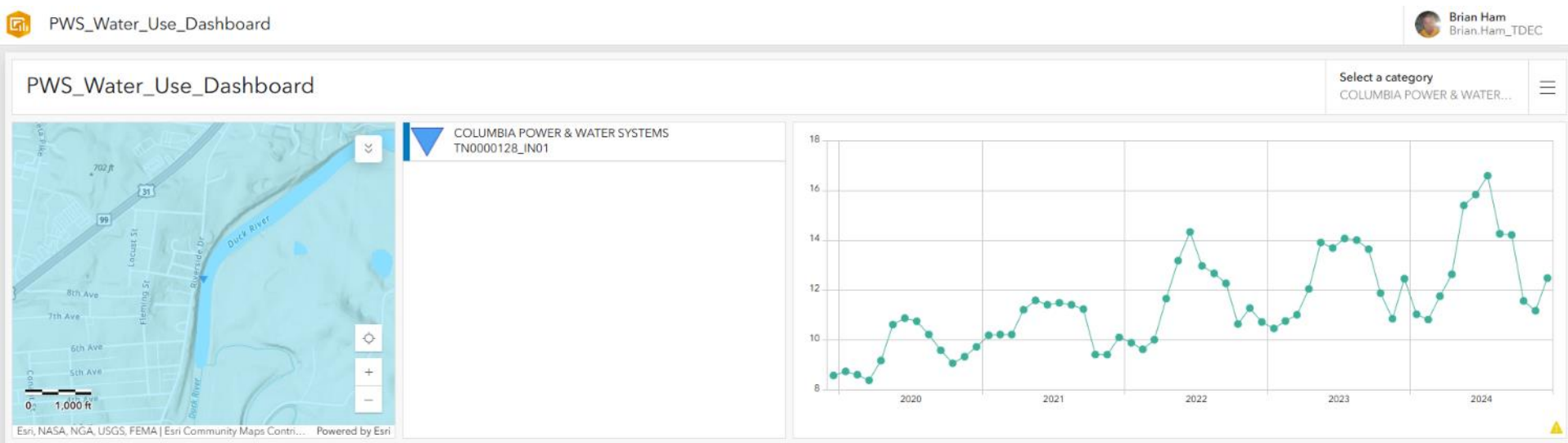
Number of Water Systems Reporting



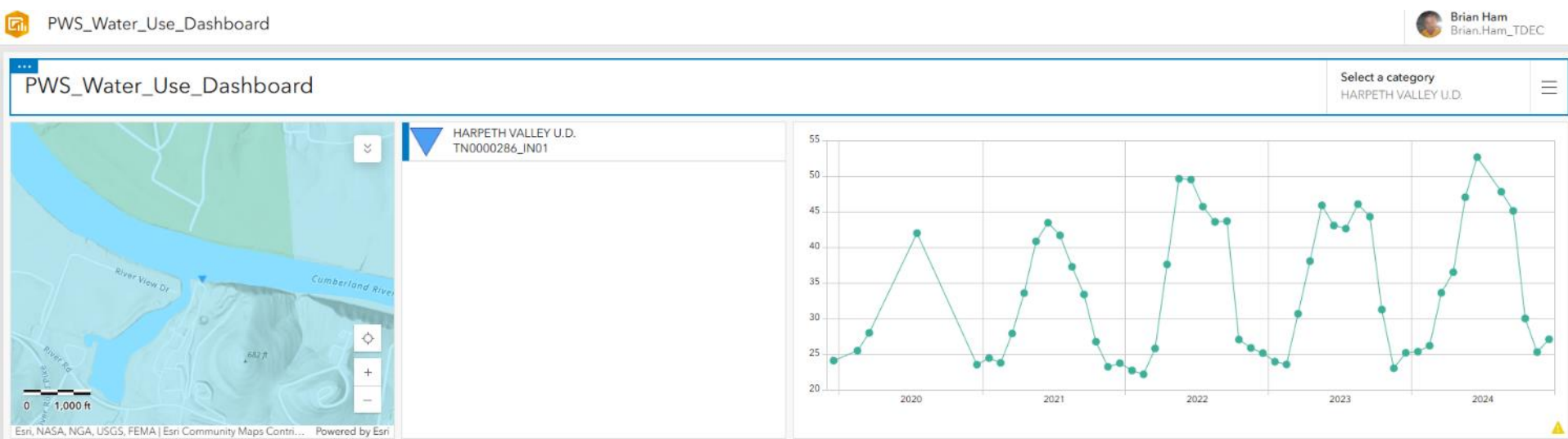
TN

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Conservation

# Water Use Dashboard



# Water Use Dashboard



# Upcoming Events in the Watershed

- **Duck River Education Day for every fifth grader in Bedford, Marshall and Maury counties:** May 6
- **Duck River Float:** May 24 (Harpeth Conservancy):
- **Duck River Expo:** July 11 & 12 at Henry Horton State Park

*Other Events of Note we should put on our calendar...*

# Next Steps... Looking Ahead

**Working Groups will determine their meeting cadence... how often... in-person and/or by videoconference.**

## **Full Partnership Meetings**

- August (Week of August 18)
- October (Week of October 13)

**November 20, 2025** – Deadline for DRWPP Annual (Intermediate) Report

# Discussion/Questions/Your Thoughts



Contact:

David Owenby

David.Owenby@tn.gov

615-406-5678



# Executive Order 108

## Three (3) Major Elements:

- 1. Establishes the Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership (DRWPP) and provides directives for the DRWPP**
- 2. Establishes directives for TDEC, other agencies, and partners acting in the Duck River Watershed**
- 3. Application to statewide water management and other watersheds in Tennessee, with priority on Regionalization**

[Link to EO 108](#)

# Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership

Partnership Members (19) represent

- **TN Department of Environment & Conservation**, serve as Chair
- **TN Department of Agriculture**
- **TN Economic & Community Development**
- **TN Wildlife Resource Agency**
- **TN State House of Representatives Member**
- **TN State Senate Member**
- **TVA**
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District**
- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**
- **Duck River Development Agency**
- **Academic Institution** w/ expertise in water management
- **Local Utilities** in the watershed (2)
- **Local Government** in the watershed (2)
- **Non-Governmental Organizations** active in the region (4)

# Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership

## **Responsibilities**

- Developing comprehensive watershed management recommendations that balance the needs of water users and economic growth against the need to protect the environmental integrity of the Duck River;
- Provide recommendations to the Governor, the DRA, TDEC, TWRA, and the Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives on policies and actions to promote the sustainable use and conservation of water resources in the Duck River Watershed;
- Identifying opportunities for water system regionalization, drought resilience, habitat conservation, and water loss reduction; and
- Engaging with local communities, utilities, industries, and conservation organizations to ensure broad participation in watershed planning efforts.

The Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership is established to support the Duck River Development Agency (DRA) in furtherance of DRA's statutory mission by facilitating collaboration among stakeholders and developing strategies for the sustainable management of the Duck River Watershed.

# Duck River Watershed Planning Partnership

## Deliverables

- **Comprehensive Watershed Management Recommendations**
- **Annual (Intermediate) Report – November 2025**
- **Final Report & Recommendations – December 2026**

**Expires on December 31, 2026**

## TDEC Support Staff for the DRWPP

- **Dillon Blankenship**, Data Manager, Natural Areas, [Dillon.Blankenship@tn.gov](mailto:Dillon.Blankenship@tn.gov)
- **Elaine Boyd**, Senior Advisor, Bureau of Environment, [Elaine.Boyd@tn.gov](mailto:Elaine.Boyd@tn.gov)
- **Stephanie Durman**, Deputy General Counsel, [Stephanie.Durman@tn.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Durman@tn.gov)
- **April Grippo**, Director, Division of Water Resources, [April.Grippo@tn.gov](mailto:April.Grippo@tn.gov)
- **Peter Murrey**, Director, Policy & Planning Office, [J.Peter.Murrey@tn.gov](mailto:J.Peter.Murrey@tn.gov)
- **David Owenby**, Senior Advisor, Commissioner's Office, [David.Owenby@tn.gov](mailto:David.Owenby@tn.gov)
- **Shaun Rainone**, Park Manager, Henry Horton State Park, [Shaun.Rainone@tn.gov](mailto:Shaun.Rainone@tn.gov)
- **Pete Roth**, Advisor, Bureau of Environment, [Peter.Roth@tn.gov](mailto:Peter.Roth@tn.gov)
- **Chuck Yoest**, Regional Director for External Affairs-Columbia, [Chuck.Yoest@tn.gov](mailto:Chuck.Yoest@tn.gov)

# DRWPP Working Groups

DRWPP will have three (3) Working Groups that meet between full Partnership meetings to focus on these particular areas from EO108 and responsive to the Partnership direction with aim to bring information, stakeholder outreach and preliminary options back to the full Partnership for discussion and deliberation...

DRWPP will be responsible for identifying opportunities for:

- **water system regionalization;**
- **drought resilience;**
- **habitat conservation;**
- **water loss reduction; and**
- **engaging with local communities, utilities, industries, and conservation organizations to ensure broad participation in watershed planning efforts.**

# DRWPP Working Groups

## Regionalization

- **Randal Braker**
- **Sheila Butt**
- **Jonathan Hardin**
- **George Nolan**
- **Jimmy West**
- **Chris White**

## *TDEC Support*

- Elaine Boyd
- April Grippio
- Stephanie Durman

# DRWPP Working Groups

## Drought Management

- Andy Holt
- Valerie McCormack
- Pat Marsh
- Mark Thurman
- Horace Tipton
- Amanda Turk

## *TDEC Support*

- Elaine Boyd
- Stephanie Durman
- April Grippio

# DRWPP Working Groups

## Conservation/ Water Loss/ Public Education/ Community Engagement

- Josh Campbell
- Dan Elbert
- Joey Hensley
- Justin Murdoch
- Doug Murphy
- **Grace Stranch**

## *TDEC Support*

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| • Dillon Blankenship | • Shaun Rainone |
| • Elaine Boyd        | • Pete Roth     |
| • Peter Murrey       | • Chuck Yoest   |