

Interregional Planning Council Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2023, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Held in person in the Stephen F. Austin Building, Austin TX and virtually via Microsoft Teams

Council decisions bolded and italicized in document

Participation: Number of Interregional Planning Council members present 13 of 16

A	Ben Weinheimer	E	Scott Reinert – absent	I	Kelley Holcomb	M	Jim Darling – absent
B	Randy Whiteman	F	Scott McWilliams	J	Jonathan Letz	N	Carl Crull
C	Dan Buhman (alternate)	G	Gail Peek	K	David Van Dresar – absent	O	Melanie Barnes
D	Jim Thompson	H	Mark Evans	L	Tim Andruss	P	Patrick Brzozowski

Presiding Officer: Council Chair Mark Evans

Senators/Representatives/Other VIPs in Attendance: None

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Board Members and Staff: Temple McKinnon, Elizabeth McCoy, Heather Rose, Sarah Lee, Ron Ellis, Brittany Condry, Michelle Foss, Jean Devlin, and Kevin Smith

Council alternates present in addition to participating members: Fred Milton (D), David Alders (I), and Jonathan Stinson (L)

MEETING GENERAL

Temple McKinnon (TWDB) called roll and determined that a quorum was present. Council Chair Mark Evans (Region H) called the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome and Orientation

Ms. McKinnon noted that the TWDB Board appointed the following new members to the Council to fill vacant positions: Scott McWilliams (Region F member), Tommy Ervin (Region F alternate), and Tara Bushnoe (Region J alternate). Mr. Evans reviewed the meeting agenda.

2. Public Comment

Mr. Evans asked if there were any comments from members of the public. No comments were provided.

3. Minutes from November 9, 2022 Meeting

The Council considered the minutes of the November 9, 2022 meeting. Jim Thompson (Region D) made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Patrick Brzozowski (Region P) seconded the motion. ***The minutes were unanimously approved.***

4. TWDB Overview of Supporting Materials

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Ms. McKinnon provided an overview of materials that TWDB prepared to support the Council. New supporting materials are available under the General Resources section of the Council's webpage: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/2027IPC.asp>.

Ms. McKinnon reviewed the following materials:

- *Operational Procedures and TWDB Support Summary Document* is a reference document for Council members that outlines how the Council has agreed to operate.
- *2027 SWP Council Board Appointment March - 2023* is the TWDB board item to appoint new members to the Council to fill vacant positions.
- *Policy Recommendations in the 2021 Regional Water Plans* is a compilation of the policy recommendations from the 2021 regional water plans that provides the status of each recommendation as of December 2022. The previous Council recommended TWDB prepare this document and distribute it to the regional water planning groups (RWPG). Ms. McKinnon asked that members review the document and provide feedback by the end of March 2023. The TWDB will then distribute the document to the RWPGs.
- *Active RWPG Committees* is a list of active committees for each RWPG, as of January 2023, that was created in response to a recommendation from the previous Council and is intended to support interregional coordination.
- *Supporting Information on TCEQ Non-Voting Membership* is a resource document for RWPGs interested in adding a TCEQ non-voting member as recommended by the previous Council. The document includes information on which RWPGs have a TCEQ non-voting member and contact information for the central and regional TCEQ offices.
- *RWPG Voting Membership Costs* summarizes RWPG membership costs.
- *RWPG Liaison Materials* is a best practice resource for RWPG liaisons. Ms. McKinnon encouraged the Council to review the document with their regional liaisons and provide feedback to TWDB.

Mr. Evans asked Council members if they had any comments about the supporting materials. There were no comments.

5. Prioritized Recommendations from Previous Council

Ms. McKinnon presented results from the IPC Recommendation Prioritization Survey and RWPG IPC Recommendation Status Survey. Each survey received nine responses. Survey results are summarized in the meeting materials and available on the Council's webpage.

Mr. Brzozowski asked about the Original Order column in the survey results. Ms. McKinnon explained that the Original Order column orders survey results from highest to lowest priority based on the number of High/Medium/Low votes received.

Kelly Holcomb (Region I) asked if the legislature has taken up any of the previous Council's legislative recommendations. Ms. McKinnon stated that legislation has been filed related to the Council recommendation to authorize the use of remote conferencing or webinars (House Bill 390). Several bills

have been filed related to the Open Meeting Act, including Senate Bill 42, House Bill 3225, and House Bill 3440. Mr. Evans proposed that the next Council meeting be held after the close of the legislative session so members can consider any legislative action.

6. Process for Report Preparation

Mr. Evans suggested that the Council operate without committees to develop its report. The Council's report is due to the TWDB on March 4, 2024. Mr. Evans proposed that the Council meet quarterly in 2023 to complete its work. Johnathan Letz (Region J), Carl Crull (Region N), Gail Peek (Region G), and Melanie Barnes (Region O) agreed with the proposed approach.

Mr. Evans requested that TWDB staff poll Council members for their availability to meet again in June. Ms. McKinnon stated that she will poll members for their availability soon.

Mr. Evans proposed starting with an outline to develop the Council's report and suggested including a new report section on the implementation of previous Council recommendations. Mr. Holcomb asked if this Council is working under the same legislative mandates as the last Council. Mr. Evans responded that he was not aware of any new legislative directives and the Council should focus on its existing statutory requirements.

Ms. Peek suggested that getting feedback from the regions on the prioritized recommendations may identify other areas of focus for the Council's report, including additional resources needed and best practices. Ms. Barnes asked for clarification on feedback needed from RWPGs. Ms. McKinnon clarified that the RWPGs were surveyed on how they have or plan to implement the previous Council's recommendations to RWPGs. Ms. McKinnon noted that the survey is closed but could be reopened if needed. Mr. Evans added that Attachment 4 from the Council's November 9, 2022 meeting is a helpful resource to review in conjunction with the survey results. Attachment 4 from the previous meeting is available on the Council's website.

Ms. Peek noted that Region G has a committee that is looking at several projects. One of the projects is in Region K. Region G wondered if this is a point of conflict. Ms. Peek stated that situations like these might come up when the members speak with their RWPGs. These situations are helpful for the Council to discern where it can be a resource for the planning groups to avoid conflict and work better together.

Mr. Holcomb suggested that the Council report include a section that reviews the implementation status of recommendations from the previous Council. Mr. Evans agreed.

Ms. McKinnon asked if the Council would like the TWDB to develop an outline in line with the previous Council's report. Mr. Evans requested that TWDB develop an outline with an added section as Mr. Holcomb suggested.

7. Discuss Schedule and Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Mr. Evans asked if the Council had any suggested materials for the next meeting. Carl Crull suggested looking at the regions and seeing if the Council could help facilitate interregional coordination. Mr.

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Evans mentioned that some regions might not have interregional conflict and that they might just need interregional coordination. Ms. Peek requested background information on what constitutes an interregional conflict along with the steps to take if one ensues. Ms. McKinnon responded that TWDB can provide that information.

Mr. Holcomb asked if the TWDB could provide the legislation or statute that outlines Council's purpose and requirements. Ms. McKinnon will send members the requested information. It is also available on the Council's webpage.

Mr. Holcomb asked if significant population changes are considered interregional conflict. Ms. McKinnon stated that population changes are not considered an interregional conflict, as defined by the TWDB. Mr. Holcomb noted that Region I's population is projected to significantly decrease.

Mr. Evans requested that Council members review the 2020 Council Report before the next meeting. A report outline, with headers and bullet points, will be developed before the next meeting.

Mr. Thompson requested that the next meeting include an agenda item for the Council to discuss recommendations to address water loss and an agenda item to discuss gallons per capita per day (GPCD) values used in planning. Ms. Barnes noted that some smaller communities in Region O did not know that TWDB has a program to assist them with addressing water loss. The Council may consider making observations or recommendations on water loss.

Mr. Holcomb asked if discussion of water loss and planning GPCD is part of the Council's statutory function. If so, his population question from earlier is relevant. Ms. Barnes asked if water loss might fall under the Council's review of best practices. Mr. Holcomb suggested that this discussion may be more appropriate for the RWPGs. Ms. Barnes asked if one RWPG starts a benefiting practice, is it the Council's duty to inform the other RWPGs? Mr. Holcomb noted that the situation must be of high importance for the Council to intervene. Mr. Evans proposed that the Council could include an observations section to the report. Ms. Barnes and Mr. Holcomb agreed.

Ms. Barnes proposed that the Council discuss rural population at the next meeting. Mr. Letz agreed and noted that Region J is projected to decrease in population and water demands. Mr. Letz stated that he believes that the water use methodology is not very accurate and needs to be addressed. Ms. McKinnon verified that agenda items to discuss both population and water demands should be included on the next meeting agenda. Mr. Letz added that he is primarily concerned with water use in rural communities. Ms. McKinnon noted that rural water use is estimated. TWDB will share relevant population and demand methodology documents and water use, loss, and conservation materials in advance of the next meeting.

Mr. Evans emphasized that the Council should stay focused on addressing its statutory requirements. However, it may be appropriate for the Council to make observations on various topics that come up in the course of the Council's work. Ms. Peek agreed and suggested that addressing rural population issues may fall under the Council's work to share best practices.

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Members discussed potential dates for the next meeting. The meeting will be held sometime in late May or early June after the legislative session ends. Members will be polled for their availability.

8. Public Comment

Mr. Evans asked if there were any comments from members of the public. No comments were provided.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Brzozowski motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.