

From: [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)
To: [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)
Cc: [WSI-WUPP-RWP](#); [Temple McKinnon](#); [Matt Nelson](#); [Jessica Zuba](#)
Subject: Regional Water Planning Newsletter - January 2021
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Regional Water Planning Newsletter – January 2021

Good afternoon RWPG Members and Political Subdivision staff,

We hope everyone's new year is off to a good start. As we commence the 6th cycle of regional water planning this year, TWDB's Regional Water Planning program is kicking off these new **quarterly newsletters** to help keep you all informed of program activities throughout the cycle. Below you will find information on current and upcoming Regional Water Planning activities.

2021 Regional Water Plan Approvals

The TWDB Board will consider approving all 16 of the 2021 Regional Water Plans at the **January 19th** Board meeting, beginning at 9:30 am. The Board meeting agenda and webinar registration information are posted at the following link:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/board/2021/01/board2/index.asp>

Rulemaking

The Regional Water Planning program is working on rulemaking to address a few items related to the upcoming initial contracts. More information will be provided in the near future on this rulemaking timeline and content.

Request for Applications/Initial Contracts

We *anticipate* a request for applications for initial contracts for the 2026 Regional Water Plans to be posted in the Texas Register on **March 12, 2021**. Once posted, we will follow up with the RWPG Political Subdivisions directly to let you know and to assist with the application process. The application period will be open for 30 days. These initial contracts will include 5 initial tasks to start the cycle. TWDB staff will be seeking Board approval to negotiate and execute the contracts in June, with a contract execution deadline of August 31.

All RWPGs must take action to designate their Political Subdivision and authorize the Political Subdivision to apply for funds and execute the contract prior to the Political Subdivision submitting an application on the RWPG's behalf.

Consultant Selection/Procurement

Each RWPG must procure or re-procure technical consultants at the beginning of each planning

cycle. Procurement processes must follow those legally required by the RWPG's Political Subdivision to enter into contracts for professional services. TWDB does not specify a deadline for selecting a consultant; however, we recommend timing the process so that consultant subcontracts can be executed following execution of the TWDB contracts in August.

Pre-planning Meeting

Prior to proceeding with any technical work, each RWPG must hold a pre-planning meeting to receive input from the public on items that should be addressed or included in the plan during this planning cycle as well as consider certain aspects of interregional coordination. This meeting is subject to a large 30-day public notice in accordance with notice and public participation rules. Please work with your TWDB Planners on agenda development and notice requirements for this meeting. Please also see the [Public Notification Quick Reference](#) and the [Public Notification Tool](#) for more information on notice requirements.

Interregional Planning Council

The [Interregional Planning Council report](#) was distributed to RWPG members via email in October 2020. TWDB will distribute more information on the status of the Council's recommendations this year.

Regional Water Planning Area Boundary Review

The TWDB is required by statute to reassess the Regional Water Planning Area boundaries every five years. Public input on the Regional Water Planning Area boundaries was solicited last fall, however no comments were received. Staff *anticipate* taking an item to our Board regarding Regional Water Planning Area boundaries at the **February 25th** Board meeting. We will send out information to planning groups once it is available on our website.

Mining Study

In case you missed the announcement, the TWDB has contracted with the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology to update the mining demand projections for the 2026 Regional Water Plans. More information on this study, including a recording of the study kickoff meeting can be found on the TWDB's website at:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/MiningStudy/index.asp>

Contact TWDB

Please contact your region's TWDB Planner for any additional information. TWDB's Planner assignments are as follows:

- Regions A, J, M: William Alfaro, William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions B, C, N: Kevin Smith, Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov
- Region D: Ron Ellis, Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions E, F, L: Elizabeth McCoy, Elizabeth.McCoy@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions G, O, P: Jean Devlin, Jean.Devlin@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions H, I, K: Lann Bookout, Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov

For more information regarding the TWDB Regional Water Planning Program, please visit [our website](#).

Note: This email was sent to all RWPG members and administrators.

Best,

Sarah Backhouse
Manager, Regional Water Planning
Water Use, Projections, and Planning
Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711
512-936-2387 | sarah.backhouse@twdb.texas.gov
www.twdb.texas.gov

