

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Kevin Patteson, Executive Administrator  
Les Trobman, General Counsel  
Jeff Walker, Deputy Executive Administrator

**FROM:** Tom Entsminger, Program Administration and Reporting

**DATE:** May 29, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Award of State Fiscal Year 2015 Regional Facility Planning Grants

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to: (1) negotiate and execute contracts no later than August 31, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 and (2) transfer \$400,000 within the Water Assistance Fund to Research and Planning in order to fund and execute such contracts.

**BACKGROUND**

Regional facility planning grants as authorized by Texas Administrative Code Chapter 355, Subchapter A were established for the purpose of assisting local governments in preparing plans that document water supply and/or wastewater facility needs, identifying existing and potential problems, potential solutions and their relative costs and benefits, and recommendations of the most feasible solutions for regional water supply or wastewater facilities.

On November 7, 2014, a Request for Applications for Regional Water and Wastewater Facility Planning grants was posted in the *Texas Register* with a deadline for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) of January 29, 2015.

**KEY ISSUES**

TWDB received five applications requesting over \$500,000 in funding. Staff reviewed, evaluated, scored and ranked the applications received in accordance to the rules established in the Texas Administrative Code, §355.5 (4) (A-G).

Selection criteria for regional facility planning includes:

- the degree to which proposed planning duplicates previous or ongoing plans,
- the regional nature of the project,
- conformance to certified water quality management plans,
- adequacy of water conservation plan and commitment to water conservation,
- project organization and budget,
- scope and potential benefits of the project, and
- the degree to which the regional facility planning is consistent with an approved regional water plan for the area.

The following table summarizes the funding requests in rank order.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Requested Funding</b>	<b>Planning Project Description</b>	<b>Length of Project</b>	<b>Total Score</b>	<b>Recommended Funding</b>
1	Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority	\$75,000	Regional wastewater treatment and water reuse distribution system	12 months	71	\$75,000
2	City of Wharton	\$85,000	Regional water and wastewater reuse systems	12 months	60	\$85,000
3	Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District	\$275,000	Regional water system based on desalination of brackish groundwater and aquifer storage and recovery of treated water	14 months	59	\$240,000
4	City of Bandera	\$34,250	Developing a wastewater reuse system	17 months	43	\$0
5	City of Paris	\$75,000	Regional wastewater treatment	8 months	41	\$0

Upon approval of this item, the Executive Administrator will work with the applicants recommended for funding to execute the necessary contractual documents to include defined scope of work, approved budgets and all other necessary requirements.

At a minimum, the scope of these projects will include:

- develop the problem statement
- inventory existing conditions and forecast future conditions and needs
- formulate planning alternatives
- evaluate and compare each alternative, and
- recommend the best alternative

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Administrator recommends approval of this item.

This recommendation has been reviewed by legal counsel and complies with all applicable statutes and TWDB rules.

---

Les Trobman, General Counsel