

## RWPG Chairs Conference Call Meeting Notes

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**Type of Meeting:** RWPG Chairs Conference Call (CCC)

**Date of Meeting:** May 10, 2024

**Location of Meeting:** Microsoft Teams

**TWDB Staff in Attendance:** Temple McKinnon, Sarah Lee, Ron Ellis, Sabrina Anderson, Lann Bookout, Kevin Smith, Elizabeth McCoy, Heather Rose, Michele Foss, John Maurer

**Number of Planning Group Members in Attendance:** 13 regions represented

**Senators/Representatives/Other VIPs in Attendance:**

**Report filed by:** Sarah Lee

**Report filed on:** May 16, 2024

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### Agenda Items Discussed:

#### 1. Introductions and Opening Comments

Sarah Lee (TWDB) introduced TWDB staff presenting and noted RWPG attendance. Sarah informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded and written notes will be provided.

With agreement of the participants, the order of the agenda was revised to discuss the Interregional Planning Council following agenda item 1.

Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) participants:

A – Ben Weinheimer (Chair)

B – Kyle Miller (Chair) and Stacey Green (Red River Authority)

C – Kevin Ward (Chair), Alexis Long, and Glenn Clingenpeel (Trinity River Authority)

D – Jim Thompson (Chair)

E – none

F – Cole Walker (Chair)

G – Wayne Wilson (Chair) and Pamela Hanneman (Brazos River Authority)

H – Mark Evans (Chair) and Philip Taucer (Freese and Nichols)

I – none

J – Jonathan Letz (Chair)

K – none

L – Curt Campbell (Chair)

M – Jim Darling (Chair) and Melisa Gonzales (Lower Rio Grande Development Council)

N – Scotty Bledsoe (Chair) and John Byrum (Nueces River Authority)

O – Mark Kirkpatrick (Vice Chair) and Ken Rainwater (Secretary-Treasurer)

P – Patrick Brzozowski (Secretary)

#### 2. Interregional Planning Council

Elizabeth McCoy provided an update on the Interregional Planning Council (Council). In February 2024, the Council adopted its report. The report has been distributed to regional water planning groups and is available on the [Interregional Planning Council webpage](#). The

Council's report includes recommendations to the legislature, TWDB, and future Councils. No specific recommendations were made to regional water planning groups.

The report recommends that the TWDB incorporate annual discussions to evaluate and document best practices for regional water planning at Chair's conference calls. Ms. McCoy asked if members had any initial ideas on how the group would like to evaluate and document best practices at a future Chair's conference call. Sarah Lee noted that the *Administrative Guidance for Regional Water Planning Group Sponsors* document, which includes best practices for planning, may be a useful starting point to support the chair's discussion. No additional ideas were shared. A discussion of best practices for planning will be included as an agenda item at an upcoming Chair's conference call.

### **3. Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities**

Sarah Lee provided an update on the remaining 2026 regional water plan timeline. Ms. Lee informed the group that all 16 RWPGs have submitted their technical memorandums and all have been deemed administratively complete. TWDB staff is reviewing the content of technical memorandums and will provide any feedback we have on the methodologies for source availability in comparison to hydrologic variances that were approved or any other issues that are identified. The intent of this is to provide planning groups additional time to correct issues that may get flagged during the draft plan review.

Four regions identified infeasible strategies and projects in their 2021 regional water plans and are in the process of amending their plans. Those amendments will all be adopted this month and submitted to TWDB by June 5th. The next step in that process is for the TWDB to present those regional water plan amendments to our board for approval and then we will incorporate the amendments into the state water plan later this year.

Regions have been submitting notice to proceed scope of work requests. Planning groups are reminded that if they submitted partial scopes, the consultants would have to come back to the group to present the remaining scope and receive approval again at the planning group level before submitting to the TWDB for review and incorporation into a contract amendment.

Initially prepared plans (draft plans) are due to TWDB 3/3/25. Planning groups are reminded that following submittal of the draft plan to the TWDB, each planning group will hold a public hearing with a 60-day comment period following the hearing. TWDB staff is updating the draft plan review checklist and will provide a version of that to consultants for use early this fall.

Planning groups were reminded that for the socioeconomic reports this cycle, the TWDB will be proactively issuing those reports for all regions. Planning groups do not need to take any action or submit a request to us.

Ms. Lee also informed planning groups that there will be one more set of standard contract amendments for all of the 16 planning group contracts, which will increase the committed funds to the total project cost of the contract. TWDB anticipates issuing these contract amendments in September 2025.

Elizabeth McCoy provided an overview of recently released conservation resources for regional water planning. Information on conservation resources was emailed to regional water planning group stakeholders on April 9. Resources are available on the [Conservation Resources for 2026 Regional Water Plan Development webpage](#) and include the Conservation Resource Guide for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans, Conservation Information Dashboard for Water Supply Planning, recent water loss audit data, gallons per capita per day (GPCD) related data, and links to additional resources.

Ms. McCoy reviewed resources included in the [Conservation Resource Guide for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans](#) and highlighted how regional water planning groups can use available resources to develop conservation water management strategies, set municipal GPCD goals, and prepare the conservation subchapter of the regional water plan.

Ms. McCoy then gave a demonstration of the new [Conservation Information Dashboard for Water Supply Planning](#), which visualizes data from the water use survey, water conservation plans, water conservation annual reports, and the 2021 Regional Water Plans. The dashboard allows users to explore historical planning GPCD statistics by utility size and region, GPCD trends and targets by public water system and water user group, recently implemented conservation best management practices, and recommended conservation projects from the 2021 Regional Water Plans. Data presented in the dashboard may be downloaded in spreadsheet form.

Ms. Lee provided an overview of the newly released county water supply planning information documents, which were developed to assist planning groups with rural outreach efforts. These documents include 1) information on which planning region the county is in and 2021 plan highlights such as water supply sources, needs, and recommended strategies, 2) list of municipal WUGs in the county, including which WUGs are considered rural and a list of systems under County-Other, 3) potentially vulnerable systems, and 4) TWDB resources for water planning and drought. Ms. Lee provided a demonstration of where to access these documents on the TWDB [Water Supply Planning County Summary webpage](#) and content of the documents.

Ms. Lee provided an overview of upcoming materials from the TWDB including an interactive water supply needs and surplus map, a list of flood mitigation projects with a water supply benefit, Chapter 357 rule adoption, regional water planning area boundary review, and the implementation survey.

#### **4. Chairs Discussion**

None.

#### **5. Wrap-up and next call topics and date**

TWDB will aim to schedule at least two more calls during 2024. Ms. Lee will distribute a doodle poll with potential meeting dates.