

## RWPG Chairs Conference Call Meeting Notes

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

**Date of Meeting:** May 7, 2025

**Location of Meeting:** Microsoft Teams

**TWDB Staff in Attendance:** Temple McKinnon, Sarah Lee, Lann Bookout, Elizabeth McCoy, Michele Foss, John Maurer

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

**Senators/Representatives/Other VIPs in Attendance:** TWDB Chairwoman L'Oreal Stepney

**Report filed by:** Sarah Lee

**Report filed on:** June 5, 2025

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### Agenda Items Discussed:

#### 1. Introductions and Opening Comments

Temple McKinnon (TWDB) opened the meeting and noted that the meeting was being recorded and participants would be noted via the Teams attendance report. Ms. McKinnon introduced TWDB Chairwoman L'Oreal Stepney to provide opening comments.

Chairwoman Stepney provided comments to the planning group and thanked the Chairs for their time participating in the planning process, noting that the work planning groups do is very important and valued.

Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) attendees:

A – Jarian Fred (Panhandle Regional Planning Commission)

B – Kyle Miller (Chair)

C – Dan Buhman (Chair) and Alexis Long (Trinity River Authority)

D – Jim Thompson (Chair) and Kyle Dooley (Riverbend Water Resources District)

E – Dave Hall (Vice-Chair)

F – Cole Walker (Chair)

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

H – none

I – none

J – none

K – Annette Keaveny (Lower Colorado River Authority)

L – Curt Campbell (Chair) and Caye Castillo (San Antonio River Authority)

M – Jim Darling (Chair) and Valerie Ramos (Lower Rio Grande Development Council)

N – Scott Bledsoe (Co-Chair)

O – Ken Rainwater (Chair)

P – none

#### 2. Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities

*Initially Prepared Plan review timeline and final Regional Water Plan processes*

Ms. McKinnon discussed the status of TWDB's review of the Initially Prepared Plans, including that TWDB will provide preliminary comments to planning groups by early June.

These comments are an opportunity for planning groups to point out content that TWDB may have missed in the review. Final comments will go out to planning group by July. A copy of the final TWDB comments are required to be included in the final regional water plans, with the regions response documenting how they addressed each comment. Planning groups should work with their TWDB planner in advance of adopting the final plan to ensure that the responses and any related plan adjustments will be acceptable for TWDB to approve the plan.

TWDB was targeting providing the socioeconomic impact reports to the planning groups by August however TWDB now anticipates distributing these reports in June. Once distributed, stakeholders will also have access to an interactive data dashboard and FAQs. TWDB is resource constrained at this time and will not be able to provide presentations on the analysis to each planning group. At the next Chairs call, TWDB staff will present the methodology and take questions on the analysis.

TWDB is also kicking off the regional water planning area boundary review process. This is required by statute for TWDB to assess these boundaries every five years. There will be a 45-day public comment period and TWDB staff will provide a recommendation to the TWDB Board. The boundaries have been reviewed five times since they were established and have not been changed to date.

### **3. Best Practices for RWPGs**

#### *General discussion regarding Initially Prepared Plan public hearings*

Ms. McKinnon reminded the group of the recommendation from the Interregional Planning Council to include a discussion of best practices for RWPGs at least annually on a Chairs call. TWDB is including this as a standard agenda item on Chairs calls moving forward. The Chairs discussed Initially Prepared Plan public hearings, the level of public participation at public hearings and regular planning group meetings, and media coverage.

### **4. Chairs Discussion**

Discussion included the groundwater management area joint planning timeline and how that factors into planning.

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

TWDB will hold the next call in August 2025 which will include a presentation on the socioeconomic impact analysis. Sarah Lee will distribute a doodle poll with potential meeting dates.