

RWPG Chairs Conference Call Meeting Notes

Type of Meeting: RWPG Chairs Conference Call (CCC)

Date of Meeting: July 28, 2025

Location of Meeting: Microsoft Teams

TWDB Staff in Attendance: Matt Nelson, Emma McNeal, Kevin Smith, John Ellis, Elizabeth McCoy, Heather Rose, Michele Foss, Amanda Covington, Kendall Bell-Enders, Brittany Condry

Number of Planning Group Members in Attendance: 13 regions represented

Senators/Representatives/Other VIPs in Attendance: None

Report filed by: Kevin Smith

Report filed on: August 7, 2025

Agenda Items Discussed:

1. Introductions and Opening Comments

Kevin Smith (TWDB) noted that the meeting was being recorded and stated TWDB's policy not allowing use of AI notetakers, then opened the meeting. Acknowledged Matt Nelson, Emma McNeal, and Dr. John Ellis from TWDB staff. Informed planning group members they would be documented via the Teams attendance report and that meeting notes, including copy of recording, would be forwarded afterwards. Noted that planning group consultants invited to meeting to view SEIA presentation and ask questions. Reiterated that TWDB staff would not be presenting SEIA regional presentations at planning group meetings this cycle.

Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) attendees:

A – Ben Weinheimer (Chair)

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

C – Alexis Long (Trinity River Authority)

D – none

E – Dave Hall (Vice-Chair)

F – Cole Walker (Chair)

G – Gail Peak (Vice-Chair) and Pamela Hanneman (Brazos River Authority)

H – Mark Evans (Chair)

I – John Martin (Chair)

J – none

K – Monica Masters (Vice-Chair)

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

M – Jim Darling (Chair) and Valerie Ramos, Melisa Gonzales (Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council)

N – Scott Bledsoe (Co-Chair)

O – Ken Rainwater (Chair)

P – none

Consultant Participants: Simone Kiel, Lissa Gregg, Jordan Skipwith (FNI); Lauren Gonzalez, Katie Dreifuerst, Alicia Smiley (Black & Veatch); Tony Smith, Jennifer Jackson (Carollo);

Brigit Buff (Plummer); Kristi Shaw (HDR).

2. Overview of Socioeconomic Impact Analysis

Dr. John Ellis provided a presentation on the Socioeconomic Impact Analysis for the 2026 regional water plans. John's presentation covered analysis goals, methodologies and assumptions, economic impact analysis software (IMPLAN), methodology and reports peer reviews, regional report contents, and analysis limitations. He also provided a demonstration of the interactive dashboard. Please see the links below for a copy of the presentation slides and a link to the recorded presentation:

- [SEIA presentation slides](#)
- [SEIA presentation recording](#)

3. Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities

Final Regional Water Plan Process

Kevin discussed key items in final plan development. He noted October 20, 2025 plan submittal deadline and emphasized that proposed responses to IPP comments and plan revisions must be submitted to TWDB prior to plan adoption. He explained that RWPGs have discretion to manage their budget and deadlines when deciding whether to include new projects based on public comment, but noted the requirement that all public comments be summarized and why plan changed or not. WUG input and on how to address comments outside of formal IPP comment period.

Dr. Ken Rainwater (Region O) asked about the amendment process for projects that could not be included in the final plan. Kevin stated that for these projects, RWPGs should confirm with the sponsor if they intended to apply for SWIFT funding next cycle. If so, TWDB would develop a timeline for any potential amendment, but emphasized no guarantee that timeline could accommodate amendment request.

Further discussion was held regarding changes to plans that have completed public comment period. Previous guidance issued to RWPGs - If new WMSs are included following public comment, the new must be submitted to TWDB prior to plan adoption for review. If these requests are received as public comments to the IPP, the planning group would be required to summarize and address comments, including explanation of how the plan was revised or why changes were not warranted. There is a 14-day notice and written comment period for final plan adoption and, in accordance with RWPG bylaws and sponsors' legal counsel, planning groups can add new public notice as they see fit if they have concerns. Reminder that if the planning group chooses not to include the new WMSs at this time, entities may later request the region amend the plan (at their own cost) to include WMSs.

Kevin noted RWP data entry and revision deadline of September 22, 2025, emphasizing this is a firm deadline and will not be extended. He discussed that final plans must include final versions of DB27 data reports, anticipated to be available September 24, 2025 in SARA; final deliverable include all required electronic files and (revised in contract amendment) four hardcopies; and 14-day notice and public comment period prior to final

plan adoption meeting.

Ben Weinheimer (Region A) asked about posting requirements for final plan adoption. Kevin reiterated the 14-day notice and public comment period prior to final plan adoption meeting.

Kevin noted that TWDB will send reminder email in early September regarding final plan requirements.

RWP Contracts

Kevin provided status of contract amendments for remaining committed funds for 2026 RWPs and development of schedule for 2031 RWPs. Anticipate RFAs early next year; additional information this fall.

Chairs Feedback

Gail Peak (Region G) inquired about the new Region G planner. Kevin replied that Sarah Lee is interim planner.

4. Chairs Discussion

Matt Nelson offered the opportunity for chairs to discuss any topics not on agenda. No responses.

5. Wrap-up and next call topics and date

Kevin suggested next meeting date late September or early October before final plan submittal deadline. Will distribute a doodle poll with potential meeting dates in this date range.