

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator  
Todd Chenoweth, General Counsel  
Jessica Zuba, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply & Infrastructure

**FROM:** Sarah Backhouse, Manager, Regional Water Planning

**DATE:** January 2, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Appointments to the Interregional Planning Council

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider appointing members to the Interregional Planning Council.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is required by Texas Water Code Section 16.052 to appoint an Interregional Planning Council (Council) made up of one regional water planning group (RWPG) member from each RWPG.

Council membership is to be appointed by the TWDB Board each five-year cycle prior to the adoption of a new state water plan and appointments expire once a new state water plan (SWP) is adopted.

The purposes of the Council are to:

- improve coordination among the RWPGs, and between the RWPGs and the TWDB in meeting goals of the state water planning process;
- facilitate dialogue regarding regional water management strategies; and
- share operational best practices of the regional water planning process.

## **KEY ISSUES**

In July 2019, a letter was issued from the TWDB Executive Administrator (EA) to all RWPGs requesting the submittal of at least one nominee to serve on the Council. All RWPGs have taken action to select their nominee and submitted nomination information to the TWDB. A summary of RWPG nominations is included in Attachment A.

Regions G and K nominated more than one member for the Board's consideration. In these two instances where RWPGs provided more than one nomination, staff recommend the nominee with the higher officer rank for Board appointment.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Based on all RWPG nominations and nominee officer rank for Regions G and K, the EA recommends appointment of the following persons to the Council, with terms to expire upon adoption of the 2022 SWP.

<b>RWPG</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
A	Steve Walthour
B	Russell Schreiber
C	Kevin Ward
D	Jim Thompson
E	Scott Reinert
F	Allison Strube
G	Gail Peek
H	Mark Evans
I	Kelley Holcomb
J	Ray Buck
K	David Wheelock
L	Suzanne Scott
M	Tomas Rodriguez
N	Carl Crull
O	Melanie Barnes
P	Patrick Brzozowski

Attachment: Summary of Nominations

## Summary of Nominations

Region	Nominee	Nominee Title	Nominee Entity	Interest Category Representative	Supporting Information Provided from the RWPGs
A	Steve Walthour	General Manager	North Plains Groundwater Conservation District	Water Districts	Mr. Walthour has served on the Region A RWPG since 2007. He is a member of the agricultural and modeling subcommittees and has been an integral part of the Region A water planning process for the last 12 years. Mr. Walthour has over 25 years of experience in groundwater conservation programs.
B	Russell Schreiber (Chair)	Director of Public Works	City of Wichita Falls	Municipalities	Mr. Schreiber has been a member of the Region B RWPG for 11 years and has served as Chair since 2017. He is a member of the Executive Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, and Groundwater Technical Committee.
C	Kevin Ward (Chair)	General Manager	Trinity River Authority	River Authorities	Mr. Ward has been a member of the Region C RWPG for 7 years and has served as Chair since 2018. He also serves on the Region H RWPG. Prior to joining the Trinity River Authority, Mr. Ward was the Executive Administrator of the TWDB.
D	Jim Thompson (Chair)	Chief Financial Officer	Ward Timber	Public	Mr. Thompson is currently the Chair of the Region D RWPG and previously served for six years on the Region D RWPG.
E	Scott Reinert (Vice-Chair)	Water Resources Manager	El Paso Water Utilities	Municipalities	Mr. Reinert has been a member of the Region E planning group for 10 years and currently serves as Vice-Chair.
F	Allison Strube	Director of Water Utilities	City of San Angelo	Municipalities	Ms. Strube joined the Region F RWPG in 2018 and represents large municipalities. Ms. Strube also serves as a board member of the West Texas Weather Modification

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					Association and a committee member for the Concho River Watermaster program.
G	Gail Peek (Vice-Chair)	Of Counsel	Beard, Kultgen, Brophy, Bostwick & Dickson	Small Business	Ms. Peek has been a member of the Region G RWPG for 12 years and currently serves as Vice-Chair. She also participates on the Executive and Groundwater Committees.
G	David Blackburn	Judge	Bell County	Counties	Judge Blackburn has served on the Region G RWPG for 6 years and participates on the Scope of Work Committee.
H	Mark Evans (Chair)	Planning and Governmental Affairs Director	North Harris County Regional Water Authority	Counties	Mark Evans has been a member of the Region H RWPG since its creation (21 years) and has served as the Region H Chair since 2009. Mr. Evans previously served four terms as County Judge for Trinity County.
I	Kelley Holcomb (Chair)	General Manager	Angelina & Neches River Authority	River Authorities	Mr. Holcomb has been a member of the Region I RWPG since 1998 and currently serves as Chair. He also participates on the Nominations Committees.
J	Ray Buck	General Manager	Upper Guadalupe River Authority	River Authorities	Mr. Buck has represented the River Authorities interest category on the Region J RWPG for 14 years. Mr. Buck also oversees the Political Subdivision responsibilities for Region J.
K	Teresa Lutes (Secretary)	Managing Engineer	City of Austin – Austin Water	Municipalities	Ms. Lutes has been a member of the Region K RWPG for over 19 years and currently serves as Secretary of the planning group. She participates on nine Region K Committees and is also a member of the Colorado and Lavaca Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee.

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K	David Wheelock (Vice-Chair)	Water Supply Planning Manager	Lower Colorado River Authority	River Authorities	Mr. Wheelock has been a member of the Region K RWPG for over 5 years and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the planning group. He also participates on five Region K Committees and is the Administrative Agent for Region K. Mr. Wheelock has been involved with regional water planning since 1997.
L	Suzanne Scott (Chair)	General Manager	San Antonio River Authority	River Authorities	Ms. Scott has been a member of the Region L RWPG for 11 years and has served as Chair since 2016. She also participates on the Policy Recommendations Committee and serves as Chair of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee.
M	Tomas Rodriguez, Jr. (Chair)	Retired, Engineer	Previously with the City of Laredo	Public	Mr. Rodriguez has been a member of the Region M RWPG for 11 years and currently serves as Chair. Before retiring, Mr. Rodriguez was the Director of the Utilities Department for the City of Laredo.
N	Carl Crull	Owner	Crull Engineering, LLC	Other	Mr. Crull has been involved with regional water supply issues since 1984. He previously served as Assistant City Manager for the City of Corpus Christi and worked for HDR Engineering Inc. before retiring to private practice. He joined the Region N RWPG in January 2017.

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<b>Region</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominee Title</b>	<b>Nominee Entity</b>	<b>Interest Category Representative</b>	<b>Supporting Information Provided from the RWPGs</b>
O	Melanie Barnes	Dr.	Texas Tech University	Public	Dr. Barnes has been a member of the Region O RWPG since 2005. She serves as the Region O liaison to the Region F planning group. Dr. Barnes has also served on other Boards and Commissions involving local water issues.
P	Patrick Brzozowski (Secretary)	General Manager	Lavaca-Navidad River Authority	River Authorities	Mr. Brzozowski has served as Secretary of the Region P RWPG since 2003. He is also the Administrative Agent for Region P.