

AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 9, 2023

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Rebecca Trevino, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Richard A. Wade, Deputy Executive Administrator,
Texas Geographic Information Office

SUBJECT: Contract for application support for the continued development and implementation of the Texas Water Data Hub

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute contracts for a total amount not to exceed \$650,000 for the continued development and implementation of the Texas Water Data Hub.

BACKGROUND

The Texas Water Data Hub (Hub) is an intuitive system to index, document, search, and access Texas water data. The underlying motivation for developing the Hub is the belief that good decision making is based on good data. By creating a catalog of datasets with standardized documentation that follows the principles of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data, the Hub will increase access to and usability of Texas water data, serving water data producers and users across Texas.

Development of the Hub began in 2020, with a focus on “human-centered design” to ensure that the platform is tailored to the needs of Texas water data producers and users. In 2022, efforts shifted to application development, and a beta version of the Hub was launched to the public in early 2023. Because the Hub depends on data contributions from across geographies, entities, and disciplines, the Hub is an evolving and responsive project. The Hub’s data catalog is a collaborative partnership with entities who voluntarily contribute to the project, and it is the cornerstone of the Hub’s success in the long term.

Our Mission

Leading the state’s efforts
in ensuring a secure
water future for Texas

Board Members

Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman | George B. Peyton V, Board Member | L’Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

KEY ISSUES

The Texas Water Data Hub utilizes an open-source data management system called CKAN. CKAN is a highly specialized platform that requires in-depth knowledge and unique skill sets to use. Contractor expertise is required to support the ongoing development of the Hub project and the training of TWDB staff in the technicalities of the CKAN platform. A contract for services was procured in 2020 in the amount of \$160,000 and renewed for one year.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends authorizing the execution of contracts for a total amount not to exceed \$650,000 for the continued development and implementation of the Texas Water Data Hub.