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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 25, 2026

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Georgia Sanchez, Chief Financial Officer
Jessica N. Peña, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply & Infrastructure

FROM: Jesse Milonovich, Interim Director, Program Administration & Reporting

SUBJECT: Technical Services for Conveyance Coordination Implementation

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute a contract with Freese and Nichols, Inc. for technical services related to conveyance coordination implementation in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 and for a term to expire February 28, 2027.

BACKGROUND

Passed in the 89th regular legislative session, Senate Bill 7 amended Texas Water Code, Chapter 6, Subchapter H, charging the TWDB with facilitating: (1) the development of guidance and best practices for the standardization of the specifications, materials, and components used to design and construct infrastructure to transport water; (2) the development of standards and guidance to ensure potential interconnectivity and interoperability between different systems developed to transport water from different projects; and (3) the development of mechanical and technical standards for the integration of water that is made available by a project into a water supply system or into infrastructure to transport water that is made available by a project, as applicable. The subchapter also allows the TWDB to procure professional and consulting services for this task.

Our Mission

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

Board Members

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | W. Brady Franks, Board Member | Ashley Morgan, Board Member
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

On February 12, 2026, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was posted in the Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) and on our agency's website, with a solicitation period ending on March 27, 2026. In addition, an email blast was sent to the Centralized Master Bidders List (CMBL) vendors.

Freese & Nichols, Inc. (FNI), was the only respondent to the RFQ. FNI has previously collaborated with the TWDB and has demonstrated expertise in the following areas: (1) water resources, water conveyance, utilities, and construction; (2) developing and updating technical standards and manuals, including criteria, design standards and specifications; and (3) working with state agencies and public and private entities.

KEY ISSUES

This contract will develop a technical resource(s) for financial assistance applicants and project stakeholders. The technical resource(s) must be:

- user-friendly,
- accessible for TWDB staff to update, as necessary,
- comprehensive (e.g., solicit input or collaboration with other entities such as state agencies, trade associations, academia, non-profit groups, etc.),
- use commonly available computer software, and
- meet the State of Texas' accessibility requirements.

All work will be performed in consultation and collaboration with the TWDB.

RECOMMENDATION

To enable the Texas Water Development Board to continue to comply with the legislative mandate, the Executive Administrator recommends authorizing the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$600,000 and for a term to expire February 28, 2027.