

TWDB Committee Observations Prior to July 29th Council Meeting

Enhancing Interregional Coordination Committee

- Met July 15th (July 22nd meeting canceled)
- Focus areas of discussion to date:
 - RWPGs should evaluate project development issues and opportunities earlier in the planning process, potentially through new requirements in the scope of work by TWDB.
 - The appropriate person(s) should be involved in coordination evaluations, data sharing, and discussions (project sponsors and consultants rather than just volunteer liaisons)
- Observation of potential overlap
 - Discussions on RWPGs coordinating on project development opportunities (also discussed by Planning Water Resources)
 - Roles of liaisons (also discussed by Planning Water Resources)
- *Committee process and timing of deliverable: Chair brainstormed and approach was to have over course of meetings to bring approach to Council as developing recommendations. Report development...*

Planning Water Resources for the State as a Whole Committee

- Met July 15th and 28th
- Focus areas of discussion to date:
 - Evaluate potential to share water resources amongst regions
 - Big ideas for water sources available in a megadrought beyond an RWPG's ability to evaluate
 - Current legislative restrictions (e.g. IBTs)
 - Longer planning period for state water resources
- Observation of potential overlap
 - Discussions on timing of RWPGs coordinating on project development opportunities (also discussed by Enhancing Interregional Coordination)
 - Roles of liaisons for interregional projects (also discussed by Enhancing Interregional Coordination)
- *Committee process and timing of deliverable: Develop recommendations report and submit to Council when complete (August 12th) with verbal updates along the way. Report development....*

Best Practice for Future Planning Committee

- Met July 15th, 21st and 28th
- Focus areas of discussion to date:
 - Information available from TWDB and how to improve distribution to and consumption by stakeholders
 - Simplified planning process revisions
 - Planning group member engagement
 - Review of TCEQ requirements as applicable to the planning process
- Observation of potential overlap – none as of 7/22/20
- *Committee process and timing of deliverable: Assignments to committee members with work product provided to TWDB in advance of Committee meetings. Schedule of product to Council tbd. Report development....*

Council Problem and Goal Statements

Enhancing Interregional Coordination Committee

- Problem statement - In creating regional water plans that comprise the state water plan, the expectations for the scale at which planning groups coordinate is not clear, throughout the state. Although there have been few interregional conflicts, Regions may not be coordinating effectively on issues related to shared water resources and the development of multi-regional projects. Coordination requirements are not fully formalized in statute or rule, coordination roles of consultants and liaisons are not fully specified, and regions are not always coordinating early enough in the process.
- Goal statement - Regions coordinate early and throughout the planning cycle to identify and share knowledge of areas of mutual interest, potential impacts, and cooperate to address water supply needs of their regions, and identify ways the TWDB can assist the planning groups in meeting these goals.

Planning Water Resources for the State as a Whole Committee

- Problem statement – Planning Water Resources for Texas as a whole is hindered by the varied and unique characteristics of different regions of the state, land use patterns and trends, the costs of such planning, the protective nature of regions and states over their natural resources, the ownership of water supplies and the impacts of water development, constraints of existing laws and rules, and the many competing needs for the water.
- Goal statement - Texas’ water needs will best be addressed through cooperative development of innovative and multi-benefit projects that benefit the state as a whole, while meeting the mandated requirements of regional water planning process, including protecting the agricultural and natural resources of the state.

Best Practice for Future Planning Committee

- Problem statement – Formal requirements may stymie the use of best practices. Formalized sharing of information between RWPGs is not always facilitated timely in the planning cycle by TWDB, including group processing of Chapter 8 recommendations. Funding may be inadequate to devote time and effort for reviewing best practices.
- Goal statement - The regions will review processes for improvement in sharing and solving best practices among and between regions. A formalized process will occur early in the planning process so that best practices are shared between regional water planning groups.

Dealing with Interregional Conflict Workgroup

- Problem statement - The current roles (planning group, TWDB, Legislature, others), responsibilities, and timelines for identifying interregional conflicts, and the rules for addressing them, may not be appropriate. Clear criteria are needed to define what may constitute an interregional conflict, what is the planning group’s role in defining and resolving conflict, and when should these actions occur in the planning process.
- Goal statement - Clear guidance will exist early in plan development to address the many factors that may contribute to an interregional conflict. Planning groups, supported by the TWDB, will identify potential conflicts earlier in plan development and will have considered and consistently documented their alternative project evaluations.