

HANDOUT B – Condensed summary of recommendations related to the regional planning process excerpted from the 2016 Regional Water Plans

Data/Methodology improvements

1. Surface water modeling
 - a) Greater flexibility in applying surface water models for planning purposes
 - b) TWDB should examine SW/GW relationships
2. Groundwater
 - a) Allow supplies in RWPs to exceed MAGS with permission from GCDs
 - b) Allow “alternatives to MAG”, such as dry-year groundwater supplies, with GCD or local regulatory approval
 - c) Allow adjustments of MAG values across river basin and county boundaries with GCD approval
 - d) Better “coordination” with joint planning process
3. Projections
 - a) Improve estimates for small communities, county-other, manufacturing, irrigation, and livestock
 - b) More time for public input; more time to revise demand projections adopted by the Board later in the process
 - c) Generally “would like to have the ability to override the TWDB’s prescribed approach/more flexibility”
 - d) Demand revisions should be allowed later in process
 - e) Transient population impact on water demand
 - f) Consider more “alternative scenario analyses”
4. GPCD
 - a) Recommends separating commercial and residential water use and examine both individually.
 - b) Plumbing fixture savings may be unrealistic in certain regions (rural).
 - c) Allow RWPGs to establish own thresholds for GPCD “floors”
 - d) Believe GPCDs are over-estimated
5. WMS evaluations
 - a) Recommends that the TWDB determines, in conjunction with the TCEQ and TPWD, which specific environmental studies and analysis are required for each category of management strategy (i.e., new water right, new reservoir, etc.). Furthermore, the guidance should be added to the Planning Guidelines, so that RWPGs can reflect the cost of those requirements in their budgets and scopes of work. Adding environmental guidelines will also make water plans consistent across the State.
6. Improve TWDB guidance related to environmental flows
7. Structure the planning process to include environmental needs

8. Climate change should be considered for planning

RWP Funding-Related

1. Allow waivers of plan amendments for entities with small strategies
2. Greater funding allocated to sub-WUG level
3. More funding is needed to reach and collect data for small/rural areas
4. More funds to administer process
5. Provide SB1 funds to develop and maintain a “Regional Water Resources Information Management System”

Drought-related

1. Clarification of relationship between drought contingency planning and regional water supply planning.
2. Utilize peak use instead of annual capabilities for drought management planning

Brush control

1. TWDB guidance needed to clarify how to account for brush control projects in the context of a source of new surface water

Stream segments

1. Encourage formation of a working group on USS
2. Clarification of unique stream segment criteria and consequences

Other/General

1. Encourage effective stormwater planning
2. TWDB should coordinate with TCEQ to determine appropriate data and tools for use in regional water planning and in permitting
3. There should be no changes in the regional water planning process or additional planning requirements, except through the formal rule-making procedure. Contract requirements should be established and in place prior to submission of grant proposals.