

Regional Water Planning Group Chairs Call

TWDB Water Supply Planning Division
June 27, 2023

Agenda

1. Introductions and Opening Comments
2. Legislative Update
3. Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities
4. Interregional Planning Council
5. Chairs Discussion
6. Wrap-up and next call topics and date

Agenda Item 1: Introductions and Opening Comments

- Introductions and RWPG roll call
- Opening comments by TWDB Chairwoman Brooke Paup

Agenda Item 2: Legislative Update

a) Bills relevant to Regional Water Planning

Agenda Item 2: Legislative Update (cont.)

Bills of interest that passed

- **HB 1565 - TWDB Sunset Bill**

- RWPGs will report on implementation of large projects.
- RWPGs may plan for conditions worse than drought of record.
- These provisions already in planning contract.

- **SB 28/SJR 75 - Texas Water Fund**

- Establishes \$1 billion Texas Water Fund, subject to voter approval, which can provide additional funding for existing TWDB financial assistance programs.
- Can also fund the New Water Supply for Texas Fund for water supply projects from new sources.
 - At least \$250 million of funds appropriated to the Texas Water Fund must be used for the New Water Supply for Texas Fund
- The Texas Water Fund will take effect January 1, 2024, if SJR 75 is approved by the voters. All other provisions of SB 28 take effect September 1, 2023.

- **HB 1 - Budget Bill**

- Passed budget includes additional funding for RWPGs.
- Specific region amounts to be determined and planning contracts amended in Fall 2023.

Agenda Item 2: Legislative Update (cont.)

Bills of interest that did not pass

- **HB 4373/SB 2108**

- TWDB Legislative priority bills for Regional Water Planning.
- Original bill text would have removed the requirement to place a printed copy of the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) in each county courthouse and one public library in each county in the planning area.
- Would have also allowed notice of the IPP hearing to be posted on the planning group's website, instead of published in newspapers.

b) Chairs feedback

Agenda Item 3: Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities

a) Fall contract amendments

- i. Received an additional \$1.3M in annual appropriations for regional water planning
- ii. To be incorporated into existing contracts this fall
- iii. Amendments will increase total project cost and committed funds
- iv. Subject to TWDB Board authorization (anticipated late summer)

Agenda Item 3: Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities (cont.)

b) Projections deadlines

- Upcoming deadlines:
 - **7/14/23** for non-municipal demands
 - **8/11/23** for population and municipal demands
- Action items recommended to include flexibility for consultants to continue coordination

Agenda Item 3: Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities (cont.)

- Recent questions on *origin* of population projections:
 - First 30 years of population projections (by county) developed by the Texas Demographic Center
 - The Texas Demographic Center's 30 years of county-level population trends are driven by the current demographic profile of population
 - TWDB staff extends projections for 20 years and allocates to WUGS
- RWPGs strongly encouraged to coordinate with TWDB in advance of adopting remaining revisions

Agenda Item 3: Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities (cont.)

c) Upcoming RWPG tasks

- https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working_Schedule_2026RWPs.pdf

Agenda Item 3: Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities (cont.)

- Technical Memorandum due to TWDB March 4, 2024
 - Population, demands, availability and supplies, and needs data reports
 - RWPG process to identify potentially feasible water management strategies (WMSs)
 - List of potentially feasible WMS identified to date
 - List of infeasible WMS and projects identified from the 2021 RWPs
 - Summary of region's interregional coordination efforts do date
 - Full list of deliverable requirements in RWP Contract Exhibit C, Section 2.12.1
- *Meeting to approve Technical Memorandum requires 14-day notice/comment period*

Agenda Item 3: Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities (cont.)

- Activities to occur prior to Technical Memorandum approval
 - Approve and submit hydrologic variances
 - Consider any changes to WWPs or MWPs identified by region
 - Identify infeasible WMSs and projects from the 2021 RWPs
 - Hold public meeting to identify potentially feasible WMS process for 2026 RWPs and present results of infeasible WMS analysis from 2021 RWPs
 - *This meeting requires 14-day notice/comment period and may occur at the same meeting the RWPGs approves Technical Memorandum*

Agenda Item 3: Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities (cont.)

- Additional upcoming activities
 - RWPG approval to submit notice to proceed request for region-specific scope of work to TWDB
 - Specific to scope of work Task 5B (Evaluation and Recommendation of WMS/Projects)
 - Consultants may not commence work on any Task 5B work prior to approval
 - Regions must approve methodology for identifying potentially feasible WMS and identify potentially feasible WMSs to date **prior** to action on notice to proceed
 - Reimbursement of funds for Task 5B strictly prohibited until TWDB issues notice to proceed

Agenda Item 3: Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities (cont.)

- Additional upcoming activities
 - Consider timing of amendments to remove infeasible WMS from 2021 RWPs
 - Any resulting amendments must be adopted by the RWPG and submitted to the TWDB by **June 4, 2024**
 - Action to commence amendment process should occur no later than when planning group approves Technical Memorandum
 - TWDB coordination with consultants on data entry
 - Uniform costing model update

Agenda Item 3: Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities (cont.)

d) TWDB coordination with State Climatologist

- General update on Sunset recommendation for TWDB to consult with State Climatologist

e) Chairs feedback

Agenda Item 4: Interregional Planning Council

- a) RWPG recommendation implementation survey
- b) General status
- c) Chairs feedback

Agenda Item 5: Chairs Discussion

- Open discussion with Chairs

Agenda Item 6: Wrap-up and Next Call

- Next call topics and date options

Questions?

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Stay connected:

