

## RWPG Chairs Conference Call Meeting Notes

---

**Type of Meeting:** RWPG Chairs Conference Call (CCC)

**Date of Meeting:** September 28, 2023

**Location of Meeting:** Microsoft Teams

**TWDB Staff in Attendance:** Matt Nelson, Temple McKinnon, Sarah Lee, Ron Ellis, Yun Cho, Katie Dahlberg, Lann Bookout, Kevin Smith, Elizabeth McCoy, Heather Rose, Michele Foss, Sabrina Anderson, Genera Navarra, Ryke Moore

**Number of Planning Group Members in Attendance:** 15 regions represented

**Senators/Representatives/Other VIPs in Attendance:**

**Report filed by:** Sarah Lee

**Report filed on:** October 10, 2023

---

### Agenda Items Discussed:

#### 1. Introductions and Opening Comments

Sarah Lee (TWDB) introduced TWDB staff on the call and noted RWPG attendance. Sarah informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded and written notes will be provided.

Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) participants:

A – Ben Weinheimer (Chair) and Jarian Fred (Panhandle Regional Planning Commission)

B –Randy Whiteman (Chair) and Stacey Green (Red River Authority)

C –Howard Slobodin (Trinity River Authority)

D – Jim Thompson (Chair) and Kyle Dooley (Riverbend Water Resources District)

E – None

F – Cole Walker (Colorado River Municipal Water District)

G – Wayne Wilson (Chair) and Pamela Hanneman (Brazos River Authority)

H – Mark Evans (Chair)

I – John Martin (Chair)

J – Jonathan Letz (Chair)

K –Annette Keaveny (Lower Colorado River Authority)

L – Tim Andruss (Chair)

M – Jim Darling (Chair)

N – Scotty Bledsoe (Chair)

O – Aubrey Spear (Chair) and Melanie Gaden (South Plains Association of Governments)

P – Judge Philip Spenrath (Chair)

#### 2. Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Activities

Sarah Lee provided an update on the following current and upcoming planning activities.

Fall contract amendments: The TWDB will be issuing contract amendments that incorporate the increased funding received from the Texas Legislature for planning groups. The amendments were approved by the TWDB Board in August. The Board item presented included the increased funds for each region, and TWDB staff has been coordinating with

regions to allocate the increased funds to their contract expense budgets. In addition to the funding increase, the amendments include revisions to the scope of work and the general guidelines for development of the Regional Water plans, primarily to incorporate changes due to the last legislative session or to provide clarification to the guidance. Updated copies of the second amended [Scope of Work](#) (Exhibit A) and second amended [General Guidelines for the 2026 Regional Water Plans](#) (Exhibit C), are posted on the TWDB's website. Sarah provided an overview of the key changes in both documents. A version will be sent to the RWPG consultants showing track changes so that they are easily able to view the revisions.

Infeasible water management strategy analysis: Additional details were provided on this task as it pertains to the 2021 RWPs. The updated guidance provided via email has been incorporated into the amended Exhibit C referenced above. Sarah noted that the updated Exhibit C also includes a simplified flowchart for this analysis and shared some recent questions that TWDB has received regarding this task.

Upcoming RWPG tasks: Sarah reminded the Chairs of tasks that will need to be addressed prior to approving the technical memorandum, including hydrologic variances, identifying major water providers, identifying infeasible water management strategies in the 2021 RWPs, and presenting the process to identify potentially feasible water management strategies in the 2026 RWPs. More information on the plan amendment process will be provided later this year to assist planning groups that identify infeasible strategies. Sarah also provides high level information on the region-specific scope of work approval process.

Upcoming TWDB Board items related to planning: Temple McKinnon provided an update on planning related Board items that will be presented to the TWDB Board later this year through 2024.

### **3. Interregional Planning Council**

Temple McKinnon provided an update on the work of the Interregional Planning Council. The Council's next meeting is November 30<sup>th</sup> and their report is due to the TWDB on March 4, 2024. The next meeting will focus on completing their report.

### **4. Secure Agency Reporting Application (SARA)**

Sabrina Anderson gave a demonstration of the TWDB's new Secure Agency Reporting Applications, which will be how the required State Water Planning database reports will be accessed this planning cycle, in lieu of including hard copies in the RWPs. Sabrina demonstrated how to access the application from the TWDB website, how to find reports relevant to the 2026 RWPs, and application user tips. RWPG Chairs may create a user account in order to view draft RWP data during the planning cycle. Instructions on how to set up an account will be provided.

### **5. Chairs Discussion**

Jim Darling shared Region M's unique situation regarding 70% of water in the region coming from Mexico. Jim shared that water users in the region are looking at conservation plans and drastic options for limiting municipal use. Agriculture use in the region is going into negative allocations and earth canals are failing.

**6. Wrap-up and next call topics and date**

The next call will be scheduled for early January 2024 prior to the technical memorandum deliverables. Sarah Lee will distribute a doodle poll with potential meeting dates.