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Subject: Regional Water Planning Newsletter - July 2023
Date: Thursday, July 20, 2023 1:28:59 PM

Regional Water Planning Newsletter – July 2023

Good afternoon RWPG Stakeholders,

Please see below the July newsletter with updates from the Regional Water Planning program.

Remaining projections timeline

As of July 14, 2023, all RWPGs have submitted revision requests for non-municipal demand projections. TWDB Projections and Socioeconomic Analysis team is reviewing the requests and will follow up with the RWPG consultants with any questions. We appreciate the planning group members' and consultants' diligent work on developing these revision requests.

As a reminder of the remaining projections process, the deadline for submitting RWPG revision requests for population and municipal demand projections is **August 11, 2023**. Please review Section 2.2 of the [General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans \(Exhibit C\)](#) for required supporting documentation when submitting revision requests. **This supporting documentation and the Excel template file must accompany revision requests.**

Later this year, the TWDB Board will consider adoption of population and demand projections for all planning groups. The Board-adopted population and water demand projections are required to be used in developing the regional water plans. If revisions are requested to be made to Board-adopted projections, the planning groups must utilize a separate amendment process for projections, and no TWDB grant funds may be utilized for that additional work.

To assist planning group members in understanding the population projections revision request process, TWDB recently developed the following informational summary document: [Summary of the Population Revision Request Process for Regional Water Planning](#).

Contract amendments to increase RWPG grant funds

The 88th Texas Legislature approved an increase of \$1.3 million in additional appropriations to be allocated to regional water planning groups. Additional funds for the remainder of the planning cycle will be incorporated into contract amendments this fall. Regional water planning staff anticipates seeking TWDB Board approval of these contract amendments in August.

A portion of the additional appropriations are intended to support rural outreach efforts by planning groups. No new scope of work task will be developed as any additional surveying efforts deemed appropriate by planning groups would fall under Task 10 in the regional water planning grant

contract scope of work. The TWDB will be providing supporting information in the near future.

Uncertainty in regional water planning

The 2026 Regional Water Plans are the first set of plans which must explicitly document how the RWPG addresses uncertainty in their planning process (or document that they did not). Details of this documentation are addressed in the regional water planning grant contract guidance document [Exhibit C, Section 2.7.2](#).

Regional water planning staff has also recently developed a new educational document summarizing [Uncertainty in Regional Water Planning](#).

Technical memorandum

The Technical Memorandum, a mid-point contract deliverable, is due to the TWDB **March 4, 2024**. While the full list of content requirements is outlined in [Exhibit C, Section 2.12.1](#), some of the key items include:

- Population, water demands, availability, supplies, and water needs data reports.
- Methodologies to determine surface water availabilities and RWPG-estimated groundwater availabilities to date.
- RWPG documented process to identify potentially feasible water management strategies.
- List of potentially feasible water management strategies identified to date.
- List of infeasible water management strategies and projects identified from the 2021 RWPs.
- Hydrologic variance requests submitted to the TWDB and the TWDB's approval to date.
- Summary of region's interregional coordination efforts to date.

Upcoming RWPG activities

Prior to the Technical Memorandum deadline, RWPGs will need to address the following planning activities:

- Approve and submit [to the TWDB] hydrologic variances for existing surface water sources.
- Conduct an analysis of infeasible water management strategies and/or projects in the 2021 RWPs.
- Hold a public meeting to
 - Present results of the infeasible water management strategy analysis from the 2021 RWPs.
 - Present the RWPG's process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies for the 2026 RWPs.
 - These two items must be presented at the same public meeting. This meeting is subject to a 14-day public notice/comment period.
- Hold a public meeting to approve the Technical Memorandum. This meeting is also subject to a 14-day public notice/comment period.

RWPG consultants will also need to complete data entry for source availability and water user group supplies prior to submitting the Technical Memorandum. The regional water planning data entry application was opened for data entry in June.

Interregional Planning Council

- The third meeting of the Interregional Planning Council (Council) will be held on August 15th. While these meetings are open to the public, only the region's appointed Council member or their appointed alternate may vote on Council action items.
- The Council's report to the TWDB is due **March 4, 2024**. Should the Council include recommendations to RWPGs, this provides time for planning groups to potentially address

recommendation prior to the draft regional water plan deadline of March 3, 2025.

- Information on upcoming meetings and resources can be found on the updated Council website: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/2027IPC.asp>

Reminders and Previous Updates

- The 2026 Regional Water Plan Working Schedule was updated in March 2023 and is available online at: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working_Schedule_2026RWPs.pdf
 - The regional and state water planning rules pamphlet – that conveniently condenses all the key water planning statute and rules for use by RWPGs, Sponsors, and their Consultants - was updated as of May 2022: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_RulePamphlet.pdf
 - Visit the TWDB's *Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Documents* webpage to view communications from TWDB during this planning cycle, project documents including a working schedule, contract documents, and administrative documents. These documents may be found at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/documents.asp>
 - Visit the TWDB's *Regional Water Planning Educational Information* webpage to view educational documents related to regional and state planning: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/education/index.asp>
 - The TWDB receives and maintains a database of all the RWPG member email addresses from the region's sponsor. Sponsors should provide any updated email addresses to your TWDB Regional Water Planner to ensure our membership database is up to date and that all RWPG members receive these newsletters etc. For regions that have members without email addresses, please forward these communications to those members by mail or another effective means.
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Contact TWDB

Please contact your region's TWDB Regional Water Planner for any additional information. Current Regional Water Planner assignments are as follows:

- Regions D, P: Ron Ellis (Team Lead), Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions A, L, N: Michele Foss, Michele.Foss@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions B, C, M, O: Kevin Smith, Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions E, F, H: Heather Rose, Heather.Rose@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions G, J, I, K: Lann Bookout, Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov

For more information regarding the TWDB Regional Water Planning Program, please visit [our website](#).

Note: This email was sent to all RWPG members, sponsors, and technical consultants. A copy of this newsletter will be posted on the regional water planning newsletter [webpage](#).

Best,

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