

# **REGION H**

## **Water Planning Group**

### **MEETING MATERIALS**

**November 3, 2021**



## Common Region H Terms and Conversion Factors

### List of Abbreviations

CRU	Collective Reporting Unit
DCP	Drought Contingency Plan
DFC	Desired Future Condition
DOR	Drought of Record
EA	Executive Administrator
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FWSD	Fresh Water Supply District
GAM	Groundwater Availability Model
GCD	Groundwater Conservation District
GMA	Groundwater Management Area
GPCD	Gallons Per Capita Per Day
GRP	Groundwater Reduction Plan
IFR	Infrastructure Finance Report
IPP	Initially Prepared Plan
MAG	Modeled Available Groundwater
MPC	Master Planned Community
MUD	Municipal Utility District
MWP	Major Water Provider
PDSI	Palmer Drought Severity Index
PWS	Public Water Supply
RFIG	Regional Flood Planning Group
RHWPG	Region H Water Planning Group
ROR	Run-of-River
RWP	Regional Water Plan
RWPA	Regional Water Planning Area
RWPG	Regional Water Planning Group
SWIFT	State Water Implementation Fund for Texas
SWP	State Water Plan
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TWC	Texas Water Code
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
UCM	Unified Costing Model
URS	Unique Reservoir Site
USS	Unique Stream Segment
WAM	Water Availability Model
WCID	Water Control and Improvement District
WCP	Water Conservation Plan
WMS	Water Management Strategy
WRAP	Water Rights Analysis Package
WUD	Water Utility Database
WUG	Water User Group
WWP	Wholesale Water Provider

### Water Measurements

1 acre-foot (AF) = 43,560 cubic feet = 325,851 gallons

1 acre-foot per year (ac-ft/yr) = 325,851 gallons per year = 893 gallons per day

1 gallon per minute (gpm) = 1,440 gallons per day = 1.6 ac-ft/yr

1 million gallons per day (mgd) = 1,000,000 gallons per day = 1,120 ac-ft/yr



**Region H Water Planning Group**  
**10:00 AM Wednesday**  
**November 3, 2021**  
**San Jacinto River Authority Office**  
**1577 Dam Site Rd, Conroe, Texas 77304**  
**AGENDA**

1. Call to order.
2. Introductions.
3. Review and approve minutes of July 7, 2021 meeting.
4. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items 5 through 13.** (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
5. Consider and take action to extend the term of existing Region H voting members for an additional five-year term.
6. Discuss vacancy on the RHWPG for a voting member representing agriculture and consider taking action to approve member to fill the vacancy on the RHWPG.
7. Receive update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).
8. Receive public input and comments on issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the 2026 RWP and 2027 State Water Plan.
9. Discuss the potential process for conducting interregional coordination regarding water management strategies during development of the 2026 RWPs.
10. Consider the identification of water management strategies which may create opportunities for collaboration and cooperation with other planning regions.
11. Consider a course of action for interregional coordination with other RWPGs.
12. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG.
13. Agency communications and general information.
14. **Receive public comments.** (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
15. Next Meeting: February 2, 2022.
16. Adjourn.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and would like to request auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Sonia Zamudio at (936) 588-3111 at least three business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.



## Agenda Item 3

Review and approve minutes of July 7, 2021 meeting.





**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 7, 2021**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Bailey, John Bartos, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Bob Hebert, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Carl Masterson, Mike Turco, and Brandon Wade.

**DESIGNATED ALTERNATES:** Lloyd Smith for John Blount and Tom Michel for William Teer.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gary Ashmore, W.R. Baker, Caleb Cooper, Marvin Marcell, James Morrison, and Kevin Ward.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2021 MEETING**

Mr. Houston made a motion to approve the minutes of April 7, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

**4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 13**

There were no comments related to this item.

**5. DISCUSS VACANCIES ON THE RHWPG FOR VOTING MEMBERS REPRESENTING AGRICULTURE AND COUNTIES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE MEMBERS TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON THE RHWPG**

Mr. Evans announced the vacant position representing Agriculture and the vacant position representing Counties. He explained that Judge Henson resigned his position representing Counties and recommended Judge Byron Ryder be appointed. Mr. Bailey made a motion to appoint Judge Byron Ryder as a voting member of the Region H Water Planning Group representing Counties. The motion was seconded by Mr. Masterson and carried unanimously.

**6. RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE 87<sup>TH</sup> TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the various bills of the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session impacting Water Planning Groups, including HB 1905, SB 905, SB 600, and SB 669.

**7. REVIEW AND DISCUSS RHWPG RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2021 RWP REGARDING UNIQUE STREAM SEGMENTS, UNIQUE RESERVOIR SITES, AND OTHER REGULATORY, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Taucer provided a review of the various recommendations from the 2021 Regional Water Plan regarding unique stream segments, unique reservoir sites, and other regulatory, administrative, and legislative recommendations.

**8. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING SUBMITTALS OF STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS RELATED TO CONSULTANTS FOR THE 2026 ROUND OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO SELECT A QUALIFIED CONSULTANT**

Ms. Amber Batson stated that the San Jacinto River Authority issued a Request for Qualifications to solicit information that will enable the Region H Water Planning Group to select one or more consultants to provide professional services to prepare the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan. She explained Freese and Nichols, Inc., was the only respondent out of approximately four hundred bid invitations sent out. Mr. Lord made a motion to select Freese and Nichols, Inc., as the qualified consultant to provide professional services to prepare the Region H Water Plan for the Region H Water Planning Group. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

**9. RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2026 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN (RWP)**

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan stating they are currently in the administrative mode of the cycle. He stated the team will be transitioning to a technical mode in the next six months.

**10. RECEIVE UPDATE ON RECENT AND POTENTIAL UPCOMING CHANGES TO RWP RULES AND GUIDANCE**

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the Texas Water Development Board's procedural changes mostly aimed at streamlining processes. He reviewed the changes related to the grant application process, funding, general public outreach, regular meeting notices, and plan adoption process. He explained that there were no changes to the major notice events.

**11. DISCUSS POTENTIAL TIMING AND OPTIONS FOR RESUMING IN-PERSON RHWPG MEETINGS**

This item was not discussed due to resuming the Texas Open Meetings Act requirements enacted by the Governor on June 30, 2021. It was stated that the Governor announced all pre-pandemic requirements related to the Open Meetings Act will resume September 1, 2021.

**12. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE RHWPG**

Mr. Taucer stated the consultant team would visit the West Houston Association in mid-September.

**13. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mr. Bookout provided information related to the Mining Water Use Study website, TWDB Member Survey, rulemaking changes due to stakeholder input or legislative changes, the approval of the 2022 State Water Plan by TWDB, due dates for contract execution, and guidance principles and Water

Supply Planning Rules review. He provided a brief overview of various legislative bills, the Sixth Cycle of the Regional Water Plan, and related pre-planning meetings.

**14. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**15. NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 6, 2021**

It was announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2021.

**16. ADJOURN**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.



## Agenda Item 5

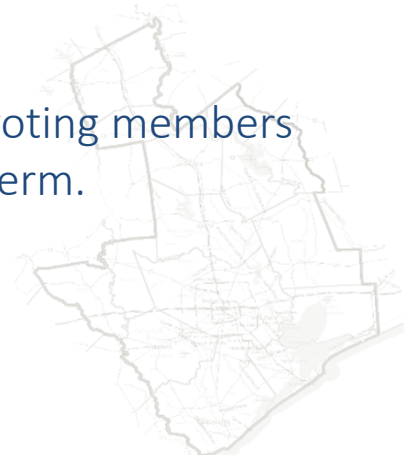
Consider and take action to extend the term of existing Region H voting members for an additional five-year term.



## **Agenda Item 5 Membership**

### **Action:**

Extend the term of existing Region H voting members  
for an additional five-year term.







## Agenda Item 6

Discuss vacancy on the RHWPG for a voting member representing agriculture and consider taking action to approve member to fill the vacancy on the RHWPG.



## **Agenda Item 6 RWPG Vacancy**

### **Action:**

Appoint a new voting member representing  
Agriculture.





## Agenda Item 7

Receive update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP.



# Agenda Item 7 2026 RWP Schedule



\*Region H accepts public comment throughout the planning cycle and at each RWPG and committee meeting.

# Agenda Item 7 2026 RWP Schedule

Date	Scheduled Events/Tasks
11/2021	RWPG Meeting / Pre-Planning Public Meeting
12/2021	Initial TWDB technical data
01/2022	Draft Livestock, Manufacturing, and Steam-Electric Power projections released
02/2022	RWPG Meeting
09/2022	Draft Irrigation and Mining projections released
Q1/2023	Draft Population and Municipal demand projections released





## Agenda Item 9

Discuss the potential process for conducting interregional coordination regarding water management strategies during development of the 2026 RWPs.



## Agenda Item 9 Interregional Coordination Process

### Committees

- RWPG Chair Conference Calls
- Interregional Planning Council

### Liaisons

- Region C  
Kevin Ward
- Brazos G  
Zach Holland
- Region 6  
Brandon Wade
- Region 8  
Glenn Lord
- TWDB  
Lann Bookout

### Members

- River / Water Authorities
- Industry and Ag
- Cities
- GMA and GCD
- Environmental groups
- Others

### Technical

- Region H consultants
- Other RWPG consultants
- TWDB staff

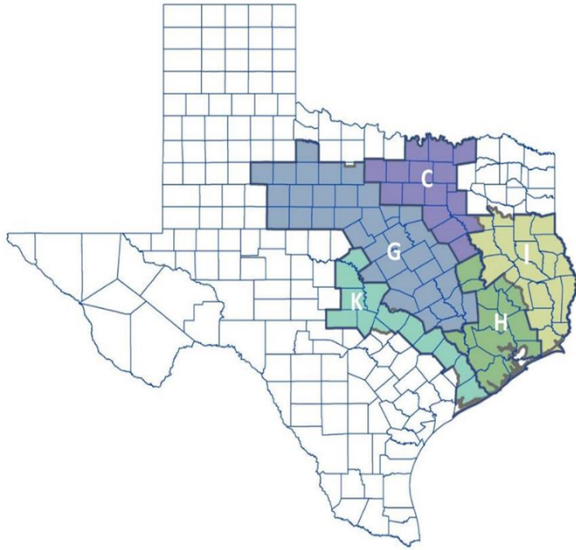
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## Agenda Item 9 Interregional Coordination Process

- Interregional Planning Council Recommendations:
  - Discuss process
  - Document coordination
  - Begin early
- TWDB Recommendations:
  - Identify WMS that develop or use a water resource in another region
  - Determine which strategies may create interregional coordination opportunities

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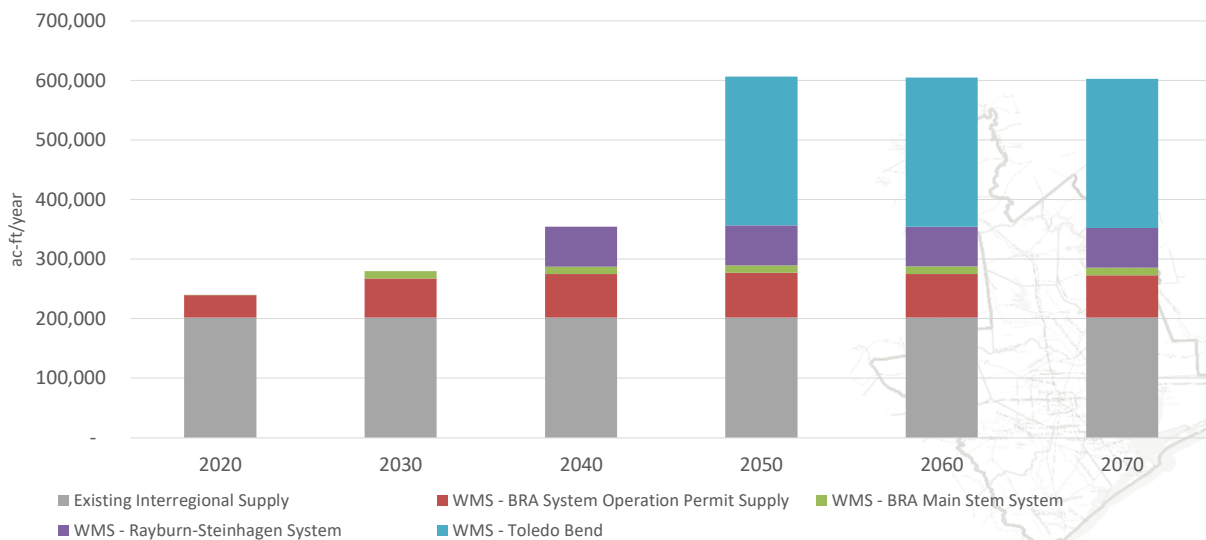
## Agenda Item 9 Interregional Coordination Process



- What are our connections?
  - 13 split WUGs
  - 6 existing sources to Region H (≈200,000 ac-ft/yr)
  - 4 existing sources to others (≈27,600 ac-ft/yr)
  - 12 recommended WMS

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## Agenda Item 9 Interregional Coordination Process



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## Agenda Item 9 Interregional Coordination Process



### Water Management Strategies

- East Texas Transfer
- Fort Bend MUD 25 GRP
- Fort Bend WCID 2 GRP
- Missouri City GRP
- Richmond GRP
- Sugar Land IWRP
- GCWA Galv. County Raw Water Exp.
- LNVA Neches-Trinity Basin Interconnect
- Manvel Supply Expansion
- New / Expanded Contract With GCWA
- Other BRA System Operation Supplies
- Pearland SWTP

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## Agenda Item 9 Interregional Coordination Process

### Projects

- East Texas Transfer
- Fort Bend MUD 25 GRP Infrastructure
- Fort Bend WCID 2 GRP Infrastructure
- GCWA Industrial Raw Water Line
- GCWA Shannon Pump Station Expansion
- GCWA W. Galv. County Treatment Exp.
- LNVA Neches-Trinity Basin Interconnect
- Manvel Supply Expansion - Treatment And Transmission Expansion
- Missouri City GRP Infrastructure
- Pearland SWTP Development
- Richmond GRP Infrastructure
- Sugar Land Groundwater Plant Conversion
- Sugar Land Surface Water Expansion
- WUG Infrastructure Expansion (WUG-Level Projects)

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## Agenda Item 9 Interregional Coordination Process

- Some Potential Actions for Interregional Coordination:
  - Utilize liaisons and sponsors to gather WMS data, meet with liaisons from potentially affected regions, and report to planning groups
  - Form committee to meet with neighboring RWPGs or representatives
  - Authorize RWPG administrators or consultants to meet with neighboring regions or representatives
  - Others?



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## Agenda Item 9 Interregional Coordination Process

Discussion



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**Enhancing Interregional Coordination Committee Report to the  
Interregional Planning Council – August 12, 2020**

**1. Proposed Changes to Committee Problem and Goal Statement:**

Council 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.

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. Regions should consider opportunities for coordination and collaboration among Regions affected by the use of the water resource or impacted by the use of the water resource. In addition, where there are areas of interregional conflict between Regions, consideration needs to be given to the roles and responsibilities of sponsors, stakeholders, consultants and liaisons. Further it is important to consider the planning process administrative timing requirements.

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.~~

Council Goal Statement:

Regions coordinate early and throughout the planning cycle to identify and share knowledge of areas of mutual interest, potential impacts, identification of water management strategies that impact more than one Region, and cooperate to address water supply needs of their regions and identify ways the TWDB can assist the planning groups in meeting these goals.

**2. Draft Recommendation Summaries**

**Recommendation 1:** Identify interregional project development issues and opportunities.

- a. **Brief Observation:** The planning process does not currently have explicit requirements at a specific point in the timeline for RWPGs to identify project development issues and regionalization opportunities.
  - i. **Succinct Recommendations:** The TWDB should revise its administrative contract and rule requirements to: Provide RWPGs a report of all recommended and alternative WMSs for each region in the IPPs soon after the submittal of the IPPs.
  - ii. Require RWPGs to identify in their adopted Regional Water Plans those recommended, alternative, and/or considered water management strategies that present issues or opportunities for other regions and that

merit further direct interregional coordination in the early portion of the following planning cycle.

- iii. Develop a statewide listing of the RWPG-identified projects identified in (i) above and distribute to all RWPGs in support of their coordination work in the next planning cycle.
- iv. Support or facilitate RWPGs by reporting data and/or developing tools to assist with identifying issues or opportunities for interregional coordination.
- v. Require that the public meetings required by 31 TAC §§357.12(a)(1) and (b) include discussion / consideration of the issues and opportunities for interregional coordination identified and the work to date to address them.
- vi. Require that the Technical Memorandum required by 31 TAC §357.12(c) include discussion / consideration of the issues and opportunities for interregional coordination identified and the work to date to address them.

The RWPGs should: remain active in the early portions of the planning cycle to seek input and identify project development issues and opportunities from other regions.

- b. **Brief Benefit:** Implementing this recommendation would ensure there are deliberate actions taken by the RWPGs to identify interregional project issues and opportunities.

**Recommendation 2:** Coordinate and collaborate on interregional issues and opportunities.

- a. **Brief Observation:** The planning process does not currently specify how RWPGs should coordinate and collaborate on project development issues and regionalization opportunities.
- b. **Succinct Recommendations:** The TWDB should revise its administrative contract and rule requirements to:
  - i. Support or facilitate RWPGs with technical or administrative resources, as able, as they coordinate and collaborate with each other on identified interregional issues or opportunities.
  - ii. Require that the public meetings required by 31 TAC §§357.12(a)(1) and (b) include discussion / consideration of how the RWPG will coordinate and collaborate with other regions on the interregional issues and opportunities identified, including a timeline for action.
  - iii. Require that the Technical Memorandum required by 31 TAC §357.12(c) include discussion / consideration of how the RWPG will coordinate and



collaborate with other regions on the interregional issues and opportunities identified, including the status of the action.

The RWPGs should: remain active in the early portions of the planning cycle to coordinate and collaborate on identified interregional project development issues and opportunities.

- c. **Brief Benefit:** Implementing this recommendation would ensure there are deliberate actions taken by the RWPGs to coordinate and collaborate on identified interregional project issues and opportunities.

**Recommendation 3:** Develop an early mechanism to identify strategies using water resources in another region, or that would impact another region.

- a. **Brief Observation:** A mechanism is needed earlier in the planning cycle to identify when a proposed strategy involves use of a water resource in another region or otherwise impacts another region, and when coordination and the opportunity for joint planning should occur early between the regions to determine if the regions are in agreement over the strategy.
- b. **Succinct Recommendations:** The TWDB should:
  - i. Develop a statewide listing of the RWPG-identified projects that use water resources in another region and distribute to all RWPGs in support of their coordination work in the next planning cycle.
  - ii. Require that the public meeting required by 31 TAC §357.12(b) include discussion / consideration of any potentially feasible strategies that would use a water resource in, or otherwise impact, another region.
  - iii. Require that the Technical Memorandum required by 31 TAC §357.12(c) include discussion / consideration of any potentially feasible strategies that would use a water resource in, or otherwise impact, another region.
  - iv. Support or facilitate RWPGs with technical or administrative resources, as able, as they coordinate and collaborate with each other on any potentially feasible strategies that would use a water resource in, or otherwise impact, another region.

The RWPGs should involve the appropriate parties and commit to timely coordination and collaboration on any potentially feasible strategies that would use a water resource in, or otherwise impact, another region.

- c. **Brief Benefit:** Implementing this recommendation would increase the time available to address identified issues that could result in potential interregional conflicts.

### **3. Draft Recommendations Under Further Consideration (yet to be fully developed):**

- 1. Role of liaisons on planning groups

2. Alternative process(es) to resolve interregional conflicts outside of the regional water planning process (as outlined in the Interregional Conflict Workgroup report to the Council on 7/29/2020.)

## **DRAFT**

### **Interregional Conflict Working Group of the Interregional Planning Council Facilitator's Report**

*The Council tasked Kevin Ward (Region C) and Jim Thompson (Region D) with discussing issues related to interregional conflict and with bringing issues back to the Council for further discussion. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ward held a teleconference on July 20, in which Council Chair Suzanne Scott, TWDB staff Temple McKinnon and Matt Nelson, and facilitator Suzanne Schwartz participated. The following represents their input to the Council, with the thought that these recommendations might be considered first by the Enhancing Interregional Coordination Committee.*

While the planning process has not experienced widespread problems related to interregional conflicts, extenuating situations have occurred -- and may continue to occur -- in which conflicts over shared resources or impacts that occur in the region of origin warrant consideration of an earlier and possibly more enhanced process.

- A mechanism is needed earlier in the planning cycle to identify when a proposed strategy involves use of a water resource in another region or otherwise impacts another region, and when coordination and the opportunity for joint planning should occur early between the regions to determine if the regions are in agreement over the strategy.

If a conflict exists, or is likely to develop, concerning the proposed strategy, and it appears unlikely that the conflict would be resolved through the current planning process, an alternate process could be initiated that assures those impacted by the proposed strategy are able to work together to craft a solution. Alternative processes might include elements such as:

- Including stakeholders representing all major interests from both regions;
- Developing joint studies and fact finding that all stakeholders would trust;
- Placing all parties on an equal footing related to access to information and discussion;
- Allotting sufficient time and funding to provide for its success. The Council might consider recommendations for sources of potential funding.

Any process that is recommended should be evaluated to confirm it does not undermine what is currently a generally effective process.



## Agenda Item 10

Consider the identification of water management strategies which may create opportunities for collaboration and cooperation with other planning regions.



## Agenda Item 10 Interregional Strategies

- Identified WMS from 2021 RWP
- New Region H strategies and projects taking shape?
- Anticipated external demands on Region H?



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## Agenda Item 10 Interregional Strategies

Discussion



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## Agenda Item 11

Consider a course of action for interregional coordination with other RWPGs.

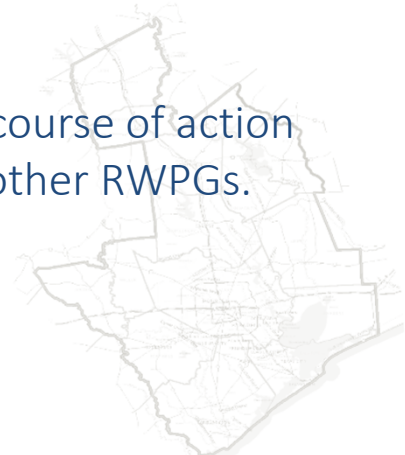


## **Agenda Item 11**

### **Interregional Coordination Action Plan**

#### **Action:**

Consider taking action to designate a course of action for interregional coordination with other RWPGs.





## Agenda Item 12

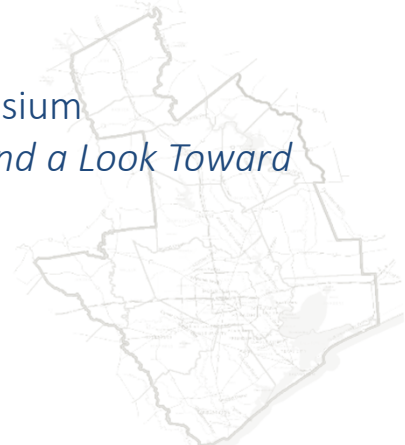
Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG.



## **Agenda Item 12**

### **Community Outreach**

- 09/16 – West Houston Association Water Resources Committee  
*“Recap of the 2021 Region H Plan and Looking Ahead to 2026”*
- 10/28 – Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium  
*“Reflection on The Regional Planning Process and a Look Toward 2026”*







## Agenda Item 13

Agency communications and general information.



**From:** [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)  
**To:** [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)  
**Cc:** [WSI-WSP-RWP](#); [Temple McKinnon](#); [Matt Nelson](#); [Jessica Pena](#)  
**Subject:** Regional Water Planning Newsletter - July 2021  
**Date:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:31:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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## Regional Water Planning Newsletter – July 2021

Good morning RWPG Members and Political Subdivision staff,

Below is your July newsletter from TWDB's Regional Water Planning Program including an update on current and upcoming Regional Water Planning activities.

### 2022 State Water Plan

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, the TWDB Board adopted the 2022 State Water Plan. Thank you to all the RWPG stakeholders for your involvement in the state water planning process. The 2022 State Water Plan is available online at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/swp/2022/index.asp>.

-  
On this webpage you can also find a link to the Interactive State Water Plan as well as Regional Summaries of the 2021 Regional Water Plans prepared by the TWDB for each of the 16 RWPGs.

### Legislative Update

#### *Bills that directly impact regional water planning*

House Bill (HB) 1905, 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, will result in changes to the regional water planning process. This bill relieves RWPGs from assessing financing needs to implement water management strategies and projects and removes the requirement to submit an Infrastructure Financing Report to the TWDB. The bill relieves SWIFT program applicants from submitting an Infrastructure Financing Survey with an application for financial assistance. HB 1905 also relieves the RWPGs from prioritizing projects within the regional water plans and eliminates the Uniform Standards Stakeholder Committee related to the prioritization process. This bill is effective September 1, 2021 and the TWDB will conduct a rulemaking later this year to implement this legislation.

#### *Video-conference guidance*

Please note that none of the bills proposing revisions to the Open Meetings Act regarding virtual meetings passed during the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, however there are existing allowances for such meetings under the act. These requirements were summarized in the following email: [http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/TWDBComms/20210322\\_ExistingOMAallowancesforvideoconferences.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/TWDBComms/20210322_ExistingOMAallowancesforvideoconferences.pdf)

RWPGs should also be aware that the current executive order suspending certain open-meeting requirement due to COVID-19 will terminate as of **9/1/21**.

## Rulemaking

### *Updates to rules pamphlet and public notice quick reference*

The TWDB has updated the regional and state water planning rules pamphlet and public notice quick reference and public notice tool to reflect the recently revised rules effective 5/27/21. Links for these documents are provided below:

- Regional and state water planning rules pamphlet:  
[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP\\_RulePamphlet.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_RulePamphlet.pdf)
- Regional water planning public notice quick reference document:  
[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP\\_PublicNoticeQuickReference.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_PublicNoticeQuickReference.pdf)
- Regional water planning public notice quick reference tool:  
[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP\\_PublicNoticeTool.xlsx](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/RWP_PublicNoticeTool.xlsx)

### *Upcoming rulemaking – guidance principles review*

The TWDB received numerous preliminary input comments on the state water planning guidance principles and potential rulemaking topics. Staff is reviewing the feedback received and will take this into consideration during a formal rulemaking process to occur later this year.

## 2026 Regional Water Plan Initial Contracts

Contract packets for each region have been distributed to the RWPG Administrators for execution. Please review and execute these contracts as soon as possible, as they must be signed by both the external party and the TWDB by **8/31/21**.

## Pre-planning/Coordination Meetings

Guidance for pre-planning and coordination meetings has been sent to the RWPGs. At a minimum, the RWPG must receive public input on the development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan and must discuss the potential process for how they will conduct interregional coordination. The intent of the new interregional coordination requirement is for there to be deliberate discussion on these efforts. The Interregional Planning Council identified the need for coordination efforts throughout the planning cycle rather than only towards the end.

The TWDB provided process examples and strategy and project data from the 2021 Regional Water Plans that can be used to assist with interregional coordination. Pre-planning meetings should be held in 2021 before technical work begins. The TWDB intends to release the first set of projections data at the end of 2021.

- Past communications to RWPGs on this effort may be found on the TWDB communications page at:  
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/TWDBcomms.asp>
- The strategy and project data provided as a reference for this task may be found under Task 10 on the 2026 Regional Water Plan document page  
<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/documents.asp>

## Projections Timeline

Population projections for the 2026 Regional Water Plans will be newly developed based on the

2020 Census and State Data Center projections. Delivery of the draft projections always occurs later in Census cycles and this cycle has been further delayed due to COVID impacts on the 2020 Census data release. This will result in a tight timeframe this cycle for the projections revision process. The TWDB will release draft non-municipal projections as they are developed and provide more time for the data review up front. The population and municipal projections will be released later in the cycle. Additionally, the TWDB will launch a website with all projections related information for the RWPGs, water user groups, and the public to facilitate engagement and participation.

The timing for anticipated release of projections are addressed in items 5, and 7-13 on the 2026 Regional Water Plan Working Schedule at:

[http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working\\_Schedule\\_2026RWPs.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working_Schedule_2026RWPs.pdf)

## RWPG stakeholder survey

The TWDB anticipates opening a RWPG stakeholder feedback survey in late July or early August. This survey will request feedback on TWDB staff assistance, planning group administration, and educational and plan development resources available to RWPGs. We appreciate your time in advance for providing us your feedback.

## Reminders and previous updates:

- The TWDB receives RWPG member emails from the region's Administrator. Administrators should provide any updated email addresses to your TWDB Planner to ensure our membership database is up to date. For regions that have members without email addresses, please forward these communications to those members by mail or another effective means.
  - 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>
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## Contact TWDB

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

- Regions A, J, M: William Alfaro, [William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions B, C, N: Kevin Smith, [Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov)
- Region D: Ron Ellis, [Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions E, F, L: Elizabeth McCoy, [Elizabeth.McCoy@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McCoy@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions G, O, P: Jean Devlin, [Jean.Devlin@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Jean.Devlin@twdb.texas.gov)
- Regions H, I, K: Lann Bookout, [Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov](mailto: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 and administrators. A copy of this newsletter will be posted on the regional water planning newsletter [webpage](#).

Best,

Sarah Backhouse  
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Water Use, Projections, and Planning  
Texas Water Development Board  
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512-936-2387 | [sarah.backhouse@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:sarah.backhouse@twdb.texas.gov)  
[www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov)



**From:** [Sarah Backhouse](#)  
**To:** [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)  
**Subject:** Reminder for RWPGs on Open Meetings Act requirements for video-conferences  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 9:18:47 AM

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**From:** RegionalWaterPlanning <RegionalWaterPlanning@twdb.texas.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:30 AM  
Matt Nelson <Matt.Nelson@twdb.texas.gov>; Jessica Pena <Jessica.Pena@twdb.texas.gov>  
**Subject:** Reminder for RWPGs on Open Meetings Act requirements for video-conferences

Good morning RWPG Chairs and Administrators,

As some RWPGs are continuing to hold hybrid meetings, we wanted to resend the summary of requirements for video conferences under the Texas Open Meetings Act (OMA). The requirements below are excerpted from the Attorney General's (AG) Open Meetings Handbook and from the OMA. Please remember that all RWPG meetings and committee meetings are subject to the OMA and the requirements under [Texas Government Code §551.127](#) must be met if your RWPG is continuing to hold meetings that include video conferences.

RWPGs may wish to confirm with their members who plan to attend virtually that they will have working video and audio feed in advance of the meeting and to remind members at the meeting that their camera must be on for the entirety of the meeting to count towards the quorum. We also wanted to provide a reminder that a quorum must be present for a meeting under the OMA to occur, regardless of whether or not there are action items agenda.

**Summary of video conference requirements in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.127, see Texas Government Code §551.127 for full requirements:**

- Governmental bodies that extend into three or more counties may meet by videoconference call and, unlike with telephone meetings, the authority is not limited to emergency circumstances.
- The member of the governmental body presiding over the meeting must be physically present at one location of the meeting, and the location must be open to the public during the open portions of the meeting.
- A member or employee of a governmental body may participate remotely in a meeting of the governmental body through a videoconference call if there is live video and audio feed of the remote participant that is broadcast live at the meeting.
- A remote participant shall be counted as present at the meeting for all purposes. However, if the audio or video communication is lost for any portion of the meeting, the remote participant is considered absent during that time. Should this occur, the governmental body may continue the meeting only if there continues to be a quorum participating in the meeting.
- A meeting held by videoconference call must meet the regular notice requirements of the OMA but must also specify as the location of the meeting where the presiding member of the governmental body will be present and open to the public.
- The governmental body is required to make at least an audio recording of the meeting and to make the recording available to the public.
- Whether a governmental body is holding a meeting by videoconference or in person, the

governmental body may permit public testimony or public comment from a remote location through videoconference call.

- Meeting location of presiding officer shall have two-way audio and video communication with each other location during the entire meeting.
- While speaking, each participant's face must be clearly visible and the voice audible to each other participant and to the members of the public in attendance at the location where the presiding member is present and any other location of the meeting that is open to the public.
- Each open portion of the meeting is to be visible and audible to the public at the meeting location where presiding member is present. If at any time the meeting is no longer visible and audible to the public, the meeting must be recessed until the problem is resolved.

The TWDB is not in a position to provide legal advice to RWPGs. RWPG members may wish to consult with attorneys for their organizations for additional information or you may contact the Open Government hotline (877-673-6839) regarding an Open Meetings Act issue.

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