

REGION E – FAR WEST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP
 MEETING MINUTES
 Thursday, April 21, 2022
 1:30 P.M. (MDT)
 13247 Alameda Ave, TX 79832

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (✓)/Absent (X) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Jesus Reyes, Chair	<i>Water districts</i>	✓, physically present
Scott Reinert	<i>Water Utilities</i>	✓, physically present
Dave Hall	<i>Public</i>	✓, physically present
Omar Martinez for Teresa Todd	<i>Counties</i>	✓, physically present
Janet Adams	<i>Groundwater Districts</i>	✓, physically present
Commissioner Albert Miller	<i>Water Utilities</i>	X
Mayor Becky Brewster	<i>Municipalities</i>	✓, physically present
Mayor Summer Webb	<i>GMA #4</i>	✓
David Etzold	<i>Real Estate</i>	✓, physically present
Omar Martinez for Brad Newton	<i>Economic Development</i>	✓, physically present
Sterry Butcher	<i>Public</i>	✓
Rick Tate	<i>Agriculture</i>	X
Randy Barker	<i>Groundwater Districts</i>	✓
Kevin Urbanczyk for Jeff Bennett	<i>Environment</i>	✓
Tim Leary	<i>Agriculture</i>	✓
Sean Woodward for VJ Smith	<i>Industries</i>	X
Gerry Grijalva	<i>Water Districts</i>	✓, physically present
Jose Ramirez for Commissioner Albert Miller	<i>Water Utilities</i>	✓, physically present
<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(✓)/Absent(X)/Alternate Present (*)</u>
Elizabeth McCoy	Texas Water Development Board	✓
William Finn	General Land Office/Region 14 Liaison	✓
Others Present:		
Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG	Lower Valley Water District	
Jennifer Herrera, WSP	Haley Davis, Culberson County Groundwater Conservation District	
Andrew Feigenbaum, WSP	Romie Martinez, Fabens Water District	
Ben Rodriguez, Lower Valley Water District	Terri Cruz, Fabens Water District	
Dr. Zhuping Sheng		

1. Welcome – Chairman Jesus “Chuy” Reyes
Chairman Chuy Reyes welcomed the group and received confirmation that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 1:34 pm.
2. Recognition of Guests and Designated Alternates
Chairman Reyes welcomed all of those who attended.
3. Public Comments
There were no public comments made.
4. Review and approve the minutes for the General Meeting held on February 17,2022.
Dave Hall made a motion to accept the Minutes from February 17, 2022. David Etzold seconded the motion. Chairman Chuy Reyes called for a vote and the motion was approved.
5. Chairman – Update on the RWPG Chairs’ Conference Call
Chairman Reyes did not have any items to report since there had not been a meeting.
6. Member Updates
Omar Martinez informed the group that recently attention has been paid to our rural communities due to a recent article from the Texas Tribune. The article reported that rural Texas received less than 1% of state bonds for water projects from the Texas Water Development Board where the areas were meant to receive at least 10%. The article said Rural Texas communities often don’t have the resources, technical experience, or ability to take on large amounts of debt to pursue state funds for water supply and quality projects. So, many simply don’t apply.

Mr. Martinez also mentioned the reporter interviewed Mayor Becky Brewster about this initiative. Mayor Brewster mentioned that Van Horn has benefited from technical assistance offered through the Rio Grande Council of Governments and El Paso County Water Improvement District #1. Board member Kathleen Jackson followed up with Van Horn and Mr. Martinez to ask what type of assistance is being provided. Mr. Martinez provided her with a white paper highlighting the services. He also mentioned he is hopeful this information will be included when the Board meets with the Sunset Commission.

Concrete lining canals upgrading their system 8 million worth EPW bureaus of reclamation funding parlay these studies into their application presentation to engineers collaborative effort learning about water through the water planning group. Kevin mentioned to the group the work he and Jeff Bennett recently completed. He mentioned the study was a gain/loss evaluation where they quantified the ground water contributions to the Rio Grande from below Big Bend National Park all the way to the Amistad Reservoir. They consider it to be a transboundary aquifer. He mentioned all of the participating agencies. The report is currently being written but they do see a large increase inflow and improvement in water quality from the Trinity-Edwards Aquifer and the equivalent in Mexico as well.

7. Consider nomination of Sean Woodward to serve as a planning member for Industries. Sean Woodward is currently proxy to VJ Smith for Industries.

David Etzold made a motion to accept Sean Woodward as a member of the water planning group, representing Industries. Janet Adams seconded the motion. Chairman Chuy Reyes called for a vote and the motion was approved.

8. TWDB update

Elizabeth McCoy provided TWDB updates. She mentioned the TWDB adopted amendments on regional water planning rulemaking on April 11. The amendments were for 31 TAC Chapters 375 and 358. She also mentioned the draft Water User Group (WUG) list has been released. She also said the deadline to request changes to the list is July 29, 2022. Elizabeth stated the regional water planning group contract amendments will be out in the summer of 2022. The amendment will include the anticipated total project cost (full funding amount for the cycle) and the full scope of work.

9. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Rio Grande Council of Governments to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Texas Water Development Board contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 Regional Water Plans

Janet Adams made a motion to authorize the Rio Grande Council of Governments to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Texas Water Development Board contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 Regional Water Plans. Becky Brewster seconded the motion. Chairman Chuy Reyes called for a vote and the motion was approved.

10. WSP - Review and discuss TWDB draft municipal WUGs

Jennifer Herrera presented this agenda item. No action was taken.

11. WSP - Review and discuss TWDB draft "county-other" water systems

Jennifer Herrera provided this agenda item. Ms. Herrera suggested the group meet in May to discuss whether there will be any changes to the WUG list and historical data for municipal WUGS and for WSP to meet with the Village of Vinton and El Paso Water. She mentioned if the group wanted any changes to the data presented, WSP would need to submit them by July 29, 2022. She also reminded the group in August TWDB is set to distribute draft irrigation & mining water demand projections.

12. Set date for next meeting

Annette Gutierrez stated she would send out a poll to determine the next meeting date. The available dates will be May 10, 11, and 13.

13. Adjourn

Janet Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Summer Webb seconded the motion. Chairman Chuy Reyes called for a vote and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:06 pm.



Janet Adams

Date