



REGION E – FAR WEST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP
 MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, June 28, 2022
 1:00 P.M. (CDT)
 1801 A. W Broadway
 Van Horn, TX 79855

<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>	✓, virtual
Dave Hall	<i>Public</i>	✓, physically present
Teresa Todd	<i>Counties</i>	X
Janet Adams	<i>Groundwater Districts</i>	✓, virtual
Commissioner Albert Miller	<i>Water Utilities</i>	X
Mayor Becky Brewster	<i>Municipalities</i>	✓, physically present
Mayor Summer Webb	<i>GMA #4</i>	X
David Etzold	<i>Real Estate</i>	✓, virtual
Brad Newton	<i>Economic Development</i>	✓, physically present
Sterry Butcher	<i>Public</i>	X
Rick Tate	<i>Agriculture</i>	X
Randy Barker	<i>Groundwater Districts</i>	X
Jeff Bennett	<i>Environment</i>	✓, physically present
Tim Leary	<i>Agriculture</i>	X
Sean Woodward for VJ Smith	<i>Industries</i>	X
Gerry Grijalva	<i>Water Districts</i>	✓, virtual
Arlina Palacios	<i>Public</i>	✓, virtual
<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	X
Others Present:		
Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG	Michael Flores, Lower Valley Water District	
Jennifer Herrera, WSP	Rodrigo Estrada, District Director for Congressman Tony Gonzales	
Andrew Feigenbaum, WSP	Trey Gefers, Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District	
Peggy O'Brien, RGCOG		

1. **Welcome – Chairman Jesus “Chuy” Reyes**

Chairman Chuy Reyes welcomed the group and received confirmation that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 1:15 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 April 21, 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. **Review and approve nominations for member vacancies.**

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. Ms. McCoy mentioned the Board will be considering at their July meeting, appointments to the Interregional Council as well as considering the amendment to regional water planning groups' planning contract to incorporate the total planning study cost and the full scope of work for the sixth cycle. She also stated that on April 11, 2022, the Board adopted amendments to the regional water planning rules (31 TAC Chapter 357) and state water planning rules (31 TAC Chapter 358). The proposed rules were published on December 31, 2021, in the Texas Register and the public comment period ended January 31, 2022. The rules became effective May 1, 2022.

New requirements added for RWPGs to discuss their process for conducting interregional coordination at the pre-planning public input meeting and summarize interregional coordination efforts in the Technical Memorandum, Initially Prepared Plan, and adopted Regional Water Plan (RWP). (§357.12(a)(1), §357.12(c)(8), §357.50(g)(1)(C))

Clarification provided that the Technical Memorandum include a statement if applicable, that no infeasible water management strategies (WMS) or water management strategy projects (WMSP) were identified by the RWPG. (§357.12(c)(7))

Requirement for RWPGs to perform an infrastructure financing analysis is removed, and total number of regional water plan chapters is reduced to 10 accordingly. (§357.44 [removed], §357.22(b))

9. WSP – Discuss modifications made to the draft Table 2-7. County Other Systems Reported Water Use

Jennifer Herrera presented this agenda item. There was no action taken.

10. WSP – Review and consider authorizing the Planning Group Consultants to submit the TWDB required Technical Memorandum due July 29, 2022, pertaining to any requested changes to the WUG list and/or historical data for municipal WUGs

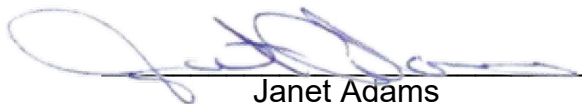
David Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Becky Brewster seconded the motion. Chairman Chuy Reyes called for a vote and the motion was approved.

11. Consider and Discuss a date for the next regular meeting

Based on a recommendation from Jennifer Herrera, the group decided to meet in September and decide on a date. The group agreed to meet at 1:00 pm.

12. Adjourn

Jeff Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Chuy Reyes called for a vote and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.


Janet Adams

Date