



REGION E – FAR WEST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2023

11:30 A.M. (CDT)

113 S Highland, Marfa, TX 79843

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (✓)/Absent (X) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Chairman Scott Reinert	<i>Water Utilities</i>	✓, physically present
Vice-Chairman Dave Hall	<i>Public</i>	✓, physically present
Secretary, Teresa Todd	<i>Counties</i>	✓, virtual
David Etzold, Executive Committee	<i>Real Estate</i>	X
Becky Brewster, Executive Committee	<i>Municipalities</i>	X

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(✓)/Absent(X)/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Heather Rose	Texas Water Development Board	✓, physically present
Others Present:		
Peggy O'Brien, RGCOG, physically present	Juan Acevedo, WSP, virtual	
Robert Halpern, RGCOG physically present	Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, virtual	

1. Welcome –Chairman Scott Reinert

Chairman Reinert welcomed the group and received confirmation that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 11:42 am.

2. Consider providing recommendations to the general membership to fill vacant positions on the water planning group

The group reviewed information from three applicants:

(1) Electric Generating Industries – Raquel Onsurez / El Paso Electric

-- Dave Hall made a motion to recommend Raquel Onsurez nomination to the General Membership Meeting. Teresa Todd seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

(2) Tourism - Jose Landeros / Strategic Development for El Paso County

-- Teresa asked if this candidate represents urban. Mike Davidson, who was rural, held the position before. Wondered if we would benefit from having two people in the Tourism category (one from rural and one from urban). Discussion – members want to know more about the candidate, even though it's hard to get candidates to apply. Want to determine if candidate can represent rural and urban – if only urban, consider adding a rural representative in the Tourism category; and

(3) Economic Development – Urban (Roberto Ransom / Operations Director, Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness at UTEP

-- Teresa Todd made a motion to recommend Roberto Ransom. Annette Gutierrez joined the meeting.

Chairman Reinert recommended that the adoption of these candidates gets pushed to the next General Meeting in El Paso. Dave Hall made a motion to table all three candidates for the next meeting so they may be present for discussion. Teresa Todd seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

With limited time remaining, the only other items that were addressed were numbers 7, 8, 10 & 11.

3. **General TWDB updates**

No information presented. No action was taken on this item.

4. **(WSP) - Update on Regional Water Planning Schedule**

No information presented. No action was taken on this item.

5. **(WSP) Discuss and Review Major Water Providers**

No information presented. No action was taken on this item.

6. **(FNI) Discuss and consider action to approve Far West Texas surface water supply analysis process and submittal of the hydrological variance request for surface water supplies.**

Authorize the technical consultant to submit proposed variances to the TWDB

No information presented. No action was taken on this item.

7. **(WSP) Discuss and consider action on the methodology for Identifying Potentially Infeasible Water Management Strategies and review a preliminary list of Infeasible WMSs in the 2021 RWP.**

Informational slides will be presented at General Meeting. No action was taken on this item.

Action will be requested at the group's next meeting.

8. **(WSP) Discuss and consider action on the process for Identifying Feasible Water Management Strategies in the 2026 RWP**

Informational slides will be presented at General Meeting. No action was taken on this item.

Action will be requested at the group's next meeting.

9. Discuss authorizing Rio Grande Council of Governments to amend the agreement between FWTWPG and WSP for allocation of additional funds.

No action was taken on this item.

10. Discuss and consider utilizing a portion of the FWTWPG fund balance to go towards the implementation of a population study for the entire region

Annette informed the group that El Paso County is interested in doing a population projection study. Lisa Rosendorf (TWDB) advised Annette of the cost:

If only El Paso County: \$52K (El Paso would pay in full);

If all 6 counties: \$92K (El Paso would contribute \$65K) and there would be a shortfall of \$27K.

FWTWPG reserve fund balance is \$47K – Annette posed to the group that they could tap into this fund to cover the balance. Concerns were raised that if current population data is challenged, the timeline and process for this cycle will be disrupted. Annette clarified that if a study is to be conducted, it wouldn't be used to challenge the current numbers but for

alternative strategies for a potential amendment in the future so as not to delay the process.

Juan Acevedo (WSP) confirmed that the highest population values for El Paso were accepted by TWDB. Juan directed attention to Handout 1 and will share what TWDB sent to WSP re: these numbers. A complete discussion will be had at the General Meeting.

11. Discussion of reimbursement of out-of-state travel when necessary to ensure in person presence at meetings

Heather Rose (TWDB) advised that TWDB has approved this type of reimbursement. A favorable recommendation will be made to the General Membership.

12. Reminder November Election SB 28 and other Funding Opportunities

No information presented. No action was taken on this item.

13. Public Comment

Heather Rose commented on the study – FWTWPG is welcome to do studies, to have alternative strategies for the future. She mentioned other regions have done studies with more time to do so and, when short on time, to use for future plans. It was recognized that it is valuable to have information from a study done now without delaying the plan that is underway.

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

No action was taken on this item.

15. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.