



REGION E – FAR WEST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP
 MEETING MINUTES
 February 28, 2024
 1:00 P.M. (MDT) / 2:00 P.M. (CDT)
 8037 Lockheed, Suite 100
 El Paso, TX 79925

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (✓)/Absent (X) / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Chairman Scott Reinert	<i>Water Utilities</i>	X
Vice-Chairman Dave Hall	<i>Public</i>	✓, physically present
Secretary, Teresa Todd	<i>Counties</i>	✓, virtual
Summer Webb	<i>Groundwater Districts</i>	✓, virtual
Albert Miller	<i>Water Utilities</i>	✓, virtual
Becky Brewster	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Haley Davis	<i>GMA #4</i>	✓, virtual
David Etzold	<i>Real Estate</i>	✓, virtual
Sterry Butcher	<i>Public</i>	✓, virtual
Rick Tate	<i>Agriculture</i>	X
Randy Barker	<i>Groundwater Districts</i>	✓, virtual
Jeff Bennett	<i>Environment</i>	X
Tim Leary	<i>Agriculture</i>	X
Sean Woodard	<i>Industries</i>	X
Gerry Grijalva	<i>Water Districts</i>	X
Arlina Palacios	<i>Public</i>	X
Avi Nash	<i>Counties</i>	✓, virtual
Omar Martinez	<i>Water Districts</i>	✓, virtual
Dan Dunlap	<i>Small Business</i>	X
Jay Ornelas	<i>Water Districts</i>	✓, physically present
Michael Flores (proxy for Gerry G)	<i>Water Districts</i>	✓, virtual
<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(✓)/Absent(X)/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Heather Rose	Texas Water Development Board	✓, virtual
Others Present:		

Jennifer Jackson, Carollo, virtual	Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, physically present
Peggy O'Brien, RGCOG, virtual	

1. **Welcome –Vice Chairman Dave Hall**

Vice Chairman Hall welcomed the group and received confirmation that a quorum was present. The meeting started at 1:04 pm MDT.

2. **Public Comment Period**

There were no public comments made.

3. **Approval of Minutes from the General Meeting held on September 21, 2023 and the Special Meeting held on January 12, 2024.**

David Etzold made a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Albert Miller seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved.

4. **Consider, discuss and take action as appropriate to select technical consultant to complete the 6th cycle of planning.**

Annette Gutierrez updated the group that Region E parted ways with WSP. Carollo was the only consultant to submit a proposal. RGCOG board approved to allow ED to negotiate a contract with Carollo, but first need Region E to approve it as well. Jennifer Jackson informed the group that the transition is from her previous employer WSP to her new employer, Carollo. The reason was because WSP is dissolving its water planning department. Carollo has a knowledgeable, dedicated support team to complete this 6th round of planning. Teresa Todd acknowledged their expertise. David Etzold added to their strength that Carollo has a strong presence in El Paso. No issues with having the draft of the Technical Memo ready for May. There will be time for the 14 day notice and public comment period. Annette will provide update to the group on water planning population data via UTEP.

Summer Webb made a motion to approve the selection of Carollo, with Jennifer Jackson continuing as Region E's technical consultant to complete the 6th cycle of planning. David Etzold seconded the motion. Vice Chairman put forth a vote and the motion was approved.

5. **Consider, discuss and take action as appropriate to authorize the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) to enter into a contract with technical consultant.**

Annette advised the group that before RGCOG can negotiate and enter into a contract with Carollo, the group would need to approve that. Carollo's fee will not exceed what has been awarded by TWDB for the entire cycle, after deducting payment to WSP for the tasks completed.

Teresa Todd made a motion to authorize the RGCOG to enter into a contract with Carollo as technical consultant. David Etzold seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved.

6. **Consider and discuss a date for the next regular meeting.**

Due to the compressed timeline getting this agenda together, an item for TWDB updates was omitted. Heather noted there is an Agricultural Grants Program (\$1.5 million) open for agricultural water conservation projects.

Jennifer noted the timeline for the work that needs to be done and suggested a day during the week of April 15-19, 2024, tentatively at RGCOG office. Jennifer advised the group that Carollo's update

will be at least an hour - process to draft the tech memo, to open Task 5B funds for strategy work, etc. Annette will make the agenda as light as possible and will send out a Doodle poll to determine everyone's availability.

7. **Adjourn**

Jay Ornelas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Summer Webb seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Hall called for a vote and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:43 pm MDT.