



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

September 10, 2024  
10:30 A.M. (MDT) / 11:30 A.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>	✓, physically present
Vice-Chairman Dave Hall	<i>Public</i>	✓, physically present
Secretary, Teresa Todd	<i>Counties</i>	✓, virtual
David Etzold	<i>Real Estate</i>	✓, physically present
Rebecca L. Brewster	<i>Public</i>	X
Tom Beard	<i>Agriculture</i>	X
<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(✓)/Absent(X)/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Heather Rose	TWDB	Physically present
Others Present:		
Jennifer Jackson, Carollo, virtual	Jon Albright, Freese & Nichols, virtual	
Kristal Williams, Freese & Nichols, virtual	Annette Gutierrez, RGCOG, physically present	
Peggy O'Brien, RGCOG, physically present		

1. **Welcome –Chairman Scott Reinert**  
Chairman Reinert, with a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 10:36 am MDT. All present introduced themselves.
2. **Public Comment**  
There were no public comments.
3. **Recognition of Guests and Designated Alternates**  
There were no guests or designated alternates present.
4. **Review and approve the minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting held on July 23, 2024**  
Dave Hall made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. David Etzold seconded the motion. Chairman Reinert called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**5. Discuss and consider action regarding all nominations related to FWTWPG vacancies for voting members**

Thomas Black is the sole nominee for an additional Rural Economic Development position. Born in Ysleta, grew up in El Paso, graduated San Elizario high school and has been part of the area his entire life. Is on Clint City Council and is an engineer at Union Pacific. The committee agreed to recommend at the General Meeting that Mr. Black fill the position.

The committee also discussed the value of having Daniel Bueno of Vinton participate, if not as a welcome voting member for a second additional Rural Economic Development position, as a contributor of valuable input from his community. Chairman Reinert offered to reach out to Mr. Bueno to impress upon him the group's desire for his participation. David Etzold made a motion to approve the appointment of Thomas Black. Dave Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Reinert called for a vote and the motion was approved.

**6. Consideration and Discussion of material from Carollo regarding updates to the draft Chapter 1 for the 2026 Region E Water Plan**

Jennifer Jackson provided an overview of highlights of updates. Three main sections still need feedback: Water Loss Audit; Agriculture Resources and International Water Issues.

Water Loss Audit listed public utilities that are losing more than 10% of water the water loss and mainline repair strategies – approach changed by American Waterworks Association (AWA) to TWDB will provide median of 6 years of water loss data for utilities in less dense communities (less than 32 connections per linear mile of pipe) for less than 57 gallons per connection per day; and utilities in dense communities (32 or more connections per linear mile of pipe) for no more than 30 gallons per connection per day. Jennifer discussed a new table in the draft which ran the new exercise for each entity for each year.

Heather Rose (TWDB) advised that this is a general guideline that planning groups can modify to more accurately represent their region, as they determine.

Scott Reinert suggested the reported losses in El Paso County could be due to flow meter inaccuracies. Moving away from a one-size-fits-all formula and toward water loss key indicators and see how application of the new standard affects water loss data over a 6 year period. Jennifer offered to contribute to El Paso's investigation of causes of their water loss issues. This technique will tease out more details and allow more precise water loss strategies.

**7. Consideration and Discussion of material from Carollo regarding a draft Chapter 2 for the 2026 Region E Water Plan**

Jennifer said the information hasn't changed yet. UTEP study being done by Tom Fullerton is still in need of data from Fort Bliss and Terrell County. Drop dead date to get data to Jennifer is January 2025 for a completed IPP to be submitted by March 3, 2025. Jennifer thinks if she receives info by end of September for a draft by mid-end of October, she can include it in Chapter 2 to discuss and review at either November or December meeting and get it approved at the January meeting. And get outstanding data as it comes in as late as February. She will need time, though, to incorporate into Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5. Scott thinks UTEP is using a Census tract process (county-based) vs TWDB using user groups (WUGs). Annette offered to connect Jennifer and Heather with Dr. Fullerton to align the study so it's an apples-to-apples approach, with a more accurate assessment for the region. Can have alternate and recommended strategies in the plan where there are needs – there will be downstream impact resulting from population changes. Scott suggested cordoning off Fort Bliss and keep moving forward and if that data arrives, it will be incorporated. Heather said data adopted and approved by the board, if not able to be integrated into the

current plan, it can be in future plans. The UTEP study information will be very important. If don't have it by December it can be used for the next plan.

Dave Hall requested clarification in Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2 note El Paso Water (aka City of El Paso) provides 77% of the water in the county but there are 21% of other smaller systems in the county, of which there could be an overlap with the city or draw from their own wells.

**8. Consideration and Discussion of material from Carollo regarding a draft Chapters 3 and 4 for the 2026 Region E Water Plan**

See Item 7 above.

**9. Report from Carollo on other regional planning efforts**

See Item 7 above.

**10. Consider and Discuss a date for the next regular meetings**

Early-mid October (Tuesday, October 15 in El Paso) and early November (Thursday, November 7 in Alpine at BBT), with an option for December, if needed.

**11. Adjourn**

Chairman Reinert made the motion to adjourn. David Etzold seconded the motion.

Chairman Reinert called for a vote and the motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm MDT.