REGION E – FAR WEST TEXAS WATER PLANNING GROUP
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 2025
1:00 P.M. (MDT) / 2:00 P.M. (CDT)
Rio Grande Council of Governments
8037 Lockheed, Suite 100
El Paso, TX 79925

Voting Member	Interest Category	Present (√)/Absent (X) / Alternate Present (*)
Chairman Scott Reinert	*Water Utilities*	√, physically present
Vice-Chairman Dave Hall	*Public*	√, physically present
Secretary, Teresa Todd	*Counties*	√, physically present
Summer Webb	*Groundwater Districts*	X
Albert Miller	*Water Utilities*	√, virtual
Becky Brewster	*Municipalities*	√, virtual
Haley Davis	*GMA #4*	X
David Etzold	*Real Estate*	√, physically present
Sterry Butcher	*Public*	√, virtual
Rick Tate	*Agriculture*	X
Randy Barker	*Groundwater Districts*	X
Jeff Bennett	*Environment*	√, virtual
Tim Leary	*Agriculture*	X
Sean Woodard	*Industries*	X
Gerry Grijalva	*Water Districts*	X
Arlina Palacios	*Public*	X
Avi Nash	*Counties*	X
Omar Martinez	*Water Districts*	√, virtual
Dan Dunlap	*Small Business*	√, virtual
Jay Ornelas	*Water Districts*	√, virtual
John T. Kennedy	*Economic Development Rural*	√, virtual
Raquel Onsurez	*Electric Generating Utilities*	X
Jackie Butler	*Tourism*	X
Roberto Ransom	*Economic Development Urban*	√, virtual
Thomas Black	*Economic Development Rural*	√, virtual

Non-voting Member	Agency	Present(✓)/Absent(X)/ Alternate Present (*)
Heather Rose	Texas Water Development Board	✓, virtual

Others Present:	
Jennifer Jackson, Carollo, virtual	Aaron Burciaga, RGCOG, physically present
	Santosh Palmate, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, physically present

1. **Welcome – Chairman Scott Reinert**
   Chairman Reinert, with a quorum present, called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm MDT.

2. **Public Comment**
   Jay Ornelas announced that terms on a comprehensive settlement have been agreed upon between US/NM/Elephant Butte Irrigation District/and El Paso County Water Improvement District. “Operation Settlement Agreement” provides long term protection to EP farmers and the City of El Paso that rely on water from the Federal Rio Grande Project to ensure independence of the project to provide a mechanism for NM to reduce groundwater pumping water from the river downstream from the Caballo Reservoir. The Agreement will continue in perpetuity and improve the project conveyance efficiency and conserve water for delivery to farmers and City of EP. Deadline was August 29. It was submitted to the US Special Master, who accepted all four agreements, and will recommend that the Supreme Court approve them. The agreements will be heard and hopefully the matter will come to a conclusion early 2026.

3. **Recognition of Guests and Designated Alternates**
   There were no guests or designated alternates present.

4. **Review and approve the minutes for the General Committee Meeting held on August 7, 2025**
   Chairman Reinert asked if there were any comments. Dave Hall commented that on page 1 of the minutes, Jose Landeros’ name should be replaced with Jackie Butler’s. David Etzold made a motion to approve the minutes, subject to this change. Dave Hall seconded the motion. Chairman Reinert called for a vote and the motion was approved.

5. **Discussion and Consider Taking Action as appropriate: Adoption of the 2026 Far West Texas (Region E) Regional Water Plan with authorization of Carollo Engineers to make non-substantial edits and submit the final plan to the TWDB.**
   Jennifer Jackson made the group aware of a change that was made since the final draft, which is that the correct calculation of existing water supply for El Paso should include the amount that is purchased from the City. The prior calculation separately considered the amount purchased from the City which yielded a double count. The existing supply volume has been corrected and approved by El Paso Water. Chairman Reinert asked if there were any comments. David Hall made a motion to approve the appointment. Teresa Todd seconded the motion. Chairman Reinert called for a vote and the motion was approved.

6. **TWDB General Updates by Heather Rose on Round 7 of Regional Water Planning timelines.**
   Heather Rose shared updates on upcoming Proposition 4: SB7 and HRJ7, contingent on voter approval in November, to create a regular fund for water infrastructure $1B of net revenue from sales tax that exceeds $46.5 Billion would go into effect September 1, 2027 until August 31, 20247. How funds would be spent will be subject to a to-be-created plan and public comment.

Heather also shared a preliminary timeline for initial Request for Applications for the 7th Cycle of Regional Water Planning. Jennifer asked about potential shifts in TWDB staff and whether that will impact regions. Heather will let us know when she does.

7. **Discuss and consider taking action to designate the Rio Grande Council of Governments as the Political Subdivision/RWPG Sponsor to administer the Region E RWPG for the 7th cycle of Regional Water Planning (2031 Regional Water Plans).**
   David Etzold made a motion to approve this designation. Teresa Todd seconded the motion. Chairman Reinert called for a vote and the motion was approved.

8. **Discuss and consider taking action to authorize the Rio Grande Council of Governments to submit a grant application to the TWDB and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the Region E RWPG for initial funding of the 7th cycle of Regional Water Planning (2031 Regional Water Plans).**
   Becky Brewster made a motion to approve this authorization. David Etzold seconded the motion. Chairman Reinert called for a vote and the motion was approved.

9. **Confirm date and location for the next General Meeting.**
   The next General Meeting will be held in July of 2026. A Doodle Poll will be circulated in May 2026, to select either July 16 or July 23 in Fort Davis (in person, with hybrid option, at Indian Lodge in Fort Davis) at 1pm MDT / 2pm CST.

10. **Adjourn**
    Dave Hall made a motion to adjourn. David Etzold seconded the motion. Chairman Reinert called for a vote and the motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm MDT.