



BRAZOS G REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP

MARCH 3, 2021

10:00 A.M.

Virtual Meeting



- 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2. INVOCATION**
- 3. NOTICE OF MEETING**
- 4. ATTENDANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 5. PUBLIC INPUT** (limited to 5 minutes each)



6.1. Report and possible discussion from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff.

Region G TWDB Update 03-03-21

1. Texas Water Development Board Rules Update

- On February 10th, the TWDB Board approved publishing proposed amendments to the Regional Water Planning Grant rules (31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 355) and Regional Water Planning Notice and Public Participation rules (31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 357.21)
- The rules were published in the February 26th version of the Texas Register and can be viewed here: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/rules/index.asp>
- Public comment on the proposed rules will be accepted until March 29th, 2021 and may be submitted electronically to rulescomments@twdb.texas.gov. Reference to Chapter 355 or 357 should be included in the subject line of comments submitted.
- Items relevant for the RWPGs to be aware of:
 - Proposal to allow for limited reimbursement of certain labor costs for RWPG political subdivisions, which will be limited by the contract expense budget (Chapter 355)
 - Proposal to remove the 30-day public notice requirement associated with the TWDB Board action on funding applications.
 - Political Subdivision staff should work directly with Sarah Backhouse and the Project Manager in order to determine if the notice will be required or not.

Region G TWDB Update 03-03-21

2. Pre-Planning Meeting

- The pre-planning meeting this cycle will have a new scope item to address an aspect of interregional coordination. TWDB addressed this topic at the RWPG chairs conference call on February 22nd. Meeting notes from the chairs call can be viewed here: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/chairsconfcalls.asp>. The TWDB will follow up with RWPGs with guidance on the timing of the pre-planning meeting. RWPGs are advised to wait to until receiving additional guidance before scheduling this meeting.

3. 2021 RWP Final Invoicing Extension

- Due to the severe weather event and power outages across Texas, the TWDB extended the final payment request deadline for the contracts associated with development of the 2021 Regional Water Plans. This deadline to submit final payment requests is currently February 28, 2021 and is being extended to March 29, 2021.

Region G TWDB Update 03-03-21

4. TWDB Confirmed Existing Regional Water Planning Area Boundaries

- On February 25, the TWDB Board confirmed the existing boundaries of the 16 Regional Water Planning Areas without change.
- The video archive may be watched at the following link: http://texasadmin.com/tx/twdb/board_meeting/20210225/
- The Board Memorandum is also available online: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/board/2021/02/Board2/Brd02.pdf>

5. 6th Cycle Schedule

- A conceptual schedule for the sixth cycle of regional water planning has been developed and can be viewed on the TWDB website here: https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/projectdocs/Working_Schedule_2026RWPs_Feb2021.pdf

Region G TWDB Update 03-03-21

6. TWDB Statewide ASR-AR Suitability Survey

- The legislative report “Statewide Aquifer Suitability for Aquifer Storage and Recovery projects and Aquifer Recharge projects” was delivered to the Texas State Legislature on December 15, 2020.
- The survey identifies areas of Texas with major or minor aquifers, excess water, and water supply needs. Those areas are then rated with their relative suitability for aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) or aquifer recharge (AR) projects based on the survey criteria. This survey serves as an investigative tool for discovering locations with resources that may merit an ASR or AR feasibility study.
- The report is up on the Texas Water Development Board’s (TWDB) website, the contract webpage is updated, and the StoryMap and web map application are available for the public to explore the survey results and foundational data.
- StoryMap: <https://twdb-wsc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=75313de26daf4994bcb590fdb8846b80>
- Contracted project webpage: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/projects/Statewide/index.asp>
- James Golab (TWDB) will provide a brief presentation and a demonstration of the interactive web map application at the next Brazos G meeting.

Region G TWDB Update 03-03-21

7. Mining Water Use Study

- The TWDB contracted with BEG to assess mining water use and update mining demand projections for the 2026 Regional Water Plans. A kickoff meeting was held on December 18th, 2020. The website for this study has been launched and can be accessed here:
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/MiningStudy/index.asp>
- This study will provide a comprehensive and quantitative assessment of mining water use across Texas and will identify major mining operations in the state, including oil and gas, aggregates, and coal and lignite. Both historical and current water use will be determined, and projections of future water demand will be developed for 2030-2080 in each major sub-category within the mining sector, highlighting water use for unconventional oil and gas development. The study will also analyze water use patterns, technological changes, market trends, and water source information.
- An interactive dashboard will be developed by the TWDB and posted to our website at the end of the study. This information will be utilized in the 2026 Regional Water Plans and the 2027 State Water Plan.

Region G TWDB Update 03-03-21

8. New RWPG Members Website

- New planning group members can reference the New RWPG Members page on the TWDB website here: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/regions/newmembers.asp>



6.2 Report and possible action on recommendations from the Executive Committee

6.2.1. Recommendation regarding the two (2) open voting member positions, one (1) Municipality Interest and one (1) Water District Interest.



RESOLUTION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Executive Committee recommends to the members of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group appointment of Jennifer Nations representing Municipalities Interests and appointment of Kathy Turner Jones representing Water Districts Interests to serve as a members of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group.



6.2.2. Recommendation on the selection of the Political Subdivision



RESOLUTION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Executive Committee recommends to the members of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group appoint the Brazos River Authority to continue to serve as the Administrative Agent for the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group.



6.2.3. Recommendation on the selection of the Technical Consultant



RESOLUTION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Executive Committee recommends to the members of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group to direct the Brazos River Authority as the Administrative Agent to issue an RFP for the procurement of a Technical Consultant to develop the 2026 Brazos G Regional Water Plan.



6.2.4. Recommendation and review of the member attendance requirements for the 6th planning cycle (2026 Brazos G RWP)



Article II. Section 4. Conditions of Membership

In order to be eligible for voting membership on the RWPG, a person at the time of taking office must represent the interest for which a member is sought, be willing to participate in the regional water planning process, abide by these Bylaws, and shall not have a change in status, during their term. A change in status shall include, but not be limited to, a change in job title, job position, employment, occupation, or residency, to the extent such change relates to the interest category the member represents. Upon a change in status, the voting member shall within sixty (60) days of the change in status notify the Brazos G Chairman in writing describing the change in status and shall be subject to the process contemplated in Article II, Section 8(a)(3). The office of a voting member of the RWPG is specific to the individual selected or appointed as a member of the RWPG and may not be transferred by that individual.



Article II. Section 6. Attendance

All voting members shall make a good faith effort to attend all RWPG meetings and hearings. Records of attendance shall be kept by the Secretary at all RWPG meetings and hearings and presented as part of the minutes. Voting members of the RWPG who have excessive absences shall be subject to removal from membership under Section 8(c) of this Article. A voting member shall be considered to have excessive absences if the member is absent more than twenty five percent (25%) of the RWPG meetings and hearings in a calendar year. Representation by a designated alternate pursuant to Article V does excuse a member's absence.



6.3. Consider and take potential action to authorize the Political Subdivision to provide notice, submit a grant application to the TWDB, and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group for initial funding for the 6th cycle of Regional Water Planning and act as necessary.



Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group authorizes the Brazos River Authority to provide notice, submit a grant application to the TWDB, and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group for initial funding for the 6th cycle of Regional Water Planning and act as necessary.



6.4. Report from HDR and possible discussion of feedback received regarding the 2021 Plan and priorities for the 2026 planning cycle.



2021 RWP Review

Brazos G Regional Water Plan

March 3, 2021



Overview of Feedback from RWP group members

- Thank you
- Concepts for Improvement
 - Data Sharing
 - Meetings
 - Communication with those not at the table
- Specific Issues



Data Sharing

- **Feedback** - More info and earlier. Some request more technical information while others are good with the level of detail provided.
 - Currently provide packets to BRA 7 days in advance of BGRWP meetings.
 - Have missed this target occasionally.
 - Typically only presentations are provided in meeting packets.
- Proposed Concept
 - Post draft information on SharePoint (or similar) for review when it is developed more than 7 days in advance of meetings. This would include working drafts of report sections, etc.
 - Allow more time for RWPG members to review technical information in greater depth if desired.
 - Continue to post meeting materials on website and provide directly to planning group members. Provide 10 days in advance of meeting?



Meetings

- **Feedback** - Appreciate shorter meetings
- Proposed Concepts
 - In meeting packets provide brief review of decisions made at previous meeting and the actions for the current meeting. Review at beginning of each meeting.
 - Provide context for decisions to be made that day.
 - Continue to provide “upcoming” issues at end of meetings.
 - Provide more content in packet and present less information, leave more time for discussion.
 - Establish committees to review, discuss, and provide solutions to any ongoing controversial issues for the group.
 - Keep log of decisions made during planning cycle and post in an accessible format to keep the group reminded throughout the 5-year process.



Communication Beyond the Table

- **Feedback** – Need better engagement with stakeholders not participating
 - Currently we rely on WUGs to advise and provide insight on population, demands, supplies, and desired strategies.
- Proposed Concept
 - Continue to use BRA and HDR's team to get feedback on various surveys to WUGs throughout the planning cycle.
 - Ask for BGRWPG members to assist with follow up for entities not responsive.
 - Provide regular consultant “office” hours (virtual) for any stakeholder to ask questions and seek information.
 - Increased coordination with adjacent regions during planning cycle.



Specific Issues

- Conservation
 - Review/improve methodology for municipal conservation
 - Review methods for non-muni uses (irrigation/mining/livestock/SE power/manufacturing)
- Groundwater
 - Available groundwater estimates – new MAGs, non-MAG estimates
 - MAG Peak Factor – approach GCDs and GMAs again?
 - Brackish development zones
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- TWDB rules, process and regulations
- Interregional Coordination
 - Population/demand projections
 - Shared supplies
 - Interregional strategies



6th Cycle Working Schedule

- **March/April '21:**
 - Grant applications
 - Consultant selection
- **June – November '21:**
 - “Pre-planning” activities
- **September '21 – March '22:**
 - TWDB release draft gpcd
 - Review gpcd and historic information
- **January '22:** Draft non-muni demands released for review (not mining)
- **August '22:** Draft mining demand released for review
- **February '23:** Draft municipal projections released for review
- **Jan '22 – June '23:** Review/revise draft projections
- **October '23:** TWDB adopts projections
- **February – October '23:** Updated MAGs released
- **March '24:** Technical Memo – Demands, Supplies, Needs, Potentially Feasible Strategies
- **March '25:** IPP Due



Questions/Discussion?





**6.5. Report on the 5th Cycle planning
Budget Summary from the Finance Committee.**



Texas Water Development Board Contract No. 1548301835
Brazos G 2021 Regional Water Plan
Expense Budget Report

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	Spent as of January 2021 *Final Invoices from HDR 1/25/21	Remaining
Other Expenses (Administrative Agent)	\$39,539	\$40,948	\$-1,409
Subcontract Services (HDR Inc.)	\$1,780,253	\$1,780,253	\$0.00
Voting Planning Member Travel (Administrative Agent)	\$35,513	\$8,849	\$26,663
TOTAL STUDY COST	\$1,855,305	\$1,830,050	\$25,255

Regional Water Planning Task No.	Description	Total TWDB Study Amount	Spent as of January 2021 *Final Invoices from HDR 1/25/21	Remaining
1	Planning Area Description	\$39,657	\$35,486	\$4,171
2A	Non-Population Related Water Demand Projections	\$40,286	\$45,523	-\$5,237
2B	Population & Population-Related Water Demand Projections (new projections)	\$59,531	\$76,262	-\$16,731
3	Water Supply Analyses	\$183,356	\$195,093	-\$11,737
4A	Identification of Water Needs	\$35,823	\$42,058	-\$6,235
4B	Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management	\$34,285	\$35,055	-\$770
4C	Technical Memorandum	\$54,484	\$54,967	-\$483
5A	Evaluation and Recommendation of Water Management Strategies and Water Management Strategy Projects	\$703,546	\$783,182	-\$79,636
5B	Water Conservation Recommendations	\$55,839	\$52,364	\$3,475
6	Impacts of Plan and Consistency with Protection of Resources	\$76,893	\$30,002	\$46,891
7	Drought Response, Activities & Recommendations	\$154,321	\$95,852	\$58,469
8	Unique Sites and Policy Recommendations	\$15,095	\$13,145	\$1,950
9	Infrastructure Financing Analysis	\$10,130	\$920	\$9,210
10	Public Participation and Plan Adoption	350,487	\$341,211	\$9,276
11	Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plans	\$29,990	\$27,507	\$2,483
12	Prepare and Submit Prioritization of Projects	\$11,582	\$1,423	\$10,160
	Total	\$1,830,050	\$1,855,305	\$25,255



6.6. Report and possible discussion on updates from other regional water planning groups (Regions B, C, F,H, K, L & O).



6.7. Report and possible discussion on Groundwater Management Area (GMA) activities.



6.8. Report and possible discussion on agency communication and information.



6.9. Discussion and possible action on report by Brazos G Administrator.



6.10 Discussion and possible action on report by Brazos G Chair.



6.11. Discussion and possible action on Nominating Committee report regarding nominees for the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group Chair, Vice Chair and Two At-Large Executive Committee Positions.



RESOLUTION

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group recommends the appointment of Wayne Wilson to serve as a Chair, Gail Peek to serve as Vice Chair, Mike McGuire to serve as Executive Committee Member At-Large and David Blackburn to serve as Executive Committee Member At-Large of the Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group.



- 7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON NEW BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT NEXT MEETING**
- 8. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE**
- 9. ADJOURN**