

Region M TWDB Update May 15, 2024

Items of Note

- Water Supply Planning County Summaries available online
- **Prop 6/Texas Water Fund** -TWDB is seeking public input during Board Meetings and Stakeholder Workshops **through April**. Details and FAQs on TWDB Website.
- Water Loss Audits due by **May 1, 2024**

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Financial Assistance Workshop

- When: Wednesday, May 15th, 10:00 am
- Where: IBC Bank, 2395 E. Main St., Eagle Pass
- Discuss specific projects and answer questions about following financial assistance programs:
 - Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP)
 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
 - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
 - State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)
 - Texas Water Development Fund (DFund)
 - Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF)
 - Proposition 6

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Interregional Planning Council

Council adopted their final report on February 8, 2024.

Recommendations address three statutory charges:

1. Improve coordination among the regional water planning groups, and between each regional water planning group and the Board, in meeting the goals of the state water planning process and the water needs of the state as a whole;
2. Facilitate dialogue regarding water management strategies that could affect multiple regional water planning areas; and
3. Share best practices regarding operation of the regional water planning process.

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Council recommendations to the Legislature:

1. Appropriate additional funds to the planning process to
 - support RWPGs' task to identify and facilitate interregional coordination;
 - accommodate tasks associated with long-range, visionary planning;
 - fund better methods of disseminating information for the regional water planning process; and
 - accommodate labor costs for administering RWPGs
2. Provide financial incentives for local sponsorship of innovative, visionary, multi-benefit projects
3. Provide initial sponsorship of projects by the State without guarantees from local sponsors
4. Establish a coordination process amongst state agencies for installation of infrastructure during planning and construction of large-scale projects.
5. Strike simplified planning from the statute
6. Authorize the use of one-way conferencing or webinars

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Council recommendations to the Texas Water Development Board:

1. Develop protocols to include annual discussions to evaluate and document best practices for regional water planning in Chairs' conference calls.

Council recommendations to Future Interregional Planning Councils:

1. Monitor the effectiveness of efforts to promote interregional coordination and review how best to utilize interregional liaisons in the development or use of shared water resources;
2. Utilize state agencies' expertise to assist regions in developing a vision of planning resources for the state as a whole;
3. Consider holding work sessions as needed to “deep dive” into more complicated topics;
4. Review materials and meeting notes from the TWDB's “lessons learned” technical meetings with RWPG consultants; and
5. Review progress on all recommendations in the 2027 SWP Council's report and submit its assessment to the TWDB.

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Council included several observations on topics not related to its statutory charge:

1. Water loss
2. Unaccounted water use
3. Long-range and visionary planning

The final report is available online at:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc>