

# MINUTES

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (RGRWPG) (REGION M)

9:30 AM WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS  
VIA GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE & IN PERSON  
INITIATED AND CHAIRED AT 301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TX  
PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, CHAIRMAN

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa called the meeting to order at 9:32 am and confirmed that a quorum of the voting membership was present.

The following voting members were in attendance:

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Category</u>
Sonny Hinojosa	Water Districts
Donald K McGhee	Industries
Frank Schuster	Other
Tomas Rodriguez	Public
Glenn Jarvis	Other
Jaime Flores	Environmental
Louie Pena	Groundwater Management Area
Jorge Flores	Municipalities
Marilyn Gilbert	Municipalities

The following voting members were not in attendance:

Jim Darling	River Authorities
Carlos Garza	Small Business
Judge Joe Rathmell	Counties
Dale Murden	Agriculture
Dr. Neal Wilkins	Agriculture
Com. David Fuentes	Counties
Tom McLemore	Water District
Debbie Farmer	Groundwater Management Area
Robert Latham	Electric Generating Utility
Steven Sanchez	Water Utilities

## 2. Consideration and Action to Approve February 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

*Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 21, 2024, meeting as presented. Mr. Jorge Flores seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.*

## 3. No Public Comment

#### 4. Status Reports

##### 4A1. Schedule and Progress Update.

Jaime Burke started with the Schedule and Progress update by showing the board the Conceptual Schedule for Region M plan Development, that was given to them in the packet. She presented a review of the current schedule, which outlined the overall planning cycle. As of now, we are in the second quarter of 2024. We recently received our first deliverable, the technical memorandum, which was approved during the February meeting. Our next significant milestone will be the initially prepared plan, scheduled for submission next March. This phase will span the upcoming months. The primary focus will be the evaluation of water management strategies and the development of draft plan chapters to establish the initially prepared document. This document is slated for your approval in early 2025, with submission to the board scheduled before March 3rd of next year. Taking a closer look at this current year, we have identified an additional deliverable related to Task 4B. This involves addressing certain infeasible water management strategies identified within the 2021 plan. It will be required to submit an amendment to the 2021 plan to the Water Development Board by June 4th. Today, we will address this matter to ensure its completion. Beyond that, our focus will remain on the evaluation of water management strategies and the development of draft chapters in the coming months. We are planning to schedule meetings in August and November, pending your availability, to review the evaluations and draft chapters. This will precede our return early next year to approve the initially prepared plan. In review of some recent developments since our last meeting, we successfully submitted the technical memorandum to the Texas Water Development Board, and it has been acknowledged as administratively complete. We are now awaiting informal comments from the board staff regarding the memo. Ms. Burke stated that they have also submitted a draft amendment to address the identified infeasible water management strategies to the board. Currently, we are awaiting their determination regarding its classification as a minor amendment status. At the February Region M meeting, we received approval from all stakeholders for our scope of work for Task 5B, which involved evaluating water management strategies. Which was approved, we subsequently submitted it to the Water Development Board to obtain a notice to proceed, enabling us to commence the evaluation of strategies. Ms. Burke mentioned that the contract amendment process is currently in progress and anticipates receiving notice of receipt. Regarding the February Region M meeting, we presented surface water modeling information that prompted several questions. To address these in depth, we propose convening a subcommittee meeting for a more detailed discussion. We convened a groundwater-surface water modeling subcommittee meeting to dive into the specifics of our surface water modeling efforts. Kurt Kennedy, our sub consultant, led the meeting and delivered a comprehensive presentation. We had a strong turnout and were able to address everyone's inquiries satisfactorily, making it a productive session.

Additionally, we have been diligently updating our regional water supply data based on ongoing survey responses from water user groups, irrigation districts, and other wholesale water providers. Ms. Burke lets the board know that they update information continuously as it becomes available. This supply data is crucial for informing our needs analysis updates and identifying areas where we need to develop water management strategies to meet those requirements. We have been actively progressing with the drafting of several chapters, which we will discuss today, including our timeline for delivering these initial chapters to you for review. Additionally, we have prepared a final draft amendment addressing the identified infeasible strategies, as informed by feedback from the Water Development Board. We issued that for public comment a couple of weeks ago, and today we aim to adopt that amendment. Looking ahead, we are initiating further work on water management strategy evaluations. This will constitute a significant portion of our work over the next five to six months. Furthermore, the Water Development Board has furnished us with definitions of rural entities within the region, along with county summaries. These resources will aid us in engaging with these entities to provide information about the regional water planning process. Ms. Burke let everyone know that they aim to encourage their active participation by informing them about activities and providing guidance on how they can include their projects in the plan. This initiative also aims to raise awareness about the planning process among those who may not be familiar with it. To engage smaller rural entities in the region, we plan to send out physical letters containing county summaries, detailing how they can access information about the Region M Plan and how to connect with us.



Ms. Burke mentioned that Chapter 7 of the plan addresses our drought response strategies. This includes integrating drought management measures identified in updated drought contingency plans, which are revised every five years. The deadline for the latest versions of these plans was May 1st, and it has since passed. We will commence gathering the updated drought contingency plans and integrating their contents into Chapter 7. In addition, Chapter 8 will encompass legislative and policy recommendations proposed by the planning group. These recommendations are intended for submission to the legislature, TWDB, and other state agencies, aimed at enhancing the regional water planning process. Chapter 8 focuses on broader water policy in Texas and consists primarily of recommendations driven by planning group members. This chapter emphasizes stakeholder perspectives rather than technical data. It centers on policy considerations—what the planning group deems critical for our region and essential information for the legislature regarding Region M. Last cycle, the Executive Committee, along with other interested participants, reviewed Chapter 8 and contributed updates to the policy recommendations. Unless there are any objections, I suggest we follow the same process for handling Chapter 8 of this cycle. She mentioned that she will coordinate with Valerie to contact the Executive Committee and inquire if others are interested. We can schedule an initial kickoff meeting to review Chapter 8 and collaborate with all of you to identify any necessary updates to policy recommendations. Are there any concerns or suggestions regarding this approach? Currently, we have been focusing on developing chapters one through four. I will provide more detailed insights on these chapters in the upcoming slides. Our goal is to distribute them to you for review within the next month or two. This will allow ample time for your thorough review and feedback, ensuring that we avoid overwhelming you in the final months leading up to the Initially Prepared Plan submission. It is planned to address the remaining chapters later this year. The approach involves providing a link to the chapter documents for all members to access, review, and provide comments. Alternatively, if you prefer reviewing a hard copy and marking it up, please inform us, and we will send you a printed version. Consolidating all comments in one accessible location allows transparency and facilitates collaboration among planning group members. The goal is to finalize these comments by the end of 2024. This timeline will enable us to prepare the Initially Prepared Plan for adoption in January or February 2025.

Ms. Burke provided brief intros on what chapters one through four of what to expect when the link is received for reviewing. Chapter 1: focuses on the regional water planning area, providing background on the planning process and detailing the region's characteristics such as weather, climate, population, economic data, surface and groundwater resources, and the region's historical drought patterns. It also covers current water use, major water providers, and includes information on agricultural and natural resources, as well as threats to these resources, including lists of endangered and threatened species in the region. Additionally, chapter one discusses existing regional and local plans, current drought conditions, and water loss audit data provided by the Water Development Board. Chapter 2: focuses on population and water demands, beginning with an introduction and detailing our methodology for projecting water use across various categories, including population and municipal demands, as well as non-municipal demands such as manufacturing, steam electric, mining, irrigation, and livestock. The chapter concludes with an overview of major water providers and their respective demands. Chapter 3: addresses our water supply analysis, discussing regional water sources and the supplies derived from them. Ms. Burke mentions that they proceed with surface water availability, discussing the river basins, their sources, and the allocation of surface water supplies. Following that, we address groundwater availability, detailing our aquifer sources and allocation of groundwater supplies. There is also a section on recycled water, covering various reuse methods currently utilized in the region. Moreover, we examine major water providers and the supplies they distribute to entities within the region. Finally, Chapter 4: identifies water needs by assessing demands and comparing available water supplies for specific user groups. When comparing these figures, a positive number indicates a water surplus, while a negative number indicates a water shortage, referred to as a water need. Chapter 4 addresses these identified water needs, which guide the development of water management strategies. The chapter begins with an introduction, followed by a regional need's summary, and an examination of various water use categories. These include municipal needs, as well as non-municipal needs such as irrigation, steam electric, mining, manufacturing, and livestock. Furthermore, the chapter discusses the needs of major water providers and provides a secondary needs analysis. The secondary needs analysis assesses water requirements after implementing conservation and reuse strategies. If these efforts alone cannot meet demands, larger-scale infrastructure projects may be necessary. Chapters 1 through 4 will be distributed to you in the coming months, ideally within the next month. This overview is provided for informational purposes. We have drafted a needs analysis, specifically outlining municipal needs by county to inform the development of water management strategies. The board emphasizes the importance of identifying strategies to



meet all municipal needs, while also encouraging efforts to address non-municipal needs through such strategies, although unmet non-municipal needs may be more acceptable. These draft figures will guide our strategy development efforts, recognizing that ongoing updates from water user groups and irrigation districts may alter these numbers. Ms. Burke notes that as we continue to receive information, additional needs may decrease. Additionally, there are other needs in the region, including mining, manufacturing, and small steam electric demands, but irrigation needs represent the majority in our region. This overview provides a snapshot of current needs by county and river basin.

#### **4A2. Consideration and ACTION Regarding the Proposed Amendment to the 2021 Rio Grande (Region M) Regional Water Plan to Address Infeasible Water Management Strategies.**

We are conducting this review because the Water Development Board tasked us with evaluating strategies and projects from the 2021 Regional Water Plans that had a target completion date of 2020. Additionally, we are reviewing additional near-term strategies and projects with lengthy permitting or construction processes. In response to our survey sent to water user groups, nearly all reported their projects as completed or progressing, indicating feasibility. However, two projects stand out: Edinburg reported a hold on their 2020 non-potable reuse project. Jaime mentions that McAllen did not take action to advance their 2030 potable reuse project, making it infeasible for inclusion in the 2021 plan as originally proposed. Consequently, Region M must amend the 2021 plan to exclude Edinburg's project from the 2020 decade and McAllen's project from the 2030 decade. The planning group has approved these amendments, which are due by June 4th. In February, the planning group authorized submission of a minor amendment determination request to TWDB, followed by the submission of the draft request to the board on March 8th. On April 19th, the board confirmed it as a minor amendment. Today, we are considering adoption of this minor amendment, which specifically addresses strategies for Edinburg and McAllen. For Edinburg's non-potable reuse strategy, we are adjusting its online date from 2020 to 2030, resulting in some unmet needs for Edinburg in 2020. Regarding McAllen, the shift for their north wastewater treatment plant potable reuse phase one strategy moves its online date from 2030 to 2040, without resulting in unmet needs for McAllen or other water user groups. Ms. Burke states that they revised Chapter 5, Chapter 6, Chapter 10, and Appendix B5 of the plan as part of the amendment process. The handout was included in the meeting packet containing the final draft amendment for your review.

##### **a. Receive Public Comment Regarding the Proposed Amendment**

No Public Comment regarding the Proposed Amendment.

##### **b. Review and Consideration of Comments Received from the Public, TWDB, and Other State or Federal Agencies**

Ms. Burke stated that they did not receive any additional state agency comments, so therefore they have no public comments to consider and no state agency comment to consider.

##### **c. Consideration and Appropriate Action to Adopt the Proposed Amendment**

*Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to approve and act regarding the Proposed Amendment to the 2021 Rio Grande (Region M) Regional Water Plan to address Infeasible Water Management Strategies. Mr. Glen Jarvis seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.*

##### **d. Consideration and Appropriate Action to Authorize the Technical Consultant to Submit Proof of Adoption and any Comments to TWDB and to Address Any Requests from TWDB Associated with the Amendment on Behalf of the RGRWPG.**

*Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to Authorize the Technical Consultant to Submit proof of Adoption and any comments to TWDB and to Address any requests from TWDB Associated with the amendment on Behalf of the RGRWPG. Mr. Glen Jarvis seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.*

#### **4A3. Discussion on Subcommittee for Environmental Review & Water Management Strategies**

Ms. Burke mentioned that at the February meeting, it was discussed for the potential need for subcommittees on environmental review and water management strategies. LRGVDC staff sent out an email to gauge interest, but there was limited response for either subcommittee. We're bringing this back to the committee to provide a final opportunity for anyone interested to speak up during this meeting. This is your chance to decide if we should activate these subcommittees for this cycle, although it's uncertain if they are necessary. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa mentioned to the board that if anyone wishes to sign up for those committees, they are more than welcome to do so. Ms. Burke mentioned that she thinks they need a little bit more participation to make it worthwhile because if one person can't make it, then it's hard to have a quorum and points out that she doesn't believe we have sufficient participation to form effective subcommittees. Therefore, I recommend that we proceed without activating them and handle everything at the planning group level.

#### **4B. Financial Report**

##### **4B1. Consideration and Action to Accept Expenditure Report**

Ms. Melisa Gonzales presented the expenditure report that covered expenses from January 1, 2024, to March 31, 2024. For this quarter, expenditure totaled \$1,745.63, leaving us with a current available balance of \$81,687.78.

***Mr. Tomas Rodríguez made a motion to approve and accept the Expenditure Report, Ms. Marilyn Gilbert seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

#### **4C. Status of Joint Groundwater Is planned in GMA's 13 & 16**

Mr. Louie Pena provided a brief update for GMA 16. He emphasized that all models are imperfect, yet some models are useful. During our recent gathering, we collectively agreed upon this perspective, which differed from that of the previous group. We have drafted a letter addressed to Natalie Ballou at the Texas Water Development Board, which we intend to review at our upcoming meeting on June 25th. At that meeting, we will assess any new developments or responses.

Ms. Debbie Farmer was not present for this meeting; however, provided a brief update for staff to read. Mrs. Melisa Gonzales reported that the April 19, 2024, meeting for GMA 13 has been rescheduled to June 14, 2024, at 10 a.m. It will take place at the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District in Pleasanton. An update on the groundwater availability model will be presented at this meeting.

#### **4D. Reports from other regional Water Planning Groups.**

Mr. Tomas Rodriguez stated he virtually attended Region J's last meeting on April 25th. They were slightly behind schedule but making progress and catching up.

No updates on Region L or Region N.

#### **4E. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region**

Mrs. Melisa Gonzales stated that as a reminder, Mr. Darling has previously emphasized to continue to submit drought contingency and water conservation plans either to Region M.

#### **4F. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants.**

##### **4F1. NASA Water Availability Forecasting Project: LRGV Stormwater Task Force Partnership and the Research, Applied, Technology, Education and Services, Inc. (RATES)**

Mr. Joseph Gutenson provided a presentation of the overall project. The funding for this project is currently in route to us and is based on a needs assessment conducted by the NASA Western Water and Applications Office. Some of you may have participated in this assessment process, which involved meetings with stakeholders ranging from the upper parts of the Rio Grande Basin down to Texas. The assessment identified several regional needs, including improved water supply forecasting. In response to this assessment, we submitted a proposal, which led to the inception of this project. Let me now provide a brief overview of the project and its objectives. We highly encourage your active participation in this project, involving yourselves, your colleagues, constituents, and anyone with a keen interest in this area. We aim to engage you right from the outset. Before delving further, it's worth noting that while NASA is often associated with rockets, space shuttles, and satellites, they also maintain a robust earth science program. The NASA earth science program generates a wide range of data and technology crucial for analyzing the hydrological cycle. This can be categorized into two main types: data and technology. Their satellites play a significant role in generating data related to precipitation, soil moisture, and water anomalies. The image displayed here, for instance, depicts a 90-day forecast. This is the most recent forecast generated using their GRACE satellite. It provides a 90-day outlook for the entire continental United States, indicating areas expected to experience anomalous wet or dry conditions. Such data exemplifies NASA's capabilities in satellite-based monitoring and analysis. In addition to satellite data, NASA employs advanced technology including computer models and hydrologic models. These models integrate satellite data to produce graphics like the one displayed here. Mr. Gutenson states that there's a substantial array of data and technology available for enhancing water supply forecasting. However, the critical question for this project and everyone involved is: what value does it bring to regional and local stakeholders? Our goal with this project is to leverage this data and technology effectively. Specifically, we aim to utilize this information in the lower parts of the Rio Grande Basin to develop tools and technologies for improved water supply forecasting. We plan to collaborate closely with you throughout this process. An initial the workshop is scheduled for late August or early September where we intend to involve you, your colleagues, and constituents in the design and planning phases. We highly value your feedback and expertise to integrate into the datasets and the final tool developed through this project. Our primary focus is on your region, ensuring that we build something that directly supports the unique needs of Texas in water supply forecasting. This approach differs from the broader basin perspective that extends from Colorado through most of New Mexico. Instead, we are concentrating on the specific requirements at the community, state, and regional levels in Texas. Our process has already commenced, including recent meetings with stakeholders in Del Rio. In the middle of last month, we initiated discussions with you and began informing you about the project, aiming to involve you actively. In mid-March, we conducted a brief workshop in Del Rio, engaging with state officials and local stakeholders to understand their approach to water supply forecasting. The International Boundary Water Commission provided insights into their forecasting system, and we were fortunate to have the TCEQ commissioner present, discussing their initiatives. This session gave us initial insights into water distribution and forecasting practices in the region. Moving forward, we recently received funding approval in early April and are currently navigating the contracting process. We have yet to receive the funding, but it's in progress. We will engage with you, introduce the project, and seek your involvement. Your insights are crucial, as your knowledge of Texas water resources surpasses mine, based in Tuscaloosa. This collaboration is essential for tailoring the project to your region's needs. Our plan includes hosting an initial workshop to involve you in designing a tool that utilizes NASA's technologies and data. This tool aims to be practical and beneficial for your specific requirements. After finalizing our approach to the dataset, we'll proceed to prototype development to showcase its functionality. Throughout this phase, we'll seek ongoing feedback and collaboration from you. Upon completion of the prototype, we'll convene for a second workshop to review its operation and make refinements as needed, culminating in the project's closure. Our focus was primarily on the watersheds on the Texas side. However, considering your input, it seems we may need to incorporate the Rio Grande as well. This feedback is valuable for us to refine our approach. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

#### **4G. Report on Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)**

Mrs. Melisa Gonzales started off with the latest update pertaining to the LRGVDC FIF project. We've forwarded subcontracts to Cameron and Hidalgo County for tasks 2.2 and 2.3, specifically for a drainage characterization study and project assessments in those counties. These were sent out early this month, and we're currently awaiting approval from the counties before presenting them to the board. The next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

#### **5. Reports from Federal and State Agencies**

##### **5A. TWDB Updates**

Ms. Michele Foss provided the following TWDB updates.

##### **5A1. Items to 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

##### **5A2. Financial Assistance Workshop**

- When: Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 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

##### **5A3. Interregional Planning Council**

The 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.

##### **5A4. Council Recommendations**

##### **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

**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.

**5A5. Council Observations**

The council also provided observations on water loss, unaccounted water use, and the importance of long-range visionary planning, despite these topics not falling under their statutory charge. The final report is available online at, <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc>

**5A6. Conservation Resources for Development of 2026 RWP**

Ms. Foss presented on Conservation Resources for Development of the 2026 RWPs. She stated that they have compiled various resources to support regional planning groups and water providers in advancing their planning efforts. Conservation is a cornerstone of water management strategies across regions. We've prepared a resource guide, a concise document of about ten pages, summarizing data sources reported to the Water Development Board. This guide aims to assist planning groups and water providers. Additionally, we've developed a conservation information dashboard for water supply planning. Ms. Foss provided an overview of key features. Also included is a summary of best management practices that can aid your efforts. Furthermore, we've summarized the suggestions from the Water Conservation Advisory Council for regional water planning groups. We have gathered example water loss strategies from the 2021 Regional Water Plans to assist in setting water loss performance indicators, as well as resources for setting Gallons Per Capita per Day (GPCD) goals. These examples provide insights into data reported to the Water Development Board, including the type of data, update frequency, and availability dates. Our conservation information dashboard includes historical water user group (WUG) planning data, GPCD statistics, water use loss and conservation reporting requirements, and GPCD trends and targets. It's designed to offer comprehensive insights and tools for regional water planning groups. Municipal conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) and recommended projects, as well as recently implemented BMPs by region, are available through a link provided.

Regarding goal setting, as you're aware, during population and demand reviews and requests for modifications, GPCD statistics are typically reviewed and adjusted. This information will provide a clearer perspective as you assess water management strategies and potential GPCD goals for the upcoming planning cycle. This resource should be highly beneficial in your planning efforts. When you navigate to the Texas Water Development Board's website under Water Planning and Regional Water Planning, you'll find information for the sixth planning cycle of regional water planning groups, including project documents and other helpful resources for completing various tasks. Specifically, under Task 5, you'll locate the Conservation Resources for 2026 Regional Water Plan Development.



The dashboard includes data referenced in the resource guide such as water loss reports, water balance data, water loss audits by region spanning multiple years, and GPCD-related statistics. To access the dashboard, you'll be able to view GPCD statistics. This feature allows you to examine average GPCD for water user groups by year and region. Additionally, you can filter utilities by size, ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 users. You can click on the link provided and adjust the settings accordingly. If you're interested in comparing regions, you can select them and use the Shift key to select multiple regions. Once selected, you can view the data and export it as an Excel spreadsheet for offline use. The dashboard also allows you to view reporting requirements, such as water conservation plan due dates and annual reporting status. You can filter by region, county, water user group, or public water supply ID to access specific information. Additionally, you can examine trends and targets for GPCDs (Gallons Per Capita per Day). You can review their GPCD targets and actual GPCDs if they've submitted annual water use surveys. These will be highlighted in blue on the dashboard. You can analyze rolling targets from 2016 to 2021 and compare GPCDs across different plans. Furthermore, you can explore BMPs, and projects implemented by various entities within your region or in other regions, covering areas like best management practices, park conservation, custom conservation rates, and more. All this information is available to you here, <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/dashboard/conservation.asp>

## **5B. IBWC Update**

Commissioner Giner provided an update. She began by stating that as we have observed, we have not received the water delivery nor has the Minute been signed. On recent developments since our last meeting, there have been numerous high-level meetings. As you know, our treaty currently lacks enforceable mechanisms to ensure automatic water transfers from Mexico. However, Secretary Blinken has engaged with Secretary Barcena, and Ambassador Salazar has been actively involved in multiple meetings with IBWC, Conagra, SRE, and officials from Tamaulipas. The U.S. Consulate in Matamoros has also facilitated discussions with the Governor of Tamaulipas. Ultimately, the situation hinges on the upcoming elections in Mexico, scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>; therefore, there is work that they are doing domestically with discussions with Tamaulipas and Chihuahua, but they are not able to sign any agreement or deliver water until after that time. Our current priority is not only to finalize the agreement, but concurrently, whether the agreement is signed or not, they must deliver water and have a plan in place to make up the shortfall before the end of the five-year cycle. That is the message we are emphasizing currently. Another update I want to share with the group is that, as I mentioned earlier, we have received multiple letters from various entities regarding the hydrological situation in the basin. Hidalgo County was one of the entities that issued a statement to the press. We are preparing a response to these letters which we hope to finalize and release within the next couple of weeks, detailing the hydrological developments not just from the U.S. naturalized flows, but also addressing data from our gauging stations for unmeasured tributaries and U.S. tributaries, which are 100% U.S. water.

Additionally, there have been extensive discussions on how we can support domestic South Texas users through Bureau of Reclamation and USDA programs. Presentations have been made to irrigation districts regarding these programs and having them compile a list of projects, and we aim to advance this project list concurrently with other ongoing activities. The Commissioner understands that the immediate priority remains delivering water to the region. Simultaneously, I am exploring medium-term opportunities to secure additional funding that addresses regional needs while acknowledging associated match requirements challenges. The Inflation Reduction Act funding, as I understand it, does not come with match requirements. We aim to draw attention to the region's needs in this regard.

## **5C. TCEQ Watermaster**

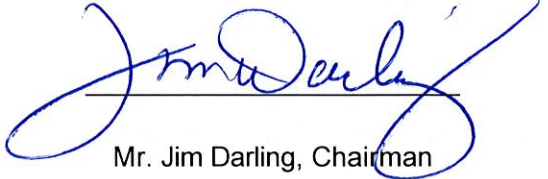
Ms. Georgina Bermea provided a brief update. On May 4, 2024, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 20.58% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 694,7705 acre-feet, down from 28.97% (982,478 AF) of normal conservation a year ago. The U.S. combined usable storage at Amistad/Falcon stood at 20.04% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 676,376 acre-feet.

Overall, the system is holding 17.89% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,054,1289 acre-feet with Amistad at 20.55% of conservation capacity, impounding 663,161 acre-feet and Falcon at 14.66% of conservation capacity, impounding 390,967 acre-feet. Mexico has 14.28% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 359,358 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

**6. Discussion, Consideration and Action on Date for Next Business Meeting.**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2024, at 9:30 am.

**7. Adjournment**



Mr. Jim Darling, Chairman