



# REGION M

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# AGENDA

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

9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS  
INITIATED AND CHAIRED VIA GoToMeeting & IN PERSON AT  
301 W. RAILROAD ST., WESLACO, TEXAS

**VIRTUAL ACCESS AVAILABLE AT:**

<https://meet.goto.com/375100229>

**YOU CAN ALSO DIAL IN USING YOUR PHONE:**

Access Code: 375-100-229

United States: +1 (312) 757-3121

MEETING MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT LEAST THREE (3) DAYS  
PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, CHAIR

4/01/2026



# 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

2 . Consideration and **ACTION**  
to Approve January 7, 2026,  
Meeting Minutes

# 3. Public Comment



# 4 . Membership Recognition – Presentation of Plaque to Formally Recognize Outstanding Contributions & Service by Presenting Commemorative Plaque to the Designated Members

5 . Discussion and Consider  
**ACTION** on Approve Memberships  
for the following Categories  
(Municipalites, Water Districts, Other)

As per the Texas Administrative Code, Regional Water Planning Rules under, the following definitions are defined for the open categories:

### **31 TAC 357.10 - Definitions**

***Water Districts** - Political subdivisions of the state created under Texas law for the purpose of conserving, transporting, or distributing water, or for providing water-related services, including but not limited to municipal utility districts, water control and improvement districts, fresh water supply districts, irrigation districts, and groundwater conservation districts.*

***Other** - A category of water user groups that includes entities or uses not specifically classified under municipal, manufacturing, irrigation, steam-electric power generation, or mining categories. This category may include institutions, parks, wildlife management areas, and other miscellaneous water uses. Typically, “Other” refers to organizations or individuals with significant interest in regional water planning but who do not fall under the specified categories. This can include nonprofits, community organizations, or unique stakeholders.*

***Municipalities** -In the context of regional water planning, “municipalities” refers to cities, towns, and communities served by public water systems, and their water use falls under the Municipal category. Municipalities are defined as governments of cities created or organized under the general, home-rule, or special laws of the state.*

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION M)

Nomination for Interest Group (check one):

- Agriculture,  Counties,  Electric Generating Utilities,  
 Environmental,  Industries,  Municipalities,  River Authority,  Water Districts

**NOMINATOR**

Name: Marilyn D. Gilbert

Address: 1425 Robinhood Dr. Brownsville, Texas 78520

Phone: 956-983-6278 FAX: 956-214-4001 EMAIL: MDGilbert@brownsville-pub.com

Occupation: General Manager & CEO Brownsville Public Utilities Board

**NOMINEE**

Name: Scott Fry, P.E., CFM

Address: 5593 Wild Bird Lane Brownsville, Texas 78526

Phone: 956-350-4136 FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: scottfry20@gmail.com

Interest Area: Water Conservation, Flood Control, Water Supply Planning

County: Cameron

Occupation: General Manager/Civil Engineer

**Please give a brief description of the nominee's experience that would qualify him/her for the position:**

Mr. Fry has been involved in the water industry in the Rio Grande Valley for over 20 years. He has served in both public and private sector roles. He is currently the General Manager of the Valley Municipal Utility District No. 2 in Rancho Viejo. (VMUD) VMUD treats both brackish ground water and surface water for potable use. In addition, they serve various farmers with raw water.

**Please list any pertinent affiliations:**

Former Board Member of the Texas Water Conservation Association (now Texas Water Association) in the early 2000s.

Date submitted: February 10, 2026

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION M)

Nomination for Interest Group (check one):

- Agriculture,  Counties,  Electric Generating Utilities,  
 Environmental,  Industries,  Municipalities,  River Authority,  Water Districts

NOMINATOR

Name: Sonny Hinojosa

Address: P.O. Box 6, San Juan, Texas 78589

Phone: (956) 787-1422 FAX: (956) 781-7622 EMAIL: sh\_hcid2@sbcglobal.net

Occupation: Water Advocate

NOMINEE

Name: Anthony Stambaugh

Address: P.O. Box 6, San Juan, Texas 78589

Phone: (956) 787-1422 FAX: (956) 781-7622 EMAIL: astambaugh@hcid2.org

Interest Area: Water Districts

County: Hidalgo

Occupation: General Manger

**Please give a brief description of the nominee's experience that would qualify him/her for the position:**

Anthony is currently listed as an Alternate to Water Districts with Region M.

Anthony is the successor to myself as General Manager for the Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2.

Anthony has also served as Rio Grande Watermaster.

**Please list any pertinent affiliations:**

Anthony is the Treasurer of the Texas Irrigation Council, a member of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water District Managers' Association, member of the Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee, and Board Member for the Texas Water Association.

Date submitted: February 11, 2026

RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION M)

Nomination for Interest Group (check one):

- Agriculture,  Counties,  Electric Generating Utilities,  
 Environmental,  Industries,  Municipalities,  River Authority,  Water Districts

NOMINATOR

Name: Gabriel Elijah Perez

Address: 731 Saint Vincent Dr, Alamo Texas, 78516

Phone: 956-325-6571

FAX: Not Applicable

EMAIL: gabrieleperez2001@outlook.com

Occupation: Grant Manager

NOMINEE

Name: Gabriel Elijah Perez

Address: 255 S Kansas Ave, Weslaco, TX 78596

Phone: 956-805-4330

FAX: Not Applicable

EMAIL: gperez@weslacotx.gov

Interest Area: Municipalities

County: Hidalgo

Occupation: Grant Manager

**Please give a brief description of the nominee's experience that would qualify him/her for the position:**

Gabriel E. Perez has approximately five years of municipal government experience in grant management and compliance and currently serves as Grant Manager for the City of Weslaco. His background in coordination, compliance, and long-range planning demonstrates the capacity to support regional water planning and board decision-making.

**Please list any pertinent affiliations:**

Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) - Member (June 2025 - Present)

National Grants Management Association - Member (August 2024 - Present)

Grant Professionals Association - Member (June 2023 - Present)

Date submitted: 02-25-2026

4/01/2026

# RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION M)

## Nomination for Interest Group (check one):

- Agriculture,  Counties,  Electric Generating Utilities,  
 Environmental,  Industries,  Municipalities,  River Authority,  Water Districts

### NOMINATOR

**Name:** Steven Sanchez

**Address:** 420 South Doolittle Road, Edinburg, Texas 78542

**Phone:** 956-874-1699

**FAX:** 956-383-1372

**EMAIL:** ssanchez@nawsc.com

**Occupation:** General Manager, North Alamo Water Supply Corporation

### NOMINEE

**Name:** Brian E. Macmanus, P.E.

**Address:** 21004 Hatchett Road, Harlingen, Texas 78552

**Phone:** 956-247-7815

**FAX:** 956-748-3179

**EMAIL:** bemacmanus@erhwsc.com

**Interest Area:** Other: Surface Water Treatment, Groundwater and Seawater Desalination, Wastewater Treatment

**County:** Cameron

**Occupation:** General Manager, East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation (ERHWSC)

**Please give a brief description of the nominee's experience that would qualify him/her for the position:**

Mr. Macmanus has been in the water and wastewater profession as either an engineer or manager since 1993. He was a sanitary engineer in the U.S. Army from 1993-1995. He was the assistant engineer at Harlingen Waterworks System from 1996-1999. He has been employed by ERHWSC since January 1, 2000, initially as the Director of Water and Wastewater and as General Manager since 2013. He is a licensed water and wastewater operator and licensed engineer with experience in desalination, surface water, and wastewater operations, design, and legislation.

**Please list any pertinent affiliations:**

Former President Texas Rural Water Association; Member American Waterworks Association (AWWA), Water Environment Association (WEA), WEA Texas, Texas AWWA, RGV Chapter WEAT/TAWWA, Texas Desalination Association, Director and President of South Texas Water Utility Managers' Association, Legislative testimony on multiple water issues in both Texas Senate & House Committees, and U.S. House Agricultural Committee.

**Date submitted:** 3-17-2026

4/01/2026

6 . Discussion and Consider  
**ACTION** on Approve Membership  
Renewals for Members who have  
Expired Term Dates

## RGRWPG - REGION M - MEMBERS & TERM EXPIRATION DATES

	Name	Category	1st Term Began	Current Term Ends	5 Year Term Currently Serving	# of 5 Year Terms Completed
1.	Vacant	Other		2031	1st	
2.	Vacant	Water Districts		2031	1st	
3.	Vacant	Industries		2031	1st	
4.	James Darling	River Authority	11/17/2004	2029	5th	4
5.	Tomas Rodriguez	Public	7/30/2008	2028	4th	3
6.	Carlos Garza	Small Business	7/30/2008	2028	4th	3
7.	Judge Joe Rathmell	Counties	6/1/2011	2026	3rd	2
8.	Jaime Flores	Environmental Interests	8/3/2011	2026	3rd	2
9.	Frank Schuster	Other	1/4/2012	2027	3rd	2
10.	Nick Benavides	Small Business	6/5/2013	2028	3rd	2
11.	Dale Murden	Agriculture	3/9/2016	2031	3rd	2
12.	Marilyn Gilbert	Municipalities	8/2/2023	2028	1st	
13.	Dr. Neal Wilkins	Agriculture	7/13/2016	2026	2nd	1
14.	Jorge Flores	Municipalities	1/24/2018	2028	2nd	1
15.	Commissioner David Fuentes	Counties	8/1/2018	2028	2nd	1
16.	Tom McLemore	Water Districts	3/20/2019	2029	2nd	1
17.	Robert Latham	Electric Generating Utilities	1/12/2022	2027	1st	
18.	Steven Sanchez	Water Utilities	1/12/2022	2027	1st	
19.	Louie Pena	GMA Category	8/2/2023	Term limits Do Not Apply to GMAs		
20.	Debbie Farmer	GMA Category	9/29/2021	Term limits Do Not Apply to GMAs		

## 7. Status Reports

**ACTION** MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY  
OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

7A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Financial Report .....Melisa Gonzales-Rosas

Period from 1/1/2025 to 03/31/2026

Region M 2025 Budget & Expenditure Report								
Budget Item	Budget Amount	Revenues to date	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total to Date	Available Balance
Salaries: (to include Salary & Fringe)	\$11,657.00		\$1,399.14				\$1,399.14	\$10,257.86
Website Maintenance	\$1,100.00		\$75.00				\$75.00	\$1,025.00
Travel	\$2,000.00						\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Consumable Supplies	\$200.00						\$0.00	\$200.00
Printing	\$500.00		\$141.09				\$141.09	\$358.91
Communications Phone /Internet	\$500.00						\$0.00	\$500.00
Postage	\$100.00						\$0.00	\$100.00
Sponsorships/other	\$2,650.00						\$0.00	\$2,650.00
Indirect Costs	\$3,943.00		\$322.92				\$322.92	\$3,620.08
Local Match		\$71,911.82						
Interest Income		\$280.10						
<b>Budget Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,650.00</b>	<b>\$72,191.92</b>	<b>\$1,938.15</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,938.15</b>	<b>\$20,711.85</b>
<b>Actual Cash Available</b>								<b>\$70,253.77</b>



7B. Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA's 13 & 16 .....Louie Pena, GMA 16  
Debbie Farmer, GMA 13

7C. Discussion and Possible **ACTION** to Choose Representative for Region L

7D. Reports from Other Regional Water Planning Groups

1. Reports from Liaisons with: Region J, Tomas Rodriguez; **Region L, (no representation),**  
and Region N, Commissioner David Fuentes

7E. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans Filed with Region.....Chairman

7F. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants .....Chairman



## 8. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

**ACTION** MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE  
FOLLOWING ITEMS

8A. TWDB.....Noah Powell

8B. IBWC.....IBWC Staff

8C. TCEQ Watermaster (Status of Reservoirs).....Georgina Bermea  
Rio Grande Watermaster

# Region M TWDB Update April 1, 2026

## Regional Water Planning Recent/Upcoming Milestones

- **January 22, 2026:** TWDB Board approved 2026 Regional Water Plans
- **March 2026:** Next Regional Water Planning Cycle (2031 RWPs) contracting process began
- **April 2026:** TWDB Board to consider posting initial draft State Water Plan for public comment/hearing
- **April 30, 2026:** Final payment requests for sixth planning cycle (2026 Regional Water Plans) due to TWDB

# Region M TWDB Update April 1, 2026

## 2031 Regional Water Plans – *Anticipated* Initial Contracting Schedule

- **April 2, 2026:** Applications from RWPG Sponsors due to TWDB
- **May/June 2026:** TWDB Board to consider authorizing contracts
- **August 31, 2026:** Contracts between RWPG Sponsor and TWDB executed
- **2026 (prior to technical work):** RWPG Sponsors conduct selection process for technical consultants
- **Summer/Fall/Early Winter 2026 (prior to technical work):** RWPGs hold pre-planning meetings for 2031 RWPs

9. Discussion, Consideration, and  
**ACTION** on Date for Next Business  
Meeting:

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

## 10. Adjourn

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated and/or acted upon in a different order than numbered above. The Board of Directors of the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) (Region M) reserves the right to adjourn into Executive (Closed) Session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the items listed on this agenda as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act. No final action will be taken during the Executive Session.

### **PUBLIC INPUT POLICY**

Public Input Policy: “At the beginning of each RGRWPG meeting, the RGRWPG will allow for an open public forum/comment period. This comment period shall not exceed one (1) hour in length, and each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. All individuals desiring to address the RGRWPG must be signed up to do so, prior to the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public an opportunity to address issues or topics that are under the jurisdiction of the RGRWPG as outlined within final implementation guidelines of Senate Bill 1, 75th. Legislative Session (SB-1). For issues or topics which are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, RGRWPG members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the posted agenda for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on posted agenda items deemed appropriate by the Chairman as these items are considered, and the same time limitation (3 minutes) applies.”