

AGENDA

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

9:30 A.M. WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022

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

Audio access is available by calling: 1 (571) 317-3122, Access Code: 438-411-045

PRESIDING: JIM DARLING, CHAIR

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1. Call to Order & Roll Call.....Chairman
 2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve April 6, 2022, Meeting MinutesChairman
 3. Public CommentChairman
 4. Consideration and **ACTION** on Petition from Voting Member to
Serve Additional Term.Chairman
 5. Recognition of USDA Representative for Eradication of Aquatic WeedChairman
 6. Discussion and Recommendation on Scheduling Subcommittee Meetings.....Chairman
 7. Report on Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 (HCDD1) Request for
Amendment to 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water PlanChairman
 - A. Status Update
 - B. Consideration and **ACTION** to Pursue Amendment to 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan
Incorporating the Delta Region Water Management Project

- C. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize LRGVDC and Black & Veatch to Execute Contract to Perform Tasks RE: Technical Evaluation and Preparation of Amendment Materials
- D. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize Formal Request For Proposals (RFP) Process for Contractor to Perform Amendment to 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan
- E. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize Execution of Contract with Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 to Pay for Costs Associated with 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan Amendment
- F. Consideration and **ACTION** to Authorize LRGVDC to Post Public Notice and Hold a Public Hearing on the Proposed Amendment

8. Status Reports

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- A. Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities Jaime Burke
Black & Veatch
 - 1. Schedule and Progress Update
 - 2. Discussion and Consideration of **ACTION** on Recommendations from Population and Water Demand Subcommittee - San Ygnacio MUD under Consideration.
- B. Financial Report.....Rick Carrera
LRGVDC
 - 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Accept Expenditure Report
- C. Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA's 13 & 16 Armando Vela, GMA 16
Debbie Farmer, GMA 13
- D. Reports from Other Regional Water Planning Groups
 - 1. Reports from Liaisons with: Region J, Tomas Rodriguez; Region L, Don McGhee, and Region N, Commissioner David Fuentes
- E. Report on Water Conservation Plans and Drought Management Plans
Filed with RegionChairman
- F. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and GrantsChairman
- G. Report on Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Com. David Fuentes
RWRAC Chairman

9. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- A. TWDB.....William Alfaro
Regional Water Planning
- 1. TWDB Contract Amendment
 - 2. Interregional Planning Council Update
 - 3. Presentation on Regional and State Water Planning Rules Changes

- B. IBWCDr. Maria-Elena Giner
Commissioner

- C. TCEQ Watermaster Anthony Stambaugh
Rio Grande Watermaster
- 1. Status of Reservoirs

10. Consideration and **ACTION** to Schedule Date for Next Business MeetingChairman

11. 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 in 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.”

ITEM 2.

MINUTES

MINUTES

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

10:30 AM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

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

- DRAFT -

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 10:36 am and confirmed that a quorum of the voting membership was present.

The following voting members were in attendance:

Board Members

Jim Darling, Chairman
Sonny Hinojosa, Vice Chairman
Frank Schuster, Executive Committee
Glenn Jarvis
Tomas Rodriguez
Carlos Garza
Judge Joe Rathmell
Jaime Flores
Armando Vela
Riazul Mia
Dale Murden
Dr. Neal Wilkins
Jorge Flores
Commissioner David Fuentes
Tom McLemore
Debbie Farmer
Robert Latham
Steven Sanchez

Category

River Authorities
Water Districts
Other
Other
Public
Small Business
Counties
Environmental
Groundwater Management Areas
Municipalities
Agriculture
Agriculture
Municipalities
County
Water Districts
Groundwater Management Area
Electric Generating Utilities
Water Utilities

The following voting members were not in attendance:

Don McGhee, Secretary
Nick Benavides, Executive Committee
John Bruciak

Industries
Small Business
Municipalities

2. Consideration and Action to Approve January 12, 2022, Meeting Minutes

It was noted that a correction had been made to page 4, item C. paragraph 2 after the meeting packet had been distributed. ***Mr. Sonny Hinojosa made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2022, meeting as corrected. Mr. Frank Schuster seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes, US IBWC Commissioner Maria Giner was recognized and requested to give her report, listed on the agenda under item 8. B. at this time due to a scheduling conflict. She introduced Mr. Adrian Cortez, US IBWC Hydrologist and they jointly gave a presentation that covered Mexican Historical Deliveries, the 2020-2025 Reservoir Status, Cooperation on the Rio Grande, Rio Grande White Paper, and Rio Grande Conservation. The presentation is available on the Region M website at <http://riograndewaterplan.org/meetings>.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Darling asked about the eradication of aquatic weed project, stating that it may be more attainable than other projects. He stated that eradication of aquatic weed also enhances other things besides water availability; and it should be an ongoing program instead of tackling it once every 10 years when it becomes overwhelming.

Commissioner Giner stated that she has advised the administration about the maintenance tasks that have been delayed due to a lack of funding. She said that the information the Group provided will help her understand the benefits of eradicating the salt cedar infestation, and she wants to make sure that the administration understands that this region has been traditionally underserved because of gaps in funding. The funding gaps have restricted the US IBWC's ability to hire the number of staff needed to perform the necessary maintenance tasks for the river and their ability to maintain levees, structure, and the floodway, as well as the eradication of the salt cedar infestation. She stated that she will check if the cost of salt cedar eradication has been quantified.

Mr. Sonny Hinojosa informed Commissioner Giner that the Region M Group has been kept abreast of USDA Research Entomologist, Dr. John Goolsby's progress with the development of three (3) deterrents to the invasive *Arundo donax* carrizo cane that also infests the Rio Grande: a wasp, a scale, and a rust. Chairman Darling stated that there have been conflicting processes between governmental agencies regarding eradication of aquatic weeds. The US Department of Homeland Security wants to cut the cane down to the water level to help them detect illegal entry into the US. But the Group objects to that strategy. Cutting down the cane exasperates the situation because it grows back quickly as well as thicker and stronger.

Commissioner Giner will look for an opportunity to meet with some of the Region M members to help her pull together a narrative for a possible solution and also include Dr. Goolsby. She will also provide an update at the next meeting on what they have learned on this issue.

Zapata County Judge Joe Rathmell asked Commissioner Giner if the US IBWC would consider a project to dredge Falcon Lake. He said that seven years of sedimentation on the lake has left almost no depth of water, especially on the upper reaches where Zapata is situated. He has spoken with his congressman who expressed interest in a project of this magnitude and that it could be done on Falcon. It would at least increase the water storage capacity of the reservoir. Commissioner Giner stated that she has compiled a list of deferred maintenance in the amount of almost \$400 million; \$300 million is for sediment alone, and that she will check if this list includes Falcon Dam. Her newly hired chief of staff will be tasked with creating an asset management plan that inventories all assets and will look at risk and condition and help staff to prioritize needed investments. Her goal is to ensure that they bring the resources to have resiliency in the system for flood protection, water supply, sanitation, and cross-border pollution.

Mr. Glenn Jarvis raised the topic of the carrizo cane problem at Elephant Butte Dam. There has been considerable work done there in the past, but it has been closed for over 100 years. This area is generally referred to as the "Forgotten River Reach" downstream from El Paso and it has had a negative effect on that portion of the Rio Grande that this region relies on. Mr. Jarvis stated that there is quite a bit of information on this project that has been collected in the past and wanted to make Commissioner Giner aware of it as she moves forward with river projects and improvements.

Mr. Hinojosa noted that on slide 9 of the presentation she and Mr. Cortez gave it says that current use by Matamoros is 77,000 acre-feet of water a year, but they release 255,000 acre-feet to get the water to the city. Mr. Hinojosa stated that there is data available that shows that there is 125,000 to 190,000 acre-feet of Mexico's water that goes out to the Gulf unused. He suggested that one quick-fix for Mexico is to better manage their releases from Falcon to meet the needs of Matamoros. He added that if that water had been conserved, Mexico would have 500,000 to 800,000 acre-feet in storage in Falcon Reservoir, which is a quick fix that could be accomplished just with management. Commissioner Giner appreciated this information and will make note of it.

Chairman Darling thanked Commissioner Giner and Mr. Cortez for their time and information and stated that the Group welcomes their participation and appreciates all they are doing. He then moved to item #3.

3. Hear Public Comment

No requests to make public comments were received

4. Discussion and Action to Authorize LRGVDC to Negotiate and Execute an Amendment to TWDB Contract

Chairman Darling stated that this contract amendment will incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan, total project cost, and updated contract guidance documents. The Total Project Cost is the anticipated full appropriation to be received during the planning cycle to develop the Plan. At the time the contract was executed, the TWDB was not appropriated sufficient funds by the legislature. Regional Planning grant contracts are appropriated every two years, TWDB has historically entered 5-year contracts at the beginning of each regional water planning cycle. Only those funds that have already been appropriated are shown as "committed" within the regional water planning grant contracts. This requires amending the contracts to incorporate increased funding as additional appropriations become available. Therefore, it is anticipated that the contract will be amended at least a couple more times to commit more funds. ***Mr. Sonny Hinojosa made a motion to approve the LRGVDC to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract. Mr. Tom McLemore seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

5. Discussion Related to Requirements for Amendments to 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan

Documents related to the process to amend the Plan were provided in the meeting packet by way of a flow chart timeline, and a document provided by TWDB that details the process. Discussion on the requirements flowed into item 6. below.

6. Consideration and Possible Action on Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 Request to Amend 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan

Commissioner Fuentes informed the Group that the reason for this item is that Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 (HCDD1) has had a change in the status of the Delta Reclamation project. This project is located on the main drain north of Hidalgo County and has been determined to be a dual-purpose project. It will serve as flood mitigation, and the second component is water as a resource. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has confirmed that HCDD1 has the water rights and has also approved the process by which HCDD1 will test the water quality.

Commissioner Fuentes stated that if the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan (Plan) can be amended prior to the end of 2022, HCDD1 can start seeking funding for building a water treatment plant. They do not plan to sell the treated water to an end user or violate any Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) arrangements; but it will provide water as a resource, which will

be very different and the first of its kind, not only in the State of Texas but possibly in the nation with respect to providing water as a resource for potable water.

Commissioner Fuentes informed the Group that HCDD1 has met with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and they recommended making this amendment to the existing Plan; doing so would open the opportunity to finance a project like this as we get closer to that need.

Chairman Darling asked what the main source of water will be that would be going into that detention facility. Commissioner Fuentes stated that it would be any outflow from agricultural runoff and also surface water runoff in any of the laterals that connect to the main drain. He stated that Hidalgo County understands and accepts that they would be responsible for any fees related to making this amendment.

During discussion it was determined that this project could be broken into phases whereby the first phase could be included in the amendment to the Plan which would allow that phase to be eligible for funding. Chairman Darling stated that this project is important and that considering the project as a whole would delay it unnecessarily. He suggested working with TWDB by making phase 1 an amendment to the 2021 Plan and phases 2 and 3 could be included in the 2026 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan, depending on timetables. Commissioner Fuentes stated that as an overall main scope of work, HCDD1 will identify multiple points of capturing water, testing, and cleaning which will be the first phase.

Mr. William Alfaro, TWDB Liaison, was recognized and stated that it is important for HCDD1 to thoroughly evaluate if an amendment is necessary. In his update further in the agenda he will provide more information. He stated that the only funding program that requires a project to be recommended as a Water Management Strategy (WMS) in the Plan is SWIFT (State Water Implementation Fund for Texas). If financing from SWIFT is sought, then the Plan will need to be amended. Commissioner Fuentes stated that HCDD1 has met with Ms. Mireya Lowe and gone through the whole project with her. She suggested that we request an amendment because we do anticipate applying for some degree of financing through SWIFT, which is why we are here; other funding programs do not require that a project is in the Plan, only SWIFT does.

Upon conclusion of discussion, ***Commissioner David Fuentes made a motion to instruct staff to participate in the process to amend the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan. Mr. Riazul Mia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

7. Status Reports

Ms. Jaime Burke, Water Planning Leader from Black & Veatch was recognized and introduced Lauren Gonzalez, Deputy Project Manager, and Katie Snyder who provides technical support for the Water Plan.

A. Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities

1. Schedule and Progress Update

Ms. Burke provided the initial schedule for Plan development that covers the entire 5-year cycle to develop the Plan and highlighted upcoming tasks and important deadlines.

2. Draft Projections from TWDB for Livestock, Manufacturing, and Steam Electric

Ms. Burke used a flow chart to provide a brief overview of the regional water planning process for those who may be new to regional water planning. She reviewed the draft non-municipal water demand projections currently available for review, detailed the draft

livestock water demand projections, the draft manufacturing water demand projections, and the draft steam-electric water demand projections. Chairman Darling suggested that the Population & Water Demand Committee meet to discuss this topic in further detail. Mr. Armando Vela raised a concern that Hidalgo County's water use is under reported because the water being pumped out of private wells is not being recorded.

3. Draft Municipal Water User Group List and Historical Data from TWDB

Ms. Burke went over the Municipal Water User Group (WUG) list and historical data. The historical data included, WUG-level population estimates, net water use by public water system collected through TWDB water user surveys, historical calculated Gallons Per Capital Daily (GPCD), and new draft baseline GPCD.

She informed the Group that they have been tasked with reviewing the list of WUGs and submitting any revisions to TWDB, as well as reviewing historical data and reporting any revisions to TWDB. This information is due to TWDB by July 29, 2022. The exception to the deadline for revisions is to historical data and baseline GPCD numbers which can be requested in 2023 as part of the population and the municipal demand review.

4. Discussion of Potential Subcommittees for the Planning Cycle

Chairman Darling noted that the current list of Subcommittees is in the meeting packet and this list has not been updated in some time. He asked members to review the list of committees and informed LRGVDC staff of those on which they would like to serve. A meeting of the Population and Water Demand Committee will be scheduled within the next 10 days. He asked Ms. Burke to define the committee responsibilities and at the next meeting each member can be formally appointed to a committee. The presentative given by Black & Veatch is available on the Region M website at <http://riograndewaterplan.org/meeting>.

B. Financial Report

LRGVDC Director of Community & Economic Development Rick Carrera was recognized to report on the following items:

1. Consideration and Action to Accept Expenditure Reports

Mr. Carrera provided the expenditure reports for the period of January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022. From the local funds annual budget of \$22,550.00, there is a balance of \$22,264.93 remaining. The cash fund balance is \$100,137.23 which includes \$10.73 in interest income. ***Mr. Tomas Rodriguez made a motion to accept the expenditure report as presented. Mr. Carlos Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

C. Status of Joint Groundwater Area Planning in GMA's 4, 5, 7, 13, & 16

Mr. Armando Vela was recognized and informed the Group that GMA-16 has not met recently and there is no new information to report.

Ms. Debbie Farmer informed the Group that as reported previously, GMA-13 submitted the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) packet for the 3rd round of Joint Planning to the TWDB on January 14, 2022. GMA-13 has responded to minor follow-up requests from TWDB since the submittal but is still awaiting their notice of administrative completeness. At the January

12, 2022, Region M meeting a lawyer who stated that he represented certain Webb County Interests made comments to this Group disagreeing with GMA-13's process in developing the DFCs. As the GMA-13 representative, Ms. Farmer briefly addressed those remarks and reported that GMA-13 appropriately considered all requests and data that was properly put before it, and GMA-13 has full confidence in the DFCs as proposed and the process GMA-13 conducted to develop the DFCs. The next GMA-13 meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2022.

1. Status on Starr County Groundwater Conservation District

Mr. Tom Koeneke, Vice President of Starr County Groundwater Conservation District (SCGCD) was recognized and reported that as the Group is probably aware, a petition was filed with TCEQ for inquiry into SCGCD. A review panel was appointed, and the district went through a series of hearings. SCGCD entered into an agreed order with the review panel and over the process of about a year and a half, the district has complied with all requests in the agreed order. Recently SCGCD received a letter from TCEQ stating that they are in compliance with all the requisites of the agreed order except for their approved director's schedule for the November 2022 elections, which, of course, is not due yet.

Mr. Koeneke reported that the SCGCD management plan has been revised and approved by TWDB; it will be in effect through August of 2026. One of the requisites in the management plan is for SCGCD to communicate with Region M twice a year on water data from Starr County and for one of their directors to attend Region M meetings. They have also been tasked with looking into possible conjunctive use with Region M.

Lastly, Mr. Koeneke stated that he agrees with Mr. Armando Vela that it appears that no calculation for wildlife use has been created. The majority of ranches in Starr County are used more for hunting than livestock and that SCGCD is the only district in the State that has wildlife as an exempt use along with livestock. And that there ought to be some kind of calculation for wildlife as well as livestock.

D. Reports from Other Water Planning Groups

1. Reports from Liaisons with Other Regions: Region J, Tomas Rodriguez; Region L, Don McGhee, and Region N, Commissioner David Fuentes

There were no reports at this time.

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

No new plans have been received since the last meeting.

F. Report on Notices of Applications for Funding and Grants

No new notices have been received.

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

Mr. Carrera was recognized and provided a brief update on the last RWRAC meeting. He informed the Group that the vacancy in the Large City category was filled by Xavier Cervantes from the City of Harlingen. The Texas General Land Office provided updates on their three (3) ongoing studies which include the Flood Study, the Economic Development

Study, and the Pedestrian Study. Cameron County will administer the local Clean Rivers Program; it was previously administered by the Nueces River Authority. He thanked Cameron County Commissioner David Garza for undertaking this responsibility and stated that having that administration locally is beneficial for the Valley. Regarding the Freshwater Flows, that program is managed and administered by the LRGVDC; there are four (4) water monitoring stations for the four (4) most voluminous drains in the area. The monitoring stations are up and running, monitoring has started and of course those monitoring stations will also support the Flood Infrastructure Fund program that LRGVDC also administers.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2022, at 10:00 am and he invited Region M members to attend.

7. Reports from Federal and State Agencies

A. TWDB

Mr. William Alfaro was recognized and reported on the following items:

1. Projections Release Submitted and Related Deadlines

Mr. Alfaro went over the anticipated release schedule for the remaining projections data. He emphasized the July 29, 2022, deadline for RWPGs to request changes to historical data for municipal WUGs.

2. Rule Making Efforts

Mr. Alfaro stated that the rule making for Regional and State Water Planning guidelines will be presented to the TWDB Board at their April 11, 2022, meeting. He explained the purpose of the amendments to 31 TAC § 357 and §358. He stated that details on the proposed rules are available on the TWDB website at:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/rules/index.asp>

3. Presentation on Plan Amendment Process

Mr. Alfaro provided details on the process of amending an approved regional Water Plan. He explained why a Plan might need to be amended, which funding programs require Plan consistency, types of plan modifications, the difference between minor and major amendments, a timeline for the amendment process, and who pays for an amendment.

Mr. Alfaro's presentation is available on the Region M website at:

<http://riograndewaterplan.org/meetings>

B. IBWC

This report was given at the top of the agenda.

C. TCEQ Watermaster

Watermaster Anthony Stambaugh was recognized and in answer to a question asked previously, he reported that the lowest recorded reservoir levels were in August of 1998 when the US ownership was down to 19.06% which is 634,025 acre-feet, and Mexico was at 15% in their combined storage. As of March 26, 2022, the US ownership is at 35.71% which is 1,211,407 acre-feet. Chairman Darling urged members to review their water

conservation and drought contingency plans for trigger point water levels that activate the plans.

8. Consideration and Action to Schedule Next Business Meeting on July 6, 2022

Mr. Tom McLemore made a motion to schedule the next meeting on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at the LRGVDC Main Campus in Weslaco. Mr. Sonny Hinojosa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Group, Chairman Darling adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Mr. Jim Darling, Chair

ITEM 4.

**MEMBER
TERMS**



*Jim Darling, *Chairman*
Rio Grande Regional Water Authority

*Sonny Hinojosa, *Vice-Chairman*
HCID #2, San Juan,

*Donald K. McGhee, *Secretary*
Hydro Systems, Inc., Harlingen

*Frank Schuster
Val Verde Vegetable Co., McAllen

*Nick Benavides
Nick Benavides, Company, Laredo

Glenn Jarvis
Attorney, McAllen

John Bruciak
Brownsville PUB

Tomas Rodriguez
Public, Laredo

Carlos Garza, P.E.
AEC Engineering, LLC., Edinburg

Joe Rathmell
Zapata County Judge

Jaime Flores
Arroyo Colorado Partnership, Weslaco

Armando Vela
Red Sands GCD, Linn

Dale Murden
Texas Citrus Mutual, Mission

Riazul Mia
City of Laredo, Engineer

Neal Wilkins, Ph.D.
East Foundation

Jorge Flores
Eagle Pass Water Works

David L. Fuentes
Hidalgo County Commissioner

Tom McLemore
Harlingen Irrigation District

Debbie Farmer
Wintergarden GCD, GMA 13

Robert Latham
Magic Valley Generating Station

Steven Sanchez
North Alamo Water Supply Corp

***Executive Committee**

MEMORANDUM

TO: RGRWPG Voting Members

FROM: Jim Darling, Chairman

DATE: June 29, 2022

SUBJ: **Item 4 – Petition to Serve Additional Terms**

According to the Region M Bylaws:

“Section 2. Terms of Office

The terms of all initial voting members shall expire on September 1, 2001. Upon the expiration of the initial terms, all voting members shall draw lots for additional terms of five years or two years, such that half of the voting members' terms will expire in two additional years and the other half in five additional years. If there is an odd number of voting members at the time the lots are drawn, one more than half shall draw lots for the two-year terms. No later than ninety calendar days prior to the end of the two-year terms, the voting members shall initiate procedures to appoint successors for the voting members drawing two-year terms, utilizing the process set forth under Section 4 of this Article. Outgoing voting members shall be given the opportunity to fully participate in the selection process for their successors and shall serve until their successors take office. *At the conclusion of the two-year terms described above, all subsequent terms of office for voting members shall be five years, the goal of staggering the terms of office having been accomplished. All persons shall be eligible to serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive five-year terms as a voting member of the RGRWPG. (Amended 7/16/2003). Those persons completing two consecutive terms may petition the RGRWPG to serve additional terms. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present is required for approval of a petition for additional terms.*”

Please see attached list of Member Term Lengths.


Stewards of water resources from Amistad to the Gulf

RGRWPG - REGION M - MEMBERS AND TERM LENGTHS for 2022

Name	Category	1 st Term Began	Current Term Ends September 1 st of:	5 Year Term Currently Serving	# of 5 Year Terms Completed
1. Glenn Jarvis	Other	03/25/1998	2025	6 th	5
2. Sonny Hinojosa	Water Districts	03/25/1998	2025	6 th	5
3. Donald K. McGhee	Industries	06/27/2001	2023	5 th	4
4. John Bruciak	Municipalities	06/27/2001	2025	5 th	4
5. Mayor James Darling	River Authorities	11/17/2004	2024	4 th	3
6. Tomas Rodriguez	Public	07/30/2008	2023	3 rd	2
7. Carlos Garza	Small Business	07/30/2008	2023	3 rd	2
8. Judge Joe Rathmell	Counties	06/01/2011	2026	3 rd	2
9. Jaime Flores	Environmental Interests	08/03/2011	2026	3 rd	2
10. Frank Schuster	Other	01/04/2012	2022	2 nd	1
11. Nick Benavides	Small Business	06/05/2013	2023	2 nd	1
12. Dale Murden	Agriculture	03/09/2016	2026	2 nd	1
13. Riazul Mia	Municipalities	03/09/2016	2026	2 nd	1
14. Dr. Neal Wilkins	Agriculture	07/13/2016	2026	2 nd	1
15. Jorge Flores	Municipalities	01/24/2018	2023	1 st	
16. Commissioner David Fuentes	Counties	08/01/2018	2023	1 st	
17. Tom McLemore	Water Districts	03/20/2019	2024	1 st	
18. Robert Latham	Electric Generating Utilities	01/12/2022	2027	1 st	
19. Steven Sanchez	Water Utilities	01/12/2022	2027	1 st	
20. Armando Vela	GMA Category	10/05/2011	Term Limits do	Not apply	To GMAs
21. Debbie Farmer	GMA Category	09/29/2021	Term Limits do	Not apply	To GMAs

ITEM 8. A.


BLACK & VEATCH





Rio Grande RWPG Meeting

2026 Region M Regional Water Plan

Jaime Burke, Black & Veatch
Lauren Gonzalez, Black & Veatch
July 6, 2022








AGENDA

8.A Status on Current TWDB Contract Activities

1. Schedule and Progress Update
2. Discussion and Consideration of Action on Recommendation from Population and Water Demand Subcommittee



8.A.1 Schedule and Progress Update

3

3

CONCEPTUAL/INITIAL SCHEDULE FOR REGION M PLAN DEVELOPMENT

		2021				2022				2023				2024				2025			
	QTR	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Regional Water Planning Rules Updates																					
Texas Legislative Sessions																					
TWDB Releases Data / Information																					
TASK 1 Planning Area Description																					
TASK 2 Population & Water Demands Projections																					
TASK 3 Water Availability & Supply Analysis																					
TASK 4 Identification of Water Needs																					
Technical Memorandum Due (March 4, 2024)																					
TASK 5 Water Management Strategy (WMS) Evaluations																					
TASK 6 Impacts of Plan & Cumulative Effects																					
TASK 7 Drought Response Information & Recommendations																					
TASK 8 Unique Segments & Policy Recommendations																					
Initially Prepared Plan Due (March 3, 2025)																					
TASK 10 Public Participation and Plan Adoption																					
TASK 11 Implementation & Comparison to Previous Plan																					
Final Plan Due (October 20, 2025)																					

LEGEND

TWDB Conceptual Schedule

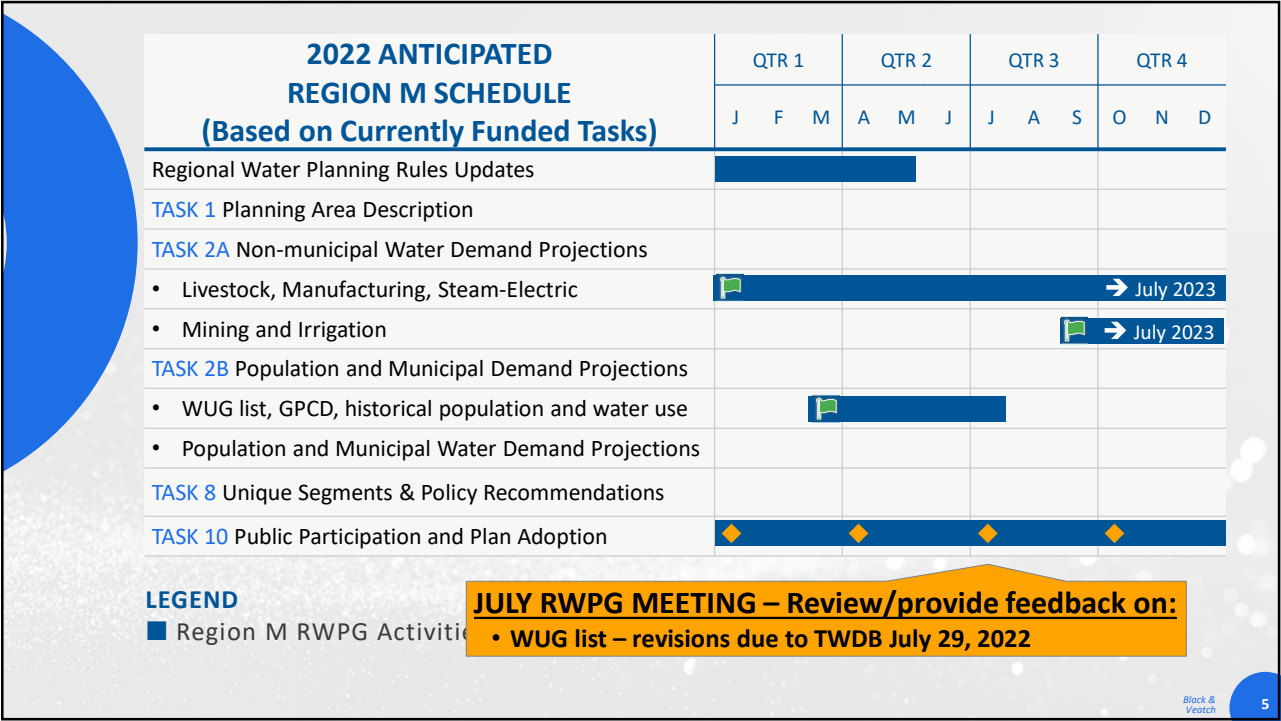
B&V Planned Schedule

TWDB Data Release

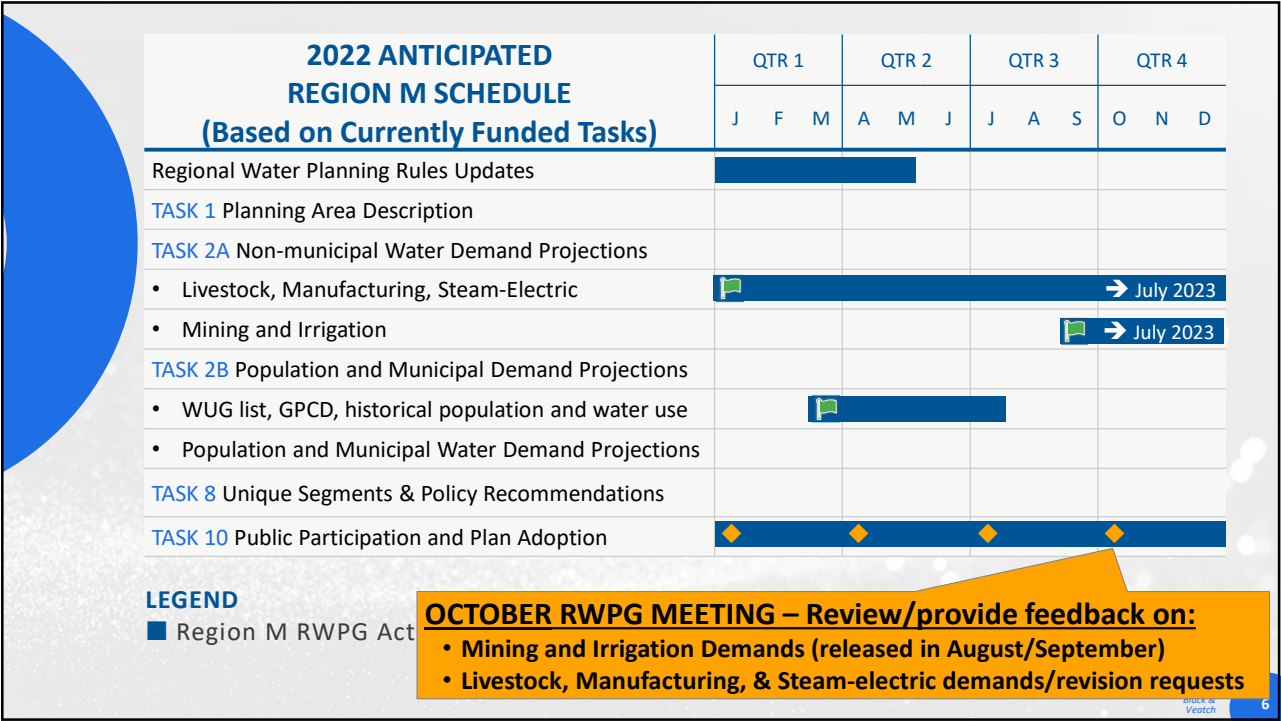
TWDB Deadline

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Progress Update

- Reviewed the draft projections from TWDB for livestock, manufacturing, and steam-electric in more detail to identify potential issues.
- Reviewed the municipal WUG list and identified WUGs that may require revisions to be considered.
- Prepared a contact list survey and email communication to the municipal WUGs.
- Provided feedback to TWDB staff regarding proposed changes to DB27.
- Prepared for and attended a Population and Water Demand Subcommittee meeting, held on June 16, 2022.

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8.A.2 Discussion and Consideration of Action on Recommendation from Population and Water Demand Subcommittee

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2026 Region M Municipal WUGs (1 of 2)

- 64 municipal WUGs in Region M (same list as 2021 Plan)
- Organized by County, then sorted alphabetically*

♦ *Note: Draft WUG List data provided by TWDB does not specify the county in which each WUG is located. County(ies) for each WUG were determined by technical consultant using 2021 Regional Water Plan data for existing WUGs.*

CAMERON COUNTY

BROWNSVILLE
COMBES
COUNTY-OTHER, CAMERON
EAST RIO HONDO WSC
EL JARDIN WSC
HARLINGEN
LA FERIA
LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT
LOS FRESNOS
MILITARY HIGHWAY WSC
NORTH ALAMO WSC
OLMITO WSC
PALM VALLEY
PRIMERA
RIO HONDO
SAN BENITO
SANTA ROSA
VALLEY MUD 2

HIDALGO COUNTY

AGUA SUD
ALAMO
COUNTY-OTHER, HIDALGO
DONNA
EDCOUCH
EDINBURG
ELSA
HIDALGO
HIDALGO COUNTY MUD 1
LA JOYA
LA VILLA
MCALLEN
MERCEDES
MILITARY HIGHWAY WSC
MISSION
NORTH ALAMO WSC
PHARR
SAN JUAN
SHARYLAND WSC
WESLACO

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2026 Region M Municipal WUGs (2 of 2)

JIM HOGG COUNTY

COUNTY-OTHER, JIM HOGG
JIM HOGG COUNTY WCID 2

MAVERICK COUNTY

COUNTY-OTHER, MAVERICK
EAGLE PASS
MAVERICK COUNTY

***Potential change
request**

WEBB COUNTY

COUNTY-OTHER, WEBB
LAREDO
MIRANDO CITY WSC
WEBB COUNTY

STARR COUNTY

AGUA SUD
COUNTY-OTHER, STARR
EL SAUZ WSC
EL TANQUE WSC
LA GRULLA
RIO GRANDE CITY
RIO WSC
ROMA
UNION WSC

WILLACY COUNTY

COUNTY-OTHER, WILLACY
EAST RIO HONDO WSC
LYFORD
NORTH ALAMO WSC
PORT MANSFIELD PUD
RAYMONDVILLE
SEBASTIAN MUD

ZAPATA COUNTY

COUNTY-OTHER, ZAPATA
FALCON RURAL WSC
SAN YGNACIO MUD*
SIESTA SHORES WCID
ZAPATA COUNTY
ZAPATA COUNTY WCID-HWY 16 EAST

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Change Request for San Ygnacio MUD (WUG)

- Public Utility Commission says this utility has been deleted/dissolved
- TWDB Water Use Survey Name for this WUG is ZAPATA COUNTY SAN YGNACIO & RAMIREÑO
- TCEQ Drinking Water Watch Database identifies the system as ZAPATA COUNTY SAN YGNACIO & RAMIREÑO with the historical name as SAN YGNACIO MUD
 - The contact for the system is Zapata County
- Zapata County staff confirmed San Ygnacio MUD was absorbed
- The Zapata County Waterworks Utility Director Ralph Treviño is okay with the name change and keeping it as its own system

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Recommendation from Population and Water Demand Subcommittee

- Request to TWDB that the name of San Ygnacio MUD be changed to Zapata County San Ygnacio and Ramireño
- Does the RWPG approve of the recommendation?
 - Discussion and Consideration of Action

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ITEM 9. A.

TWDB

Region M TWDB Update 7-6-22

Regional Water Planning Rulemaking

- April 11, 2022, TWDB Board adopted amendments to regional water planning rules (31 TAC Chapter 357) and state water planning rules (31 TAC Chapter 358)
- Amendments effective May 1, 2022
- Board item with detailed information available on the TWDB website:
<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/board/2022/04/Board/Brd04.pdf>
- Rules available on Secretary of State site:
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=31&pt=10](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=31&pt=10)

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Texas Water
Development Board

Region M TWDB Update 7-6-22

Key Rule Changes to 31 TAC Chapter 357

- New requirements added for RWPGs to discuss their process for conducting interregional coordination at the pre-planning public input meeting and summarize interregional coordination efforts in the Technical Memorandum, Initially Prepared Plan, and adopted Regional Water Plan (RWP). (§357.12(a)(1), §357.12(c)(8), §357.50(g)(1)(C))
- Clarification provided that the Technical Memorandum include a statement if applicable, that no infeasible water management strategies (WMS) or water management strategy projects (WMSP) were identified by the RWPG. (§357.12(c)(7))
- Requirement for RWPGs to perform an infrastructure financing analysis is removed, and total number of regional water plan chapters is reduced to 10 accordingly. (§357.44 [removed], §357.22(b))

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Development Board

Region M TWDB Update 7-6-22

Key Rule Changes to 31 TAC Chapter 357 (cont.)

- Requirement for RWPGs to prioritize recommended WMSPs and submit the prioritization with an adopted RWP is removed. (§357.46 [removed])
- Clarification provided that specific allowances for certain limited costs associated with delivery of water within a water user group service area after treatment are permissible for direct reuse and conservation WMSs. (§357.34(e)(3)(A))
- Several clarifications made to align the rules more closely with statute and remove nonstatutorily required reporting.

Region M TWDB Update 7-6-22

Key Rule Changes to 31 TAC Chapter 357 (cont.)

- Drought response information revised to align with statute, RWPGs required to identify drought response triggers and actions. (§357.42(c))
- An allowance is made for minor amendments to include an increase in unmet needs or new unmet needs if the amendment is the result of removing infeasible WMSs or WMSPs. (§357.51(c)(2)(C))
- Clarification is provided that the EA will establish a deadline for RWPGs to submit amendments associated with infeasible WMSs that may be identified in the previously adopted RWP and that these amendments must include a summary of changes to unmet needs, if applicable. (§357.51(g))

Region M TWDB Update 7-6-22

Key Rule Changes to 31 TAC Chapter 357 (cont.)

- An allowance is made for minor amendments to include an increase in unmet needs or new unmet needs if the amendment is the result of removing infeasible WMSs or WMSPs. (§357.51(c)(2)(C))

Key Rule Changes to 31 TAC Chapter 358

- Clarification is provided that RWPGs may, at the discretion of the RWPG, plan for drought conditions worse than the drought of record. (§358.3(2))
- The term 'water management strategy projects' is added through the section to align the state water planning guidance principles terminology with regional water planning rules. (§358.3(8))