

**Minutes of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
February 14, 2024**

Chair Andruss called the hybrid meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., held both in person and through WebEx online platform.

24 of the 32 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Vanessa Puig-Williams
Curt Campbell	Humberto Ramos
Andra Wisian	Weldon Riggs
Debbie Farmer	Roland Ruiz
Steve Metzler for Steve Graham	Darrell Brownlow
Thomas Jungman	Mitchell Sowards
Scooter Mangold	Jonathan Stinson
Andrew McBride	Thomas Taggart
Daniel Meyer	Ryan Kelso
Gary Middleton	Dianne Wassenich
Travis Pruski	Adam Yablonski
Robert Puente	Dan Yoxall

Voting Members Absent:

Ryan Bayle
John Byrum
Charlie Flatten
Terrell Graham
Vic Hilderbran
Darren Simmons

Non-Voting Members Present:

Carly Rotzler, TX Department of Parks and Wildlife
Michele Foss, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Jami McCool, TX Dept. of Agriculture
Tom Hegemier, Region K Liaison

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Iliana Delgado, TCEQ
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison
Carl Crull, Region N Liaison
Rusty Ray, Texas Soil & Water Cons. Board

Beginning with the February 11, 2016, meeting of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group, all recordings are available for the public at www.regionltexas.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO.1: ROLL CALL

Ms. Caye Castillo took roll call.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2: PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES)

No public comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)

Mr. Riggs motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Middleton seconded, the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING FILLING EXISTING VACANCIES AND VACANCIES TO RESULT FROM FUTURE TERM EXPIRATIONS OR RESIGNATIONS

Chair Andruss provided background on the Executive Committee meeting that was held on January 9, 2024 regarding the nominations submitted for interest areas Industries and Water Districts. Chair Andruss stated that there were 2 nomination forms submitted for the Industries interest area and 1 nomination form submitted for the Water Districts interest area. The Executive Committee brought their recommendation to the RWPG to nominate Jason Ammerman to fill the Industries interest area and Aarin Teague to fill the Water Districts interest position. Chair Andruss provided the nominees in attendance to introduce themselves to the RWPG.

Mr. Brownlow motioned to approve the recommendation by the Executive Committee, second by Mr. Middleton, motion approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5: ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2024 SCTRWPG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Andruss provided an overview of by-laws regarding the Executive Committee election, background on the committee, as well as who is currently on the committee and will no longer be serving. Discussion ensued on if there was any current interest by planning group members to be elected for Chair, Vice-Chair, or At-Large positions. No planning members expressed interest.

Mr. Puente stated that due to their being multiple open positions on the Executive Committee, it would be beneficial to allow more time for planning members to think about potential interest in participating on the committee and not rush filling positions on short notice.

Mr. Puente motioned to postpone the Election of Officers for the 2024 SCTRWPG Executive Committee to the May 2, 2024 RWPG meeting, second by Mr. Taggart, motion approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6: STATUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY TWDB

Ms. Foss provided an update from TWDB including upcoming items of note such as deadlines for the Technical Memorandum, surveys regarding Proposition 6/Texas Water Fund, the recent RWPG Chairs Call, and details on the Interregional Planning Council meeting held on February 8, 2024.

Ms. Foss also provided the planning group with upcoming materials TWDB will be sharing for RWPGs:

- County-Specific Water Supply Planning Info & Resource Documents
 - o Includes Rural Entities and At-Risk Suppliers (<7,500, SS, 180 Day)
- Conservation Resources
- Drought/Drought Preparedness Resources
 - o List of Entities Required to Submit Drought Contingency Plans to TCEQ
 - o Drought Preparedness Council Recommendations to RWPGs
 - o Updated Drought Management Costing Information
- Updated Uniform Costing Model

AGENDA ITEM NO.7: STATUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING INCLUDING REPORTS BY THE CHAIR, REGIONAL LIAISONS, GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING GROUP

No reports or communication were provided.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8: PRESENTATION BY TECHNICAL CONSULTANT REGARDING SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS UPDATES

Ms. Gonzalez provided a conceptual schedule for Region L plan development. Her presentation is available online at www.regionltexas.org.

Ms. Gonzalez included an update on new/ongoing efforts that include continuing Water Supplies and Water Management Strategies Outreach (Task 3), Interregional Coordination Efforts (Task 10), the commencement of drafting Chapter 8 Recommendations Regarding Unique Stream Segments and/or Reservoir Sites and Legislative & Regional Policy Issues (Task 8), and beginning Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Outreach and Evaluations (Task 7).

Discussion ensued regarding DCP requirements and how the RWPG captures water needs.

AGENDA ITEM NO.9: PRESENTATION BY TECHNICAL CONSULTANT REGARDING THE 2026 REGIONAL WATER PLANNING TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Ms. Gonzalez provided details on the objective for Task 4C: Technical Memorandum Deliverable and stated that the data within the Technical Memorandum remains in draft form until the submittal of Adopted Regional Water Plans by the Regional Water Planning Groups in October 2025.

a. Public Comment Regarding the 2026 Regional Water Planning Technical Memorandum

David Caldwell, General Manager of the Medina County Groundwater Conservation District, provided a comment that the water levels shown for the Leona Gravel Aquifer on the presentation are higher. He included that he would communicate with the technical consultant on this.

AGENDA ITEM NO.10: CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL REGARDING THE 2026 REGIONAL WATER PLANNING TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Discussion ensued on timelines for opportunity to address any changes that may be needed to the technical memorandum and on MAG values.

- a. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Approval and Authorization to Submit the Technical Memorandum to TWDB**
- b. Discussion and Appropriate Action for the Technical Consultant to Address 2027 State Water Planning Database (DB27) Updates and Non-substantive Revisions to the Technical Memorandum**
- c. Discussion and Appropriate Action for the Technical Consultant to Address Any Requests from TWDB Associated with Processing the Technical Memorandum**

Ms. Wassenich motioned to approve and authorize to submit the Technical Memorandum to TWDB; approve and authorize for the Technical Consultant to Address 2027 State Water Planning database (DB27) updates and non-substantive revisions to the Technical Memorandum; and approve and authorize the Technical Consultant to address any requests from the TWDB associated with processing the technical memorandum. Second by Mr. Middleton, motion approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11: Consideration and Approval Regarding Task 5B Scopes of Work

- a. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Approval and Authorization to Submit the Notice-to-Proceed Scope of Work Request to the TWDB**

Mr. Ramos motioned to approve and authorize the Technical Consultant to submit the Notice-to-Proceed Scope of Work request to TWDB, second by Mr. Middleton, motioned approved by consensus.

b. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Authorize the Technical Consultant and/or the San Antonio River Authority to Work with the TWDB on Any Follow-Up Information that May be Required

Mr. Ramos motioned to approve and authorize the Technical Consultant and/or the San Antonio River Authority to Work with the TWDB on Any Follow-Up Information that May Be Required, second by Mr. Middleton, motioned approved by consensus.

c. Discussion and Appropriate Action to Authorize the San Antonio River Authority to Negotiate and Execute Subsequent TWDB Contract Amendment that will be Issued

Mr. Ramos motioned to approve and authorize the San Antonio River Authority to Negotiate and Execute Subsequent TWDB Contract Amendment that will be Issued, second by Mr. Middleton, motioned approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.12: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding the Establishment of Additional Subcommittees

Ms. Gonzalez provided background on the role the Policy and Legislative Recommendations Workgroup plays in the RWP process and recommended to the RWPG that it be formed. RWPG members approved this workgroup. Members self-nominated to serve. Members include Ms. Wassenich, Mr. Puente, Mr. Stinson, Mr. Metzler, Mr. Yoxall, and Mr. Andruss.

RWPG members additionally approved the creation of a Groundwater Availabilities Work Group. Members include Ms. Puig-Williams, Mr. McBride, Mr. Andruss, Ms. Teague, and Mr. Ramos.

AGENDA ITEM NO.13: Presentation Regarding Request for Amendment to 2021 RWP

Mr. Stinson provided a presentation regarding the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's request for amendment to the 2021 Region Water Plan and explanation on a minor amendment determination. His presentation is available online at www.region1texas.org.

Discussion ensued regarding the minor amendment determination process and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR).

a. Review, Discuss, and Consider Action Regarding Approval to Submit a Minor Amendment Determination Request to TWDB for Modifications to GBRA's Proposed Lower Basin Storage and/or Mid-Basin (Phase 2) WMS Projects as Described in the 2021 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan and 2022 State Water Plan

Mr. Ramos motioned to approve to Submit a Minor Amendment Determination Request to TWDB for Modifications to GBRA's Proposed Lower Basin Storage and/or Mid-Basin (Phase 2) WMS Projects as Described in the 2021 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan and 2022 State Water Plan, second by Mr. Middleton, motion passed by consensus.

b. Discussion and Appropriate Action to pursue an Amendment to the 2021 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan for Modifications to GBRA's Proposed Lower Basin Storage and/or Mid-Basin (Phase 2) WMS Projects

Mr. Ramos motioned to approve pursuing the 2021 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan for Modifications to GBRA's Proposed Lower Basin Storage and/or Mid-Basin (Phase 2) WMS Projects, Mr. McBride seconded, motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.14: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Consistency Waiver for TWDB Project 21825 - Crystal Clear SUD 2024 Capital Improvements Project

Ms. Parker provided an overview of the project background, needs for the project, water source and available supply. Her presentation is available online at www.regionltexas.org.

Discussion ensued on difference between and consistency waiver and a minor amendment and the means of the project.

Mr. Brownlow motioned to authorize the San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) to submit a letter to the TWDB expressing support for the consistency waiver request for TWDB Project 21825 – Crystal Clear SUD 2024 Capital Improvement Project Improvement Project, Ms. Wassenich seconded, motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.15: SCHEDULE AND POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SCTRWPG

The next SCTRWPG meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

AGENDA ITEM NO.16: PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES)

No public comment.

AGENDA ITEM NO.17: ADJOURN

Mr. Middleton motioned to adjourn. Mr. Stinson seconded the motion, motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:44pm.

