

From: [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)
To: [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)
Cc: [WSI-WSP-RWP](#); [Temple McKinnon](#); [Matt Nelson](#); [Jessica Pena](#)
Subject: Regional Water Planning Newsletter - April 2021
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:19:35 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Regional Water Planning Newsletter – April 2021

Good morning RWPG Members and Political Subdivision staff,

We hope everyone is doing well. Below is the April newsletter from TWDB's Regional Water Planning Program including an update on current and upcoming activities.

2022 State Water Plan

On April 8th, the TWDB Board approved publication of the Draft 2022 State Water Plan. Public comment on the draft plan is being accepted through May 26, 2021, and a public hearing on the draft plan will be held on May 24, 2021. More information on the comment period and hearing, as well as a link to the draft plan may be found online at:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/swp/2022/index.asp>

Rulemaking

Current rulemaking

The adoption of amendments 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 355 (Regional Water Planning Grants) and 357.21 (Regional Water Planning Public Notice and Participation) is *anticipated* to occur at the May 6, 2021 Board meeting. The Board meeting agenda and memorandum will be posted prior to the meeting on the following webpage:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/board/2021/05/index.asp>. An update on the rulemaking will be provided following any Board action.

Upcoming rulemaking – guidance principles review

Development of the regional and state water plans are guided by [28 guidance principles](#) as specified in rule. Every five years, the TWDB is required by statute to review and update (if necessary) these guidance principles. If revisions are identified, the changes are addressed through a formal rulemaking process. The TWDB will initiate the guidance principle review process with solicitation of preliminary input on the guidance principles as well as other potential revision to regional water planning rules. The preliminary input request will be sent to all RWPG members via email soon.

Request for applications/initial contracts

The TWDB received funding applications for the 2026 Regional Water Plans from each of the 16 RWPG administrators. Thank you to all the administrators for submitting your funding application by the April 12, 2021 deadline. We *anticipate* requesting Board authorization to enter into contracts at

a June Board meeting, and these initial contracts must be executed by August 31, 2021. The TWDB will provide each administrator a draft version of the contract prior to finalizing. The specific Board meeting date and links to Board meeting materials will be provided once available.

Pre-planning/coordination meeting

Since the inception of regional water planning, RWPGs must hold a pre-planning meeting to receive input from the public on items that should be addressed or included in the plan during this planning cycle prior to proceeding with any technical work. A new pre-planning meeting requirement for this planning cycle is that RWPGs must identify water management strategies that provide opportunities for coordination and collaboration with other regions, or that could lead to potential conflicts with other regions.

Since these meetings will involve technical work, RWPGs are advised to wait to hold their pre-planning/coordination meeting until at least following Board approval of contracts this summer. To assist with these meetings, the TWDB will provide regional water management strategy information to all RWPGs this summer. Please ensure you work with your TWDB Planner on agenda development for this meeting.

As a reminder, this meeting is also subject to a large 30-day public notice in accordance with notice and public participation rules. The [Public Notification Quick Reference](#) and the [Public Notification Tool](#) are available for more information on notice requirements (please note these may be updated following adoption of revisions to §357.21).

Aquifer storage and recovery survey

The TWDB's Innovative Water Technologies Division recently completed the Statewide Survey of Aquifer Suitability for Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) or Aquifer Recharge (AR) Projects. This was a contracted study with HDR, Inc that identified the relative suitability of Texas' major and minor aquifer for ASR and AR projects. The results of this study will be a resource available to RWPGs during the development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans. TWDB's Innovative Water Technologies staff will be available to provide a short presentation on the survey at upcoming RWPG meetings. The [final report](#), [story map](#), and [interactive web map](#) are available online at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/innovativewater/asr/projects/Statewide/index.asp>

Reservoir reliability study

TWDB's Surface Water Division has contracted with Aqua Strategies to conduct a study to quantify uncertainty in reservoir yields. The project will evaluate the impact of significant drought events on reservoir yield to try to determine how existing firm yields will hold up under drought events more extensive or severe than the current drought of record used in water planning. Select regional water planning stakeholders have been invited to participate in this study as members of the project review team due to their association with the subject matter (e.g. river authorities, etc). A draft final report is due by July 31, 2021, and the final report is due by August 31, 2021.

Reminders and previous updates

- The TWDB receives RWPG member emails from the region's administrator. Administrators should provide any updated email addresses to your TWDB Planner to ensure our membership database

is up to date. For regions that have members without email addresses, please forward these communications to those members by mail or another effective means.

- Please visit the TWDB's Sixth Cycle of Regional Water Planning Documents webpage to view communications from TWDB during this planning cycle, project documents including a [working schedule](#), contract documents, and administrative documents. These documents may be found at: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2026/documents.asp>
 - Information on the Mining Demand Projections study may be found on the TWDB website at: <https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/data/projections/MiningStudy/index.asp>
 - The Interregional Planning Council report is available on the TWDB website at: http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/ipc/docs/09302020mtg/IPC_FinalReport-Apps_091620.pdf
-

Contact TWDB

Please contact your region's TWDB Planner for any additional information. TWDB's Planner assignments are as follows:

- Regions A, J, M: William Alfaro, William.Alfaro@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions B, C, N: Kevin Smith, Kevin.Smith@twdb.texas.gov
- Region D: Ron Ellis, Ron.Ellis@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions E, F, L: Elizabeth McCoy, Elizabeth.McCoy@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions G, O, P: Jean Devlin, Jean.Devlin@twdb.texas.gov
- Regions H, I, K: Lann Bookout, Lann.Bookout@twdb.texas.gov

For more information regarding the TWDB Regional Water Planning Program, please visit [our website](#).

Note: This email was sent to all RWPG members and administrators. A copy of this newsletter will be posted on the regional water planning newsletter [webpage](#).

Best,

Sarah Backhouse
Manager, Regional Water Planning
Water Use, Projections, and Planning
Texas Water Development Board
P.O. Box 13231, Austin, TX 78711
512-936-2387 | sarah.backhouse@twdb.texas.gov
www.twdb.texas.gov

