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**To:** [RegionalWaterPlanning](#)  
**Cc:** [WSI-WSP-RWP](#); [Temple McKinnon](#); [Matt Nelson](#); [Jessica Pena](#)  
**Subject:** TWDB guidance on interregional coordination at RWPG pre-planning meeting  
**Date:** Monday, May 17, 2021 1:44:41 PM

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Good afternoon,

During its meetings and subsequent [report](#) to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the Interregional Planning Council (Council) considered ways in which regional water planning groups (RWPG) could identify and coordinate on water management strategies that would develop or use water from another region and that could impact the source region. The Council's report recommended that the TWDB modify planning guidance so that RWPGs identify and begin to coordinate on such water management strategies early in the planning cycle and document the process in the technical memorandum, initially prepared plan, and final regional water plan. This recommendation may help facilitate interregional coordination opportunities.

The TWDB acknowledges that no additional funding from the Legislature has been provided specifically for this effort. The guidance below is intended to provide a path for RWPGs to better document interregional coordination efforts within existing resources. Some RWPGs may already have been implementing these efforts in past planning cycles.

### **Pre-planning/coordination meeting guidance**

At a minimum, during the pre-planning meeting ([§357.12\(a\)\(1\)](#)), RWPGs **must** include a deliberate discussion on how the planning group will conduct interregional coordination and collaboration regarding water management strategies during development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans.

**Optional** RWPG efforts to facilitate interregional coordination at the pre-planning meeting, as identified by the Council, may include:

1. Identifying water management strategies that would develop or use a water resource in another region or may otherwise impact the region of origin.
  - a. The TWDB will provide the RWPGs with a list of recommended and alternative water management strategies from the 2021 regional water plans that provide supply to multiple regions to use for this task.
  - b. RWPGs may also discuss strategies considered in the previous cycle and draw on local knowledge of potential future strategies for this task.
  - c. If no water management strategies are identified that would develop or use a water resource in another region or may otherwise impact another region, this may be acknowledged and documented.
  - d. RWPG liaisons and project sponsors from relevant neighboring regions should be individually invited to the pre-planning meeting as recommended by the Council.
  - e. Since this task may involve technical work, it should be undertaken at the pre-planning meeting after the agenda item where the RWPG receives public input.
  - f. This work effort may be used to inform the process for identifying potential feasible water management strategies to occur later in the cycle.
2. From the strategies in item 1, the RWPG may determine which identified strategies may create opportunities for interregional coordination.
3. The RWPG may begin discussing a course of action for coordinating with the other RWPG(s). Actions may include but are not limited to
  - a. forming a committee to meet with neighboring RWPG(s) or their representatives,

- b. authorizing RWPG administrators or planning group consultants to meet with neighboring regions or their representatives,
- c. utilizing RWPG liaisons and project sponsors to gather water management strategy information, meet with other liaisons from potentially affected regions, and report back to their planning group.

*Example Agenda Items*

Using the following **example** agenda items (in the order presented below) may help the RWPG structure a productive pre-planning meeting to address this matter. Example agenda items I and II could be used to meet the minimum pre-planning meeting requirements.

- I. Receive public input and comments on issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the 2026 Regional Water Plan and 2027 State Water Plan.
- II. Discuss the potential process for conducting interregional coordination regarding water management strategies during development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans.
- III. Consider the identification of water management strategies which may create opportunities for collaboration and cooperation with other planning regions.
- IV. Consider a course of action for interregional coordination with other RWPGs.

**Plan documentation and TWDB support**

Additional information will be provided on plan documentation during future scoping efforts. The technical memorandum, initially prepared plan, and final regional water plan will be required to include for example

- a. strategies and projects that were considered and identified for interregional coordination,
- b. interregional coordination activities including the regions process and progress of work to address coordination,
- c. public comments received related to this process, and
- d. conclusions reached and other relevant activities.

The TWDB intends to provide an initial list of water management strategies (from the prior plans) that provide supply to more than one region to all planning groups following the TWDB Board authorization of the 2026 regional water plan contracts in June. Please let us know if there are specific tools or additional information that the TWDB can provide to assist in this process.

*Note: This email has been sent to all RWPG members, administrators, and 5th/6th cycle consultants with emails on file with TWDB's regional water planning program.*

Best,

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