



10

Public Participation and Plan Adoption

*[31 TAC § 357.12;
31 TAC § 357.21;
31 TAC § 357.50;
31 TAC § 358.3]*

(This page intentionally left blank.)



Chapter 10: Public Participation and Plan Adoption

10.1 Public Involvement Program

The public involvement program was incorporated at the onset of the Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group (CBRWPG) water planning process in order to maximize the opportunity for public review and input into the process of developing the water plan as well as providing comments on the Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan.

The public involvement program included:

- An opportunity at all RWPG meetings for the public to comment on any aspect of the plan or planning process;
- Press releases and notices of public meetings; and
- Dedicated website for CBRWPG information.
- Public Hearing for Initially Prepared Plan:
<To Be Confirmed>. Will be published on Nueces River Authority website in accordance with statutory posting notice requirements: <https://www.coastalbend-rwpg.org/>

The CBRWPG conducted all business in meetings that were posted according to Texas Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act provisions. The plan was developed in accordance with Texas Administrative Code public participation requirements specified in 31 TAC §357.12, §357.21, and §357.50(f).

10.2 Coordination with Wholesale and Major Water Providers

Information was provided by wholesale water providers located in the Coastal Bend Planning Region throughout development of the plan. Wholesale water providers were contacted to confirm water supplies and future water supply plans prior to identifying feasible water management strategies. Furthermore, wholesale water providers were provided water supply plan information from the technical consultant for review and comment prior to providing to the CBRWPG for consideration.

Emails were sent to WUGs and WWP's in November 2023, January 2024, and February 2024 with follow-up phone calls to gather information on potentially feasible water management strategies to evaluate for the 2026 Region N Plan. In the Fall 2024, HDR received requests from the City of Corpus Christi, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, and City of Mathis on new water management strategies that they would like considered in the Region N Plan. In response to this, the CBRWPG agreed on an approach at the December 12, 2024 meeting that placeholders for new water management strategies in the early stages of development would be included in the Initially Prepared Plan if full evaluations could not be completed in time. In January and



February 2025, additional request of four new water management strategies were received which included one new water management strategy for the City of Corpus Christi, one new strategy by the City of Beeville, and two new water management strategies for the South Texas Water Authority.

Representatives from water supply entities within the CBRWPG were also regularly notified of all CBRWPG meetings and public informational meetings.

10.3 Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Group Meetings

The CBRWPG regularly met in accordance with the approved bylaws. The CBRWPG met on a more frequent basis as needed in order to facilitate and direct the water planning of the region. The following is a summary of the meetings associated with development of the 2026 Plan:

Coastal Bend RWPG Meetings	
February 4, 2021	February 22, 2024
July 1, 2021	May 16, 2024
October 7, 2021	October 17, 2024
August 4, 2022	December 12, 2024
March 3, 2022	January 30, 2025
January 26, 2023	February 27, 2025
May 18, 2023	May 15, 2025*
October 12, 2023	September 11, 2025*
January 26, 2024	

*Future meetings.

The CBRWPG requested that the TWDB execute the initial contract to develop the 2026 Coastal Bend Regional (Region N) Water Plan on February 4, 2021. Consistent with by-laws, the CBRWPG elected not to re-procure for the 2026 planning cycle and selected HDR Engineering as the technical consultant for development of the 2026 Region N Plan.

The CBRWPG executive committee was appointed on March 3, 2022 consisting of Scott Bledsoe (co-chair), Dr. Pancho Hubert (co-chair), Lonnie Stewart (secretary), Tom Reding (member- at large), Joe Almaraz (member- at large).

The CBRWPG held a pre-planning public meeting on October 7, 2021 to obtain public input on development of the 2026 Region N Plan.

The CBRWPG adopted the process to identify potentially feasible water management strategies on October 12, 2023.

On January 26, 2023, the CBRWPG discussed identifying infeasible water management strategies recommended in the 2021 Region N Plan. The CBRWPG on October 12, 2023 requested to keep all strategies included in the 2021 Region N Plan as responses were not received from WUG or sponsor that projects were infeasible.



The CBRWPG accepted public and wholesale water provider input on potentially feasible water management strategies at the CBRWPG meeting on January 25, 2024 and at a water utility workshop on January 26, 2024. The CBRWPG approved water management strategies for evaluation in the 2026 Region N Plan on May 16, 2024.

The CBRWPG chose no MAG peak factors for groundwater availability on January 26, 2024.

The CBRWPG also designated several subcommittees in order to expedite more specific work efforts and further increase the effectiveness and timeliness of the planning process. The following summarizes these committee and subcommittee meetings.

Review Population, Municipal and Mining Water Demand Projections

- Subcommittee Members: Gene Camargo, Carl Crull, Esteban Ramos, and Mark Scott
- Designated by the CBRWPG: March 3, 2022
- Subcommittee meeting: June 1, 2022 (for draft list of municipal WUGs, historical use, and per capita); April 10, 2023 (population and municipal water demand projections)

Review Non-municipal Water Demand Projections (Manufacturing, Steam-Electric, Irrigation, Livestock)

- Subcommittee Members: Teresa Carrillo, Andy Garza, Esteban Ramos, Charles Ring, Mark Sugarek, and Lonnie Stewart
- Designated by the CBRWPG: March 3, 2022
- Subcommittee meeting: September 8, 2022

Develop and Review List of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies and Prioritize for Evaluation

- Subcommittee Members: Joe Almaraz, Carl Crull, Andy Garza, Esteban Ramos, John Marez, and Lonnie Stewart
- Designated by the CBRWPG: October 12, 2023
- Subcommittee meeting: April 9, 2024

Subcommittee to Discuss Drought Response Recommendations and Identify Emergency Interconnections

- Subcommittee Members: Scott Bledsoe, Teresa Carrillo, James Dodson, William Griffin, and Esteban Ramos
- Designated by the CBRWPG: October 17, 2024
- Subcommittee meeting: November 6, 2024 and December 2, 2024

Subcommittee on Unique Stream Segments/Reservoir Sites and Legislative and Policy Recommendations

- Subcommittee Members: Carl Crull, Dr. Pancho Hubert, Esteban Ramos, and Lonnie Stewart.
- Designated by the CBRWPG: October 17, 2024
- Subcommittee meetings: November 14, 2024



The CBRWPG approved the Initially Prepared Plan on **February 27, 2025** for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board.

10.4 Regional Water Planning Group Chairs Conference Calls and Meetings

The Texas Water Development Board held conference call meetings with Regional Water Planning Group chairs to provide guidance and respond to issues regarding the planning process on February 22, 2021, June 30, 2021, January 26, 2022, December 8, 2022, June 27, 2023, September 28, 2023, January 16, 2024, May 10, 2024, and December 9, 2024.

10.5 Interregional Coordination

On October 7, 2021, the CBRWPG discussed the process for conducting interregional coordination for water management strategies during development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan. At that time, Carl Crull was appointed as interregional planning council representative, with Teresa Carrillo as an alternate. Carl Crull participated in interregional planning council meetings on November 30, 2023 and February 8, 2024 as well as numerous calls during development of the 2026 Region N Plan.

Several coordination calls between the CBRWPG technical consultant and the South Central Texas RWPG (Region L) consultant occurred during development of the initially prepared plan.

There are no known interregional coordination conflicts for any recommended or alternative water management strategies in the 2026 Coastal Bend Plan.

10.6 Coordination with Other Entities

Frequent coordination calls occurred between the technical consultant and wholesale water providers and individual water user groups to confirm water supplies and future water supply plans.

Region N surveys were developed for (1) municipal water users and (2) industrial water users. The municipal water survey was sent in response to TWDB guidance to gather information on current supplies, drought response, and emergency connections for rural water users groups. It was sent on November 19, 2024 to over 30 municipal WUGs in Region N with reminders sent on December 3, 2024. The industrial water survey was developed in response to industrial water conservation discussions to gather information on best practices. The survey was sent on November 22, 2024 with reminders sent on December 4th and 9th, 2024.