

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
November 1, 2007**

Chairman Mims called the November 1, 2007 meeting of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (SCTRWPG) to order at 10:04 a.m. in the San Antonio River Authority's Boardroom, 100 E. Guenther Street, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

Administrator Bob Perez called roll. There were 17 voting members present, 3 voting members absent, 2 designated alternates present and 5 non-voting members present.

Present:

Ammerman, Jason	Mahoney, Mike
Balin, Donna	Middleton, Gary
Bonavita, Evelyn	Miller, Doug
Brownlow, Darrell	Millikin, Jay
Fields, Mike	Mims, Con
Garriott, Carol	Naumann, Ron
Harris, Michael	Stolte, Milton
Jones, Bill	West, Bill
Langford, David	

Absent:

Chardavoyne, David
Kight, John
Peña, Iliana

Designated Alternate:

Okorie, Janelle
Voulgaris, Micah

Non-Voting Members:

Boyd, Norman
Fieseler, Ron
Guzman, Pat
Nelson, Matt
Weidenfeller, Ken

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Public Comment

Arthur Troell from Atascosa County expressed his concerns with the San Antonio Water Systems' (SAWS) attempt to export the groundwater resources of its rural neighbors in Atascosa, Wilson and Gonzales Counties. Mr. Troell stated that SAWS is clearly strong-arming its way going after mildly brackish water in the lower Wilcox despite the resolution of opposition by all cities of Atascosa County and in the face of a unanimous resolution of opposition by the Atascosa County Commissioner's Court. Mr. Troell stated that, under public pressure, the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District agreed in September 2007 to serve SAWS notice of its intention to back out of an agreement between the District and SAWS relating to development of brackish groundwater in Atascosa County. Despite this, SAWS is still trying to force its way into the groundwater resources of Atascosa County. Mr. Troell implored Region L to serve all members of the region; help San Antonio if you must, but not at the expense of its rural neighbors who want a bright future for their children. Mr. Troell stated that changes must be made to existing state laws that will protect the water rights of rural counties.

Rebecca Treviño, from Pleasanton, Texas in Atascosa County, stated that her concerns were similar to Mr. Troell. Ms. Treviño stated that the citizens of Atascosa County have made their concerns known through letters, speaking at meetings, and a petition that has over 1400 signatures. Ms. Treviño stated that the citizens are not alone; Atascosa public entities have

also made their will known. Ms. Treviño presented copies of nine resolutions and three letters supporting the citizens' will. They were from the Atascosa County Commissioners' Court, six cities in Atascosa County (Pleasanton, Jourdanton, Poteet, Christine, Charlotte and Lytle),, the McCoy Water Supply Corporation, the Jourdanton Economic Development Corporation, Benton City Water Supply Corporation, State Representative Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles and State Senator Judith Zaffirini. Ms. Treviño respectfully asked that these documents be made a part of the official record of this meeting. *Copies of material were sent to the Administrator for the file.*

Hector Moreno stated concerns similar to the two previous citizens who addressed the Planning Group.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes

Chairman Mims asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2007 meeting.

Mike Mahoney moved to approve the minutes with a correction to Agenda Item No. 4. Ron Naumann seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Chair's Report

Chairman Mims stated that, back in August, we sent a letter to Chairman Robert Puente asking him and Senator Averitt to give us a letter explaining the legislative intent of House Bill 3776 and that we had not received a response to our inquiry,

Doug Miller stated that he had spoken to Chairman Puente this morning and one of his hesitations in giving us something in writing was that he does not want to unduly influence our process.

Bill West stated that Chairman Puente called him regarding the legislative intent of the bill. Mr. West stated that Chairman Puente requested the parties get together and work out the issues rather than the legislators influence the process. Mr. West stated Chairman Puente wanted us to deal with the time issue relative to the Region L plan. The amendment was something that was a product attached to the original bill that reflected the two parties' efforts and if there are issues relative to the intent of that amendment, that the two parties should get together and resolve those issues.

Chairman Mims stated that it appears that if we proceed with planning of the Lower Guadalupe Project in accordance with an agreement between GBRA and the Lower Basin interests; whatever you all work out, we can have some comfort in believing that the Chairman would accept that, and we are progressing in the right direction.

Chairman Mims stated that David Langford had developed a scope of work and secured funding from the Texas Wildlife Association Foundation for a study to be directed by the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources to identify the most cost affective land based water conservation practices that could be implemented in Region L, and that would enhance ground surface supplies.

David Langford discussed a handout he circulated regarding the A&M Study. The two major deliverables are review of the science that exists and a written report containing a prioritized set recommendations for the most cost effective land based water conservation practices that could be implemented.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board Communication

Matt Nelson spoke on proposed amendments to new agency rules that included an expedited regional plan (minor) amendment process, a change in the due date of the adopted regional

plans to September 1, 2010, and a process for substituting previously evaluated "alternate" WMSs for recommended WMSs. Mr. Nelson also gave the status of Groundwater Management Areas pertinent to Region L; these included GMA 7, 9, 10, 13, 15 and 16. Mr. Nelson also discussed the projected regional water planning timeline.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Replacement of Planning Group Members

Bob Perez stated there were three Planning Group member resignations, Jim Gray, Greg Rothe and Robert Potts. Chairman Mims requested a motion to post Public Notice for the replacement of SCTRWPG members. Michael Harris made the motion to replace the members and Mike Mahoney seconded it. The motion was approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Review/Approve 2008 Administrator's Budget

Bob Perez submitted for approval the proposed Administrator's Budget for 2008. Gary Middleton moved to approve the Budget as presented and Mike Fields seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Review/Approve 2008 Proposed Meeting Dates

Bob Perez submitted the proposed schedule of SCTRWPG Meetings for 2008. Ron Naumann moved to approve the meeting schedule and Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Status of Consultants' Contracts

Bob Perez reported that the Technical and the Facilitation and Public Participation consultant contracts were executed on August 20, 2007 and final changes are being made to the Texas A&M Environmental studies portion. Mr. Perez stated that the final changes are being sent to the TWDB for their approval.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion and Action Regarding Consultants' Work and Schedule

Laura Raun, Public Participation Consultant, presented the SCTRWPG logo for approval. Bill West made a motion to approve the logo as presented and Mike Mahoney seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

Ms. Raun asked if the planning group wanted all public comments posted on its website, Chairman Mims responded that a recommendation would be made at the February 2008 meeting.

Ms. Raun also discussed the website navigational tools, home page, photos, and other other new elements of the website.

Susan Hughes, Facilitation Consultant, presented results of her survey of the planning group members for their review.

Ms. Hughes also presented a "Summary of Comments Regarding Environmental Issues" from Volume 1, Section 10 of the SCTRWPG 2006 Water Plan.

Sam Vaughn, Technical Consultant, presented the 2011 SCTRWPG Plan Schedule for the Planning Group's approval. Bill West moved to approve the schedule as presented and Mike Mahoney seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

Chairman Mims appointed a subcommittee to help recommend how Region L can improve its environmental analysis of water management strategies, as part of Study 5 in the current planning activity, consisting of:

Balin, Donna - Environmental
Bonavita, Evelyn – League of Women Voters
Boyd, Norman – Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife
Broad, Tyson – Sierra Club
Engleking, Garrett – Gulf Coast
Fieseler, Ron – LCRWPG Trinity Aquifer
Gordon, Wendy or Alexander, Cathy - TCEQ
Johns, Norman or Hess, Myron – National Wildlife Federation
Langford, David – Texas Wildlife Association
Loeffler, Cindy – Parks & Wildlife
Middleton, Gary – City of Victoria
Mims, Con – Nueces River Authority
Peña, Iliana - Environmental
Scott, Suzanne - SARA
West, Bill – GBRA

Chairman Mims asked Susan Hughes to compose a letter requesting Parks & Wildlife, TWDB and TCEQ provide a name of a representative to sit on this subcommittee if they have an interest.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Briefing on Exelon Nuclear Victoria Site – Bill West

Bill West briefed the planning group on a nuclear power plant site near Victoria being considered by Exelon. He noted that power companies from the East and West coasts are looking for plant sites along the Gulf of Mexico, and this is an example of one of many that are currently being evaluated by several entities. He stated that a nuclear power project in the Victoria area would be a tremendous economic generator. Just as the San Antonio area put together a Team Toyota, Victoria put together a Team Exelon. The City of Victoria, the Mayor, city council, judges, VEDC and GBRA are collectively pursuing the facility. It represents a tremendous number of construction jobs, ongoing jobs, and revenue for that part of the region. The Governor's office is very much tied into the issue and keenly aware of the potential benefits to the region. Exelon is looking at two sites, with the second site being in Matagorda County. Mr. West stated the Victoria site consists of about 11,000 acres. Water for the project would be taken from GBRA's canal system and about 75,000 acre-feet annually would be needed.

Bill Scott, Director of Public Affairs for Exelon, stated that while they have identified two potential sites in Texas, they have not yet committed to building anything.

Bill Jones stated that the regional plan needs to be able to adapt to new, large water demands that occur as the result of sudden economic development – like the Exelon Nuclear Power Plant. The Exelon plant's massive demands on the Guadalupe River could cause a surface water shortage in the Lower Basin, which could affect supplies throughout the region.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Presentation on Texas Population Growth and the Impact on Resource Availability – by Donna Balin

Dr. Balin's presentation is available through the Administrator.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Possible Agenda Items for the next South Central Texas RWPG Meeting

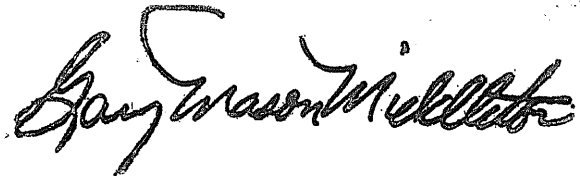
The following agenda items were suggested for the February 7, 2008 meeting:

- o Election of Officers
- o Replacement of Planning Group Members
- o Scope of Work Development for the Second Biennium Funding
- o Status of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program
- o Recommendation on Responding to Public Comments
- o USGS Presentation Evergreen/SARA Study
- o Environmental Sub-Committee Status
- o Topic on land management

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Public Comment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 2:37 p.m.

Recommended for approval.



GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at meeting held on February 7, 2008.



CON MIMS, CHAIR