

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
February 7, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. in the San Antonio River Authority's Boardroom, 100 E. Guenther Street, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

There were 18 voting members present, 2 voting members absent, 3 designated alternates present and 5 non-voting members present.

Present:

Ammerman, Jason	Mahoney, Mike
Balin, Donna	Middleton, Gary
Bonavita, Evelyn	Miller, Doug
Chardavoyne, David	Millikin, Jay
*Danielson, Velma	Mims, Con
Fields, Mike	Naumann, Ron
Garriott, Carol	Peña, Iliana
Harris, Michael	Raabe, Steve
Jones, Bill	Stolte, Milton
Kight, John	*Taggart, Thomas
Langford, David	

Absent:

Brownlow, Darrell
*Scott, Suzanne
Bill West

Designated Alternate:

Savage, Diane
Raabe, Steve
Tommy Hill

Non-Voting Members:

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

**** NEW PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS ADDED UNDER AGENDA ITEM #4***

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Public Comment

Alan Cockerell, Chairman of the Regional Water Alliance (RWA), gave a brief overview of RWA's 2007 activities.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Naumann moved to approve the November 1, 2007 minutes. Mr. Mahoney seconded the motion. Ron Fieseler requested a spelling correction be made to his name. The minutes were approved as corrected by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Chair's Report

Chairman Mims recognized and welcomed John Dupnik, representing the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District in Austin. Mr. Dupnik, along with General Manager, Kirk Collin, expressed an interest in becoming more involved in the Region L activities. Mr. Dupnik and Mr. Collin stated that they have experience in managing groundwater resources under extreme drought conditions.

Chairman Mims noted that, at the last meeting, Bill West and Bill Jones were asked to work together to reach an agreement on the interpretation of HB3676. Mr. Jones stated that he and Mr. West have discussed the issue but have been unable to agree on a full interpretation. He noted that he planned to continue the efforts.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Replacement of Planning Group Members

Chairman Mims reported the Executive Committee's recommendation of the following nominees to replace voting members who have resigned: Thomas Taggart (Municipalities), Suzanne Scott (River Authorities), and Velma Danielson (Water Districts). Mr. Miller moved to accept the Executive Committee's recommendations of nominees. Diane Savage seconded the motion. All nominees were accepted by consensus.

Dr. Balin requested that, in the future, a list of nominees being considered be forwarded to the Planning Group members in advance of the planning group meeting in which they are to be considered.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Election of Officers

Chairman Mims opened the nomination for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Mr. Kight moved to re-elect the current officers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fields. There was no discussion or objection and the motion was approved by consensus.

Mr. Stolte moved to nominate Evelyn Bonavita and Ron Naumann to the two Member-at-Large seats. Ms. Garriott seconded the motion. There was no discussion or objection and the motion was approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Communications

An update on Groundwater Management Areas (GMA) was given by Matt Nelson. There was a deadline set by TWDB of January 1, 2008 for GMA's to submit their desired future conditions. GMA #8 was the only one to meet that deadline.

Mr. Nelson also discussed the re-organization of TWDB.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Status of the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program

Chairman Mims introduced Dr. Robert Gully, Program Manager for the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP). Dr. Gully briefed the Planning Group on the status of current projects and future plans related to SB3 requirements of having a plan by 2012 that will address Edwards Aquifer withdrawal limits, critical period management, and protection of endangered species.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Discussion and Action Regarding Consultants' Work and Schedule

Laura Raun, Public Participation Consultant, discussed the status of the logo, stationary, the web home page, navigational tools and other new elements of Region L's website (RegionLTexas.org). Ms. Raun also discussed the posting of public comments and the process thereof. Ms. Raun will act as the primary person to manage the responses to the public.

Susan Hughes, Facilitation Consultant, discussed the Environmental Committee's work and other facilitation activities.

Brian Perkins, Technical Consultant with HDR, discussed the current schedule and status of the technical scope of work for the 2011 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan.

Sam Vaughn briefed the Planning Group on the process and status of the evaluation of all potentially feasible quality enhancement strategies. Mr. Vaughn provided presentation material and discussed in detail concepts for consideration of Drought Management as a Water Management Strategy (WMS); methodology for technical evaluation for Water User Groups (WUGs); and example applications of methodology.

Tyson Broad presented a memo to the planning group discussing the Sierra Club's concerns that the Drought Management Technical Evaluation greatly over-estimates the projected costs associated with adopting this strategy.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion of Desired Future Conditions of Groundwater

Mr. Mahoney discussed the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) for GMA 2, 13 and 15 and meeting their deadline. Two upcoming meetings should bring about more information enabling the submittal soon after.

Steve Raabe also informed the Planning Group of future meetings to be held on February 15th and 20th in which differences and similarities held by stakeholders will be discussed.

Sam Vaughn discussed the drafted timeline for: the planned delivery date for the final Managed Available Groundwater (MAG) estimates to the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (SCTRWPG); the submittal of DFCs to the TWDB; acknowledgement that estimates groundwater availability used in the 2006 SCTRWPG are acceptable to the GMA; and in the event that final MAG estimates are not submitted to the SCTRWPG on or before November 26, 2008.

Ron Fieseler discussed the issues applicable to GMA 9. Mr. Fieseler expects their DFC's to be completed this summer.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Development of Scope of Work and Budget for Second Biennium Funding for the 2011 Regional Water Plan

Mr. Nelson discussed the schedule for developing the scope and budget for the second biennium funding for the 2011 Regional Water Plans and distributed a document showing how TWDB funds will be allocated.

There was a discussion of the proposed Exelon Nuclear project in Victoria regarding the large amount of river water (75,000 acre-feet) needed annually for that project according to the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority.

Mr. Jones expressed concern about where the water would come from and presented a spreadsheet supporting his concerns.

Tommy Hill discussed data presented on a spreadsheet that explained GBRA's calculations identifying the availability of water for the project in the Guadalupe River Basin.

Chairman Mims proposed that the Planning Group consider designating one or more unique stream segments in the 2011 plan. Mr. Langford cautioned that such action(s) could have unintended consequences. Mr. Mims appointed Donna Balin, Iliana Pena, Evelyn Bonavita, Sam Vaughn and a Texas Parks & Wildlife representative to gather and discuss a proposal and formulate a recommendation to the Planning Group.

Laura Raun discussed Public Participation scope of work items related to the next planning phase which included the handling of public comments, placing information on the website to address public concerns, a possible e-mailed newsletter, and public hearing meetings.

Susan Hughes discussed possible Facilitation scope of work items related to the next planning phase which included new planning group member orientations, assistance with discussions of water management strategies, possible assistance with legislative issues, and assistance with unique stream segment discussions.

Steve Raabe suggested that the Staff Workgroup meet sometime in early April to come up with a draft scope of work to send out to the Planning Group for their review and comments prior to the meeting packets going out for the May 1st meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Land-Based Water Conservation & Water Yield Practices in Region L – Dr. Neil Wilkins, Texas A&M University

Mr. Langford introduced, presenters from Texas A&M, College Station, Dr. Brad Wilcox, Hydrologist, Dr. Richard Connor, Agriculture Economist, Dr. Bob Shaw and Todd Snelgrove, with the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, to discuss a

proposed study of the preliminary review that the Texas Wildlife Association Foundation has funded.

Dr. Wilcox, presented material and briefed the group on brush management and water yield, assessing the management of the landscape, and increasing the stream flow and/or groundwater recharge.

Dr. Connor discussed his view on land management and explained the many different methods on enhancing the land using natural resources and maintenance.

Todd Snelgrove discussed the possibility of doing a more detailed spatial study by integrating the use of geospatial (GIS/GPS) remote sensing and applying in the natural resource issues.

Mr. Raabe proposed to have the Texas Wildlife Association Foundation proceed, return in May and present the development of the criteria on how to apply the practices to specific types of land areas and developing the recommendations on the monitoring.

Mr. Mahoney moved to continue to support A&M's efforts in the continued research and study. Mr. Kight seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

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

Bob Perez discussed the following possible agenda items for the May 1, 2008 meeting:

- Replacement of the planning group members whose terms expire in August 2008
- Public input on the proposed scope of work and budget
- Selection of the topics of study for the 2nd biennium for the next 2011 planning cycle
- Authorize SARA to submit a grant application for financial assistance
- A&M's presentation of their final study

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 3:09 p.m.

Recommended for approval.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Middleton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at meeting held on May 1, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Con Mims". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

CON MIMS, CHAIR