

**Minutes of the  
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
August 6, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. in the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Customer Service Building, Room CR 145, 2800 US Highway 281 North, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

Twenty-three of the 24 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

**Voting Members Present:**

Jason Ammerman	Jay Millikin
Donna Balin	Con Mims
Evelyn Bonavita	Ron Naumann
Darrell Brownlow	Tyson Broad for Iliana Peña
Velma Danielson	Robert Puente
Art Dohmann for Garrett Engelking	Suzanne Scott
Kevin Janak for Mike Fields	Steve Ramsey
Bill Jones	Milton Stolte
John Kight	Tom Taggart
David Langford	Bill West
Mike Mahoney	Tony Wood
Gary Middleton	

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Norman Boyd, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Water Resources Branch  
Matt Nelson, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)  
Ken Weidenfeller, Texas Department of Agriculture  
Pat Guzman, Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Public Comment**

Alan Cockerell, Regional Water Alliance (RWA), invited everyone to the August 19, 2009 RWA Meeting at 9:00 am at the San Antonio River Authority to hear the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) presentation on Water Auditing and Leak Detection.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Mims asked for a motion to approve the May 7, 2009 minutes. Kevin Janak asked that a correction be made to reflect the proper spelling of his last name on page three, paragraph three, in the minutes. Ron Naumann made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. The minutes were approved by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Status of Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP)**

Dr. Robert Gulley, EARIP, stated that the next EARIP meeting would be Thursday, August 13, 2009 at the offices of Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA). Two items of importance that

will be discussed are the recommendation of a facilitator and a candidate for the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) contract.

Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, Regional Director for Region 2, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will attend and make the introductory remarks to the group. Dr. Tom Hardy, who studied the species and worked with the Science Subcommittee, is also completing the initial report and it should be ready for review and comments.

In September and October the EARIP will work on the preliminary endangered species act issues that need to be resolved.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Replacement of Planning Group Member**

Chairman Mims informed the Planning Group that the Executive Committee met with the candidates for the vacant Water District position on the Planning Group and developed a recommendation. Mr. Mims stated that both candidates were extremely impressive. The two candidates were Ms. Guadalupe Lopez, President of the Bexar-Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors and Mr. Tim Andruss, General Manager, Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District. Mr. Mims stated that the Executive Committee was recommending Ms. Lopez.

Mr. Janak stated the importance of representation from the lower basin since the regional need for water is primarily in the upper basin and the potential supplies discussed are found in the lower basin. He supported Mr. Andruss for the vacant Water District position.

Mayor Ruby Vera, City of Natalia and representative for the South Texas Regional Water Alliance, spoke in support of Ms. Lopez. Mayor Vera stated that the counties and water providers south of San Antonio needed a voice on the Planning Group and that could be provided by Ms. Lopez and Bexar Met.

Jerry James, City of Victoria, spoke in support of Mr. Andruss and his ability to work through a consensus based solution.

Milton Stolte made a motion to recommend Tim Andruss to fill the vacant Water District position. Kevin Janak seconded the motion. Before a vote was taken, the candidates were asked to introduce themselves and discuss their qualifications.

Velma Danielson asked Mr. Mims if instead of taking a vote on the recommendation, could the Planning Group offer an alternative and each member vote individually by stating which candidate a Planning Group member votes for. Mr. Mims agreed and a vote was taken. The vote was twelve votes for Mr. Andruss and ten votes for Ms. Lopez and one abstained vote.

Suzanne Scott made a motion to accept the Planning Group's vote. The motion passed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Chair's Report**

- **Discussion Regarding Region L Workgroups (Guadalupe Basin Water Needs Workgroup and Gonzales County Groundwater Projects Workgroup)**

Mr. Mims discussed the Gonzales County Groundwater Projects Workgroup and the Guadalupe Basin Water Needs Workgroup, which were being established to assist with the implementation of the 2011 Regional Water Plan.

The Gonzales County Groundwater Projects Workgroup will discuss accounting for all the water projects that rely on Gonzales County groundwater. The second workgroup, the Guadalupe Basin Water Needs Workgroup, will discuss accounting for all the Water Management Strategies in the Guadalupe River basin and ensure strategies are not relying upon the same water supply.

Mr. Mims then discussed the goals and objectives, the membership, and the date and the time for each workgroup meeting. Mr. Mims invited the public to attend the workgroup meetings.

- **Update on Drought Conditions**

Tommy Hill, GBRA, presented a powerpoint presentation regarding drought conditions inside and outside of the Region L planning area.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Adoption of Proposed Amendment to the 2006 Regional Water Plan for Region L and Submittal of 2006 Regional Water Plan as Amended to the TWDB for Approval**

Mr. Mims called on Sam Vaugh, HDR Engineering, to discuss the amendment process. Mr. Vaugh began by reviewing the actions taken by the Planning Group to amend the 2006 Regional Water Plan (RWP). Mr. Vaugh then explained the TWDB process for evaluating and approving the proposed amendment, and adding the 2006 amended RWP to the state's 2007 State Water Plan.

Mr. Vaugh reviewed with the Planning Group the public comments and draft responses to the comments. In response to Exelon Comment #2, language will be modified to ensure the original water needs are met first and that any additional available water would be for other uses.

Steve Raabe, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), reminded the Planning Group that the 2006 RWP amendment specifically addressed the points found in the legislation. The legislation included the Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project for Upper GBRA Needs and did not include any of the new projects. Workgroups were set up by the chairman to deal with how to resolve the new projects and all of those decisions would be included in the 2011 RWP. The Planning Group would not be giving up any of its discretion or authority for making future decisions on any of these projects by taking the necessary action on the 2006 RWP amendment.

Evelyn Bonavita made a motion to adopt the proposed amendment to the 2006 RWP and to submit the 2006 RWP as amended to the TWDB. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion carried by 15 Aye's, 5 Nay's and 4 Abstains.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Communications**

Matt Nelson, TWDB, discussed the change regarding the Director of Water Resources position. Mr. Nelson also explained the Regional Planning Grant Fund contract had committed funds for two-thirds of the money and an amendment would come through after September 1<sup>st</sup> to commit one hundred percent of the grant funds.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Designation of Ecologically Unique Stream Segments in Region L**

Sam Vaughn, HDR Engineering, explained that the draft recommendation packet would be sent to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) for review and comment which would take about thirty days. After the comment period, HDR will discuss the comments and rule modifications at the November RWPG meeting for possible inclusion in the initially prepared plan due in February.

Mr. Vaughn briefed on stream segments included by the RWPG as Ecologically Unique Stream Segments. Included in the meeting packet was key language that will be included in the plan. Mr. Ramsey stated that the segment of the Comal River that the City of San Marcos would like designated as a Unique Stream Segment in Comal County is supported by the City of New Braunfels.

Mr. Mims discussed budgeting concerns and Mr. Vaughn stated that the segment of the Comal River previously discussed as a Unique Stream Segment, was included in the current budget. Tony Wood motioned to authorize the technical consultants to submit a draft recommendation package complete with comments made at this meeting to TPWD for its review. The motion was seconded by Tom Taggart and approved by consensus.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Consultant's Work and Schedule**

Laura Raun, Laura Raun Public Relations, briefed the planning group on nineteen public comments.

Sam Vaughn, HDR Engineering, provided an update on the current schedule and also stated the steam electric demand projections are in the process of being completed and submitted to TWDB for approval.

Ms. Scott discussed potential time constraints that may arise due to the water management strategies that need to be addressed by the planning group prior to the February RWPG meeting. Ms. Scott proposed scheduling additional meetings so the Planning Group members could place dates on the calendar in case HDR needs more time for water management strategies. Mr. Mims stated that having additional meetings would be a great idea but coming up with a budget would also need to take place. Mr. Perkins stated that HDR has three additional meetings budgeted in their contract. December 3, 2009, January 21, and January 7, 2010 were the three dates for future potential meetings.

Mr. Vaughn briefed on and summarized the mail out performed by SARA on existing supplies and water management strategies to fulfill the needs of all Water User Groups (WUG's) in Region L.

Mr. Perkins, HDR Engineering, discussed the following water management strategies and technical evaluations for these strategies: Regional Carrizo for SSLGC Project Expansion, Hays Caldwell PUA Carrizo Aquifer Project, Regional Carrizo Aquifer for SAWS, GBRA Exelon WMS Summary-Canal Diversion Alternative, Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project for Upstream GBRA Needs-Reduced Capacity, and Edwards Aquifer Recharge – Type 2 Projects.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Edwards Aquifer Authority Proposed Rules Changes**

Ms. Velma Danielson, General Manager of the Edwards Aquifer Authority, EAA, discussed the proposed transfer rule changes stating that transfers west of the Cibolo Creek to East of Cibolo Creek will eventually be prohibited. EAA will seek public comments on these rule changes. Mark Freeberg, EAA, summarized why these transfer rules were necessary.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Set Dates and Locations of Future Planning Group Meetings**

January 7, and January 10, 2010 were established as potential meeting dates.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group**

Mr. Mims stated that agenda items will be determined at a later date.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Public Comment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 3:18 p.m.

Recommended for approval.

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GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at meeting held on November 5, 2009.

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CON MIMS, CHAIR