

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
November 6, 2014**

Chairman Con Mims called the meeting to order at 9:30 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.

28 of the 30 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

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| Tim Andruss | Gary Middleton |
| Donna Balin | Con Mims |
| Gene Camargo | Robert Puente |
| Alan Cockrell | Iliana Pena |
| Will Conley | Steve Ramsey |
| Don Dietzmann | David Roberts |
| Art Dohmann | Roland Ruiz |
| Blair Fitzsimmons | Dianne Savage |
| Vic Hilderbran | Suzanne Scott |
| Kevin Janak | Greg Sengelmann |
| John Kight | Thomas Taggart |
| Russell Labus | Dianne Wassenich |
| Glen Lord for Gena Leathers | Bill West |
| Doug McGooky | |
| Dan Meyer | |

Voting Members Absent

Rey Chavez
Milton Stolte

Non-Voting Members Present:

Norman Boyd, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife
Steve Ramos, TCEQ – South Texas Watermaster Specialists
David Meesey, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
David Villarreal for Ken Weidenfeller, Texas Department of Agriculture

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison

Non-Voting Members Present:

Norman Boyd, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife
Steve Ramos, TCEQ – South Texas Watermaster Specialists
David Meesey, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
David Villarreal for Ken Weidenfeller, Texas Department of Agriculture

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison

Prior to Agenda Item No. 1, Chairman Con Mims pulled Agenda Item No. 15, "Appropriate Action Regarding the Adoption of Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority's (GBRA) Proposed Substitution of the Lower Basin Storage 500 Acre Site Project for the Lower Basin Storage 100 Acre Site Project in the 2011 Regional Water Plan and Request the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to Amend the 2012 State Water Plan."

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Mims asked for any public comment. No comments were made.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mims asked if there were any additions or corrections to the August 7, 2014 meeting minutes. No corrections or revisions were requested. Dianne Wassenich made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Art Dohmann seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) – NATHAN PENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EAHCP

Nathan Pence, Executive Director of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), gave a brief update on the status of the HCP, reminding the planning group of the four specific spring flow protection measures implemented by the HCP: 1) the Water Conservation Program, 2) the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Program, 3) the Stage Five Critical Period Management by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), and 4) the Voluntary Irrigation Suspension Program Option (VISPO). Mr. Pence informed the planning group that VISPO was triggered in October 2014, as the J-17 index well in San Antonio had a level below mean sea level (635 feet). As a result 40,000 acre-feet of irrigation rights will not be eligible for pumping in 2015 as an additional benefit to the Edwards Aquifer and its spring flows.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: STATUS OF GUADALUPE, SAN ANTONIO, MISSION, AND ARANSAS RIVERS AND MISSION, COPANO, ARANSAS, AND SAN ANTONIO BAYS BASIN AND BAY STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE (BBASC) AND EXPERT SCIENCE TEAM (BBEST)

Suzanne Scott gave a brief update on the status of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) and Expert Science Team (BBEST). Mrs. Scott informed the planning group that the next BBASC meeting will be scheduled in mid-December, where the group will receive an update from the contractors on the status of the individual environmental studies and their development.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: CHAIRS REPORT

Chairman Mims had nothing to report on.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: REVIEW/APPROVE ADMINISTRATOR'S BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015

Cole Ruiz, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), briefly discussed the proposed administrative budget.

Gary Middleton motioned to approve the budget. Will Conley seconded the motion. The budget was approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) COMMUNICATIONS

David Meeseey, Texas Water Development Board, pointed to some letters provided in the agenda packet as guidance from TWDB on particular questions submitted by Region L Planning Group Members as part of the Reuse Workgroup. He briefly discussed TWDB's responses.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: SET DATES AND TIMES OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETINGS FOR 2015

Cole Ruiz, San Antonio River Authority, briefly discussed the times and dates of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group's meetings throughout calendar year 2015. The quarterly meetings were set for February 5, 2015, April 2, 2015, August 6, 2015, and Nov 5, 2015. All meetings are scheduled to begin at 9:30 AM.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CONSULTANTS WORK AND SCHEDULE

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, presented an update on the schedule for plan development highlighting upcoming planning group deadlines. May 1, 2015, is the deadline for the submission of the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). Between now and February, HDR will begin pulling the plan together for planning group consideration. The goal is to nail down all the projects that the Planning Group wants to see in the 2016 Regional Water Plan at the February meeting.

Mr. Perkins also provided an update on the potential issues to the planning process that HDR and the Administrator are tracking. Specifically, Mr. Perkins touched on meeting the needs of Foromosa and Inter-Regional Coordination as it pertains to the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Vista Ridge Project and the Hays County Forestar Project.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING A RECOMMENDATION FOR LEGISLATIVE DESIGNATION OF STREAM SEGMENTS OF UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL VALUE (TASK 8)

Mr. Mims reminded the planning group that the Texas Legislature allows for the designation of stream segments that are of unique ecological value. In 2013, the planning group authorized Mr. Mims to seek designation of the Nueces, Frio, Sabinal, Comal, and San Marcos stream segments as ecologically unique. Mr. Mims informed the planning group that designation of these stream segments as ecologically unique would only mean that a state agency or political subdivision may not finance the construction of a reservoir within the designated segment. Mr. Mims asked the planning group for the authority to seek this type of legislation on behalf of the planning group during the upcoming legislative session.

Will Conley made a motion to authorize Chairman Mims to seek legislation on behalf of the planning group that would designate the Nueces, Frio, Sabinal, Comal, and San Marcos stream segments as ecologically unique. Kevin Janak seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed by consensus.

Will Conley suggested adding the Cypress and Blanco stream segments to the list of stream segments having ecologically unique value. Discussion ensued regarding the time frame and budgeting process for seeking designation of additional stream segments as ecologically unique. Chairman Mims suggested that

the timeframe for designating additional stream segments during the upcoming legislative session does not provide ample time for the consultants to evaluate the segments. Brian Perkins concurred, saying that HDR would likely not be able to complete the necessary evaluation for additional stream segments before the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) due date of May 1, 2015. However, it may be possible to complete the necessary steps to include a recommendation of additional stream segments to be designated as ecologically unique by the due date of the final 2016 Regional Water Plan in December 2015.

Donna Balin suggested the creation of a workgroup to explore the possibility of adding stream segments of unique ecological value, which are not currently in the Regional Water Plan, as part of the Chapter 8 Policy Recommendations and Unique Sites.

Sam Vaughn, HDR Engineering, clarified that the planning group probably has sufficient budget to evaluate one or two additional segments. However, the recommendation from the planning group must go through Texas Parks and Wildlife for review. Texas Parks and Wildlife has a 30 day review period. Therefore, if the planning group wants to add stream segments to its Chapter 8 Policy Recommendations for the 2016 Regional Water Plan to be designated as ecologically unique, the planning group should move quickly on identifying those stream segments. Mr. Vaughn further clarified that a stream segment needs to be recommended in a Regional Water Plan, and incorporated into an approved State Water Plan before a request may be made to the Legislature to designate a stream as ecologically unique.

Addressing Mrs. Balin's suggestions, Chairman Mims appointed the following members, or their designees, to the Workgroup: Will Conley, Iliana Pena, Doug McGookey, Donna Balin, Suzanne Scott, Bill West, and Robert Puente. Chairman Mims asked Mr. Conley to serve as Chair, and for Sam Vaughn and Brian Perkins to guide and support the workgroup's efforts. The Workgroup will report on their recommendations at the February Regional Water Planning Group meeting for the full planning group to consider.

Chairman Mims also addressed the creation of a Policy Workgroup to review and suggest changes to the 2011 Regional Water Plan policy recommendations to be incorporated in Chapter 8, the Policy Recommendations and Unique Sites section of the the 2016 Regional Water Plan. Chairman Mims appointed the following members, or their designees, to the Workgroup: Donna Balin, Kevin Janak, Blair Fitzsimons, Gena Leathers, Robert Puente, Bill West, Suzanne Scott, David Roberts, Roland Ruiz, Tom Taggart, Steve Ramsey, Dianne Wassenich, and Russell Labus. Chairman Mims asked Mrs. Wassenich to serve as Chair, and for Sam Vaughn and Brian Perkins to guide and support this workgroup's efforts.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN (IPP)

Mr. Perkins presented technical evaluations for two of eleven potentially feasible water management strategies to the Planning Group, noting that technical evaluation for four additional water management strategies would be presented at the meeting in February 2015. Mr. Perkins presented technical evaluations for the Hays County Forestar Project and the Drought Management water management strategies.

Chairman Mims recessed the meeting for lunch. Upon reconvening the meeting, Chairman Mims suggested briefly skipping ahead to agenda items numbered thirteen through sixteen to ensure the Planning Group maintained a quorum for potential actions related to those agenda items. (See below beginning with Agenda Item No. 13 and ending with Agenda Item 16).

Following discussion and action on agenda items numbered thirteen through sixteen, Chairman Mims directed the Planning Group back to discussion of Agenda Item No. 11. Mr. Perkins continued presenting the technical evaluations for the remaining water management strategies, which included the following:

Local Carrizo Aquifer Permitted Use Conversions, Lavaca Off-Channel Reservoir, Texas Water Alliance (TWA) Trinity Well Field Project, San Antonio Water System (SAWS) Vista Ridge Project, Seawater Desalination for SAWS, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Integrated Water Power Project (IWPP), and the Victoria County Steam-Electric (with and without effluent return flows).

Sam Vaugh presented technical evaluations for the remaining water management strategies, which included the Hays County Public Utility (HCPUA) + TWA + Mid Basin Water Supply Project (MBWSP) Joint Project and the Luling ASR (Aquifer Storage and Recovery) Project.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF 2016 INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN (IPP)

Mr. Vaugh discussed the various chapters include in the 2016 Regional Water Plan, and HDR's schedule for getting those out to the Planning Group for review. Mr. Vaugh indicated that HDR will deliver Chapters One through Four to Planning Group before December 1, 2014. They will be delivered to SARA, who will distribute the materials electronically and post on the Region L website. Chapter Five, which contains all of the identified potentially feasible water management strategies, will be delivered in sections, the first being by January 5, 2015, and the second being by January 19, 2015. Chapter Six, which contains the cumulative effects analysis, will be delivered after the February 5, 2015. Chapter Seven – which included drought response information, activities, and recommendations – will be delivered by January 5, 2015. Chapter Eight contains the Planning Group's policy recommendations, and the draft will be delivered by January 19, 2015. Chapter Nine on infrastructure financing will not be delivered until after the submission of the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). Chapters Ten is a comparison of the 2016 proposed Regional Water Plan and the 2011 Regional Water Plan. Chapter Eleven is on public participation and plan adoption. Both Chapters Ten and Eleven will be delivered sometime after the adoption of the IPP.

Brian Perkins presented county by county summaries to the Planning Group showing the water supply needs of water user groups throughout Region L.

Mr. Perkins also presented seven of eight wholesale water provider tables, depicting water demands, supplies, needs, and potentially feasible water management strategies (both the envisioned projects and modeled available ground water [MAG] limited). The tables presented included information regarding SAWS, Canyon Regional Water Authority (CRWA), HCPUA, TWA, Schertz-Sequin Local Government Corporation (SSLGC), Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation (CVLGC), and Springs Hill Water Supply Corporation (SHWSC). Sam Vaugh presented the Wholesale Water Provider table containing the same information for GBRA.

(At this time, the meeting continued with Agenda Item 17)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2014, OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP WILL RECESS TO HOLD TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY'S (GBRA) PROPOSED SUBSTITUTION OF THE LOWER BASIN STORAGE 500 ACRE SITE PROJECT FOR THE LOWER BASIN STORAGE 100 ACRE SITE PROJECT IN THE 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Chairman Mims called the public meeting to order.

Sam Vaugh gave a brief presentation on the projects' technical evaluation. There were no comments from the public regarding the proposed substitution.

Chairman Mims adjourned the public meeting.

B. THE GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY'S (GBRA) PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENT OF THE INTEGRATED WATER POWER PROJECT TO THE 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Chairman Mims called the public meeting to order.

Bill West, GBRA, made some brief comments regarding the GBRA proposed minor amendment to add the Integrated Water Power Project to the 2011 Regional Water Plan. Mr. West emphasized the importance of desalination in Texas.

Brian Perkins gave a brief presentation on the projects' technical evaluation, and asked for any public comment.

Tyson Broad, a member of the public representing the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, inquired about how the project would be ranked in terms of prioritization. Mr. Perkins responded, saying that, as part of the amendment package, the project would be scored, and then fall in line wherever it ranks compared to previously scored projects in the 2011 Regional Water Plan.

Chairman Mims adjourned the public meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: RECONVENE THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2014, OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP.

Chairman Mims reconvened the regular South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY'S (GBRA) PROPOSED SUBSTITUTION OF THE LOWER BASIN STORAGE 500 ACRE SITE PROJECT FOR THE LOWER BASIN STORAGE 100 ACRE SITE PROJECT IN THE 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND REQUEST THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) TO AMEND THE 2012 STATE WATER PLAN

Agenda Item No. 15 was removed from the agenda prior to this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY'S (GBRA) PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENT OF THE INTEGRATED WATER POWER PROJECT TO THE 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND REQUEST THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) TO AMEND THE 2012 STATE WATER PLAN

Chairman Mims asked for discussion regarding the adoption of the GBRA proposed minor amendment to add the Integrated Water Power Project to the 2011 Regional Water Plan and the proposed action to request the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to amend the 2012 State Plan accordingly. Donna Balin asked about the location of the associated power facility. Mr. West explained that the exact location would depend on myriad of factors. Though it seems logical that the desalination facility and the power facility are co-located, GBRA is currently looking at 21 potential sites. A final decision has not yet been made.

Iliana Pena asked Mr. West if there were any environmental considerations involved in the process of choosing a sites for the facilities. Mr. West, responded, saying GBRA is utilizing a scoring matrix to

evaluate the potential sites. The first survey question of the scoring matrix addresses the fragile environmental state, agreeing that much of the environment is sensitive in the region.

Dianne Wassenich asked whether the project targets a specific end water user group, noting that there is not a defined need where the delivery facilities will be located. Brian Perkins suggested that this specific project does not deliver directly to a water user group, but rather to a wholesale water provider, who will in turn deliver to customers. This resulting supply will be shown in Wholesale Water Provider Tables section of the 2011 Regional Water Plan, rather than the Water User Group Needs Analysis Tables section of the plan.

John Kight made a motion to adopt the minor amendment to the 2011 Regional Water Plan. An unidentified Region L Planning Group member seconded the motion. Chairman Mims asked if there was further discussion or any objections. There were none. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Chairman Mims instructed the Planning Group to notify either him or Cole Ruiz, San Antonio River Authority, of any agenda items they would like to have addressed at the next planning group meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Mims asked any public comment. There was none.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: ADJOURN

Chairman Mims adjourned the meeting.

Recommended for approval.



GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on February 5, 2015.



CON MIMS, CHAIR