

**Minutes of the  
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
May 1, 2014**

The meeting was called 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.

Twenty-seven of the 29 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

**Voting Members Present:**

Tim Andruss	Gary Middleton
Donna Balin	Con Mims
Gene Camargo	Robert Puente
Rey Chavez	Steve Ramsey
Alan Cockerell	Roland Ruiz
Lon Shell for Will Conley	Diane Savage
Don Dietzmann	Suzanne Scott
Art Dohmann	Greg Sengelmann
Blair Fitzsimons	Rader Gilliliand for Milton Stolte
Kevin Janak	Thomas Taggart
Gená Leathers	Dianne Wassenich
Doug McGooky	Bill West

**Voting Members Absent:**

Vic Hilderbran  
John Kight  
Dan Meyer  
Iliana Pena  
David Roberts

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Norman Boyd, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison  
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison  
David Meesey, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)  
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison  
Ken Weidenfeller, Texas Department of Agriculture

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

Mr. Con 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 February 6, 2014 meeting minutes. There were no corrections or revisions 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: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Nomination to Fill Vacant Water District Voting Member (term expires 2016)**

Mr. Mims began the discussion by informing the voting members that the Executive Committee met on April 23, 2014, and interviewed 4 nominees to fill the voting member vacancy. By consensus the Executive Committee recommended for Russell Labus of the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District for consideration and approval by the voting members. Mr. Robert Puente moved to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation of Russell Labus. Bill West and Suzanne Scott both seconded Mr. Puente's motion. Mr. Mims asked for any discussion or objections. There was no discussion nor were there objections. The motion carried by consensus. The group welcomed Mr. Labus as the newest South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group voting member.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Election of Executive Committee At-Large Member for Calendar Year 2014**

Mr. Mims began the election by reminding the voting members of the unsuccessful vote at the previous meeting on February 6, 2014, that resulted in deadlock. He confirmed that there was one vacancy, and that the group needed nominations from any of the following stakeholder categories: Public, Counties, Industries, Agricultural, Small Business, Electric Generating Utilities, Water Utilities, or any of the Groundwater Management Areas.

Art Dohmann moved to nominate Kevin Janak. Bill West seconded Mr. Dohmann's nomination of Kevin Janak. Mr. Mims asked for any other nominations. Suzanne Scott moved to nominate Dianne Wassenich. Thomas Taggart seconded the nomination of Mrs. Wassenich. A majority vote could not be reached. Robert Puente asked Mr. Mims if voting could resume in one hour. Mr. Mims agreed to table Agenda Item No. 4 for one hour to allow time for those arriving late to be included in the vote.

After Agenda Item No. 8, Mr. Mims returned to Agenda Item No. 4 to readdress the Election of the Executive Committee At-Large Member for Calendar Year 2014. Mr. Mims reiterated that the Planning Group needed 16 votes to have a majority and achieve an official election. Planning Group members reached a majority of 17-8 in favor of Mr. Kevin Janak.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Status of Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)**

Nathan Pence, Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) Executive Director, provided a brief overview of the progress on the HCP. Mr. Pence informed the group that HCP is already beginning the planning process for the 2015 year, including the activities and the budgets that will take effect in 2015. The HCP Implementing Committee and Science Committee will be

reviewing draft work plans and draft program budgets in order to get ready for 2015 over the next few months.

Mr. Pence noted that, like most other water entities, HCP is having conversations in response to the current drought. The drought has triggered some additional bio-monitoring in the Comal and San Marcos spring systems. The drought has also triggered some additional communication with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the ongoing HCP activities, and justifying the rationale of some of HCP's actions. The Implementing Committee has also created a work group to discuss outreach opportunities in order to inform the general public of the beneficial things HCP is doing right now to help manage resources throughout the drought. The work group is to report back to the Implementing Committee with recommendations in early June 2014. The public will likely be receiving some outreach messaging coming from HCP, which might include some general water conservation information, and information exhibiting the benefits of the HCP.

Mr. Mims asked how the springs are holding up. Mr. Pence's replied, commenting on the declining flows, which HCP anticipated. There is still water flowing to Spring Run One in Comal Springs. The lakes, both Spring Lake and Landa Lake, are still holding water and providing good habitat. However, it is still very early in the year.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: 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) and Nueces River and Corpus Christi and Baffin Bays Stakeholder Committee (BBASC) and Expert Science Team (BBEST)**

Suzanne Scott, Chair of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (BBASC), presented a status report to the Planning Group. Mrs. Scott informed the Planning Group that BBASC is going through the request for qualifications process for submittal of potential studies in the five different study category areas identified by BBASC. The result culminated in the BBASC Status Report, which includes a list of the selected top-ranked proposals for the Guadalupe/ San Antonio BBASC. Five studies were included in the Status Report: Texas Instream Flow Program Studies (Study 1), Lower basin/ Estuarine Inflow Studies (Study 2), *Rangia* Clam Investigations (Study 3), Key Estuarine Faunal Species Studies (Study 4), and Strategy Options for Meeting Attainment Frequencies for the Estuaries (Study 5). Dianne Wassenich led an evaluation group that reviewed all the proposals in each category and brought forward recommendations to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). BBASC is currently working with TWDB to finalize the contract negotiations and scopes of work for the recommended studies. BBASC appointed Gregg Eckhardt from San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) to work with TWDB in finalizing the scopes of work for each of the studies. He is the BBASC liaison to the TWDB. The Stakeholder Committee is hoping to move quickly on this due to the short time frame, particularly on the studies that require field work.

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

David Meeseey, TWDB representative, touched on a few key deadlines throughout the near future. Mr. Meeseey mentioned that the draft prioritization of strategies in the 2011 plan is due June 1, 2014. The final draft is due in September 2014. TWDB will be busy with developing additional guidance and potential additional rules throughout the summer. The Technical Memorandum is due August 1, 2014. The 2016 Prioritization of Strategies is due May 1, 2015, which is the same day as the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) is due.

Mr. Meeseey continued, stating that SWIFT funds will likely be available during the summer of 2015. SWIFT funds can only be used to fund recommended strategies included in the approved regional and state water plans. If the Planning Group has active projects, it needs to work twice as hard to ensure that those projects needing funding are in the regional and state water plans. TWDB has other financing options currently available. This means projects needing funding immediately, don't have to wait to get money. TWDB has very low rates on money for active projects that need funding now or sooner than when the SWIFT funds become available. TWDB has financing that has reasonably low rates. An example is the drinking water SRF rates, which are always one and a quarter percent below market. The current rate is 1.59% for AA rated applicants. The rate for non-rated smaller systems is 2.74%. These loans are subsidized with federal money. If you start off with one of these types of loans, when it is time for construction, this can be combined with SWIFT funds.

Mr. Meeseey reminded the group members that the State is currently working on the 4<sup>th</sup> regional water plan. The IPP is due May 1, 2015. The TWDB should approve those plans by November 2015, and deliver those plans to the legislature and governor by January 2016. Those plans provide the data that the TWDB uses for the State water plan that comes out in 2017, along with policy and legislative recommendations.

Mr. Meeseey stated that the backbone of any planning effort is the Planning Group members themselves, their support staff and the consultant team. That is really what drives this process. The TWDB recognizes the hard work and effort that the Planning Group puts in. It does not go unnoticed.

Mr. Mims asked for any questions for David from the Planning Group. Kevin Janak asked about the interest rates. David reiterated the current Drinking Water SRF loan interest rate for AA rated entities, and for non-rated entities.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Chair's Report**

Mr. Mims invited Rick Illgner, Edwards Aquifer Authority, to address funding of Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs).

Mr. Illgner discussed the situation surrounding GMA funding, stating that Senate Bill 1 in 1997 started this process, but also in 1997, the legislature approved a requirement for Groundwater Conservation Districts to provide a water management plan that provides data on available ground water. As planning groups are developing new strategies, except for conservation, there are only two sources of water. There is groundwater and surface water. Initially the groundwater side of that equation was going to be taken care of through these water management plans. However, major legislation in 2005 changed the term desired future condition (DFC) and managed available groundwater, which is now modeled available groundwater (MAG). That is now the input through the regional water planning process. When that process started, the requirement was that the TWDB was going to provide technical assistance to all the groundwater conservation districts that developed DFCs and the MAG. Through some financial hard times and downsizing, that technical expertise is no longer available. Additionally in 2011, there were some very significant requirements added to the development of the reports that lead to these numbers. There are some significant costs that these groundwater conservation districts have to provide to develop these reports. The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) just went up for RFQ. Its going to cost the EAA \$90,000 to develop the report it needs. The Edwards Aquifer is in four GMAs, so the EAA will have to pay more money throughout these processes.

Part of this regional planning process is policy recommendation. We would very much appreciate the group considering as a policy recommendation, that the state provide some form of financial assistance for GMA planning.

Mr. Mims asked if there were any questions regarding Mr. Illgner's comments. There were none.

Mr. Mims began discussion on Chapter Eight of the RWP, which is for policies and recommendations. The Planning Group uses that chapter as guidance going into legislative sessions should the Group have a piece of legislation that they would like to see pushed through the Capitol, such as GMA funding for the technical expertise needed to project DFCs and the MAG for areas around the state. Mr. Mims called upon Sam Vaugh to discuss and explain Chapter 8.

Sam Vaugh, HDR Engineering, explained that Chapter Eight is a section of the plan that is required and is also a privilege. It is the Planning Group's opportunity to provide input to the TWDB as they go into the regional planning policy during the legislative session. Given that the plan is not going to be finalized until the 2017 session, the Planning Group can still get a head start on that. At Staff Workgroup, discussion commenced regarding initiating a process to hammer out the various pieces of this Policies and Recommendations section in the coming months for the 2015 session. The Planning Group does not necessarily have to start this process today, but it is important to recognize that there are a number of things that have changed. Some items have received greater clarity and some have received greater confusion over the past couple of years. Some of the things that have changed have to do with the Edwards HCP, and many things within the groundwater arena. The Carrizo Workgroup would generate some policy recommendations from this region. Also in the environmental flows area, the Group now has the Senate Bill 3 Environmental Flows Process, where standards have been adopted. The Group might have some policy ideas on where to go with that. The Group also has the pending ecologically unique stream segments. This Group's recommendation was in the last plan and the legislature did not decided to carry that forward. Those are just some examples of policies that need to be updated.

Mr. Vaugh suggested that as the Planning has upcoming meetings scheduled in August, November, and February. In February the objective will be to know what the Group wants for policies and recommendations in the plan. The Group should have a good draft by November, heading into the upcoming legislative session. Soon after the August meeting, the group will initiate a process starting with the existing policies and recommendations. HDR Engineering will redline those, mark them up, and share that with the Planning Group at large. From there the Group will see what needs to be added and changed. The Group is not really budgeted for another work group for this process. Everyone needs to be engaged in this process because each of the Planning Group members represents individual particular interests. This will give everyone an opportunity to make recommendations.

Mr. Mims asked for additional questions or comments. Donna Balin asked Rick Illgner if there were alternative sources of funding that could be utilized outside TWDB. Mr. Illgner responded, noting that there were no apparent sources other than TWDB, but that they are open to suggestions.

Mr. Mims moved to readdress Agenda Item No. 4, Election of Executive Committee At- Large member for Calendar Year 2014, which the Group had tabled earlier. (Please see Agenda Item No. 4).

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Adoption of Code of Conduct.**

Mr. Mims began by stating that he was very disappointed with the incident that occurred at the last meeting. This unprofessional conduct can get out of hand if left unchecked, and threatens the integrity of the Region L planning process. For purposes of having a touchstone in front of group, Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group members for consideration of the following policy:

“Members of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group embrace and will strive to uphold the principles that, in the course of our work, respect shall be given to every person; abusive behavior will not be tolerated; and, every member and Alternate will conduct his/her self in a manner that reflects favorably on the Planning Group, and that is not injurious to our purpose.”

Mr. Rey Chavez motioned to adopt the Code of Conduct. Mrs. Dianne Wassenich seconded the motion. There were no objections. The Planning Group adopted the Code of Conduct by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Report, Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Project Prioritization Work Group Recommendations**

Suzanne Scott delivered a summary report on the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group's Water Management Strategy Prioritizations Workgroup and its efforts to prioritize the 2011 Regional Water Plan in accordance with House Bill 4 of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature and upon the request of the Texas Water Development Board. Completing the draft 2011 Regional Water Plan Prioritization for Region L was a good exercise for prioritizing the upcoming 2016 Regional Water Plan projects. Previously the Chairs' Group met to develop recommendations based on the guidance from TWDB. The Planning Group put together the Work Group to spearhead the prioritization process. These are the individuals who participated: Con Mims, Donna Balin, Rey Chavez, Don Dietzmann, Blair Fitzsimmons, Kevin Janak, Gená Leathers, Doug McGoogy, Greg Sengelmann, and Thomas Taggart. Mrs. Scott convened over the group. Others involved were from SARA, TWDB, SAWS, GBRA, HCPUA, members of the public, and HDR Engineering served as the technical liaison and support for the process. The group met a couple of times and generated the summary report demonstrating the process they used as a group and the resulting outcome. The report also shows what the Work Group did using the scoring matrix that was provided by the TWDB Stakeholder Committee. All of the projects included in the 2011 Regional Water Plan were ranked based on the scoring matrix accepted as the Final Uniform Standards for Prioritization as adopted by the Stakeholder Committee. The Work Group clarified its interpretation of some of the questions that were asked by the scoring matrix. Included in the report was a summary of the Workgroup's comments and assumptive interpretations of certain criteria used in the matrix. It shows how the group directed HDR to view some of the definitions and how they need to apply them to these projects in our particular region. Mrs. Scott mentioned that the Work Group asked the committee to provide their general observation and comments about the process because the Chairs' Group is continuously looking for feedback on this process. It is important to remember that this is only one factor in the prioritization that will ultimately come from these rankings. There are many other factors that will be part of the prioritization that will ultimately result in the prioritization that the State will use for their funding considerations. Going through this process was a good exercise as it allowed the group to observe and recommend potential tweaks that could be made to the process.

Mr. Mims asked for any questions or comments. Mr. Kevin Janak commented that the Planning Group as a whole is prioritizing the projects because the Texas Legislature demanded it, but that many of the 2011 Regional Water Plan projects are already underway. This exercise was a trial

run for the 2016 Regional Water Plan, where a lot of the projects will not be underway by the time the Planning Group prioritizes the 2016 Regional Water Plan projects. For those reasons, this was a great educational experience for what to expect as the current planning proceeds. Donna Balin concurred and thanked Mrs. Scott for heading the prioritization effort.

A Planning Group member raised a question regarding item number two on the Interpretive Assumptions for Application of Uniform Standards for Prioritization. It indicates that the group used source water availability from the 2011 Regional Water Plan, as opposed to the current Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) values. Sam Vaugh (HDR Engineering) answered, stating that a requirement for the funding is that the quantity of water values must come from an approved Regional Water Plan. The only approved plan the Planning Group has right now is the 2011 Regional Water Plan. That is what tied the group to the estimates of groundwater availability used for the preparation of the 2011 plan. Had the group used the current MAG values, it would have opened the door to a number of other factors that could really scramble things.

Mr. Mims explained how possible changes to these criteria as it relates to the Uniform Standards of Prioritization could be impacted by the RWPG's comments. The prioritization up for submittal is the draft prioritization of our 2011 projects. The Planning Group will submit the draft prioritization, upon Planning Group approval, to the TWDB. The TWDB and its staff will look at the Planning Group's comments and the entire package the work group prepared, along with the other 15 regional water planning groups' comments and prioritization packages. They will give the Group feedback. When the Planning Group receives their feedback, it might have to reconvene the workgroup to develop the final 2011 Prioritization due September 1, 2014. It is probably safe to assume that most of the regional water planning groups have similar concerns that will carry a lot of weight with the TWDB. David Meesey (TWDB) confirmed, saying that similar comments will carry significant weight with how the TWDB approaches the prioritization process. When it comes to compound strategies, or projects that serve multiple entities with multiple needs, TWDB might run into some problems with the prioritization. That is why the feedback and comments are very important to TWDB. Hopefully we can at least give common guidance to all the regions for their final prioritization due in September. Then TWDB can rewrite some of the uniform standards criteria as necessary.

Donna Balin stated that one issue discussed in the Workgroup meeting was the fact that a lot of these WMSs were evaluated individually, which raised question of whether or not the water was actually available. The issue that does not come up in the process that is really important is what combinations of these projects actually cause an overdraft of the respective MAGs. The Planning Group really needs to look at that issue since it really isn't part of the prioritization process.

Kevin Janak, I think that the chairmen through all the regions need to get together and discuss these issues so that all the planning groups are represented on an even playing field. We don't want to make it more difficult for our projects in Region L than in other planning group regions. Mr. Mims replied, confirming that meetings of the chairs have been part of the process. He added that when it comes down to the TWDB consideration of SWIFT funding projects, House Bill 4 lays out some very specific things that the TWDB needs to consider. There are about 15 items for consideration. Mr. Mims offered his concern about the fact that the prioritization coming out of the regional planning groups is the very last listed item. In fact, House Bill 4 says highest priority will be given to four of those items, which does not include the Planning Group's prioritization of projects. He commented that he was a little concerned that all the work the Planning Group is doing, along with all of the RWPGs might be lost in the noise when all of this is said and done. The TWDB is still in their rule-making process and maybe they will hear us. David Meesey responded that that the TWDB had that discussion internally. The TWDB's working assumption

is that the prioritization will be given great weight when it comes to administering the SWIFT funds. Suzanne Scott asked Mr. Mims if the Stakeholder Committee gets together and looks over the comments from the TWDB, and makes modifications to the matrix, will the Planning Group then go back through and tweak the prioritization list before submitting the final prioritization of the 2011 RWP? Mr. Mims confirmed. Mrs. Scott then asked if that prioritization would then be used for any funding decision that they would be making now in advance of the 2016 plan, because it has been understood that TWDB wants to try to get some of that money out there funding projects before the 2016 plan becomes available for prioritization. Mr. Mims confirmed that there is a narrow window where they would have to rely on 2011 rankings. David Meesey confirmed that the window will be maybe around a year and a half because the projects need to be recommended in both the regional and state water plan.

Thomas Taggart asked Mr. Mims whether the Draft Prioritization for the 2011 plan would include all of the attachments, including the summary report and observations for the TWDB's consideration. Mr. Mims confirmed that it would.

Tyson Broad with the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, raised some concerns he had regarding the Planning Group's comments on the prioritization process. Under the "Project Feasibility" section on the "Interpretive Assumptions for Application of Uniform Standards for Prioritization," there's the discussion of how to treat overdrafts. Mr. Broad pointed out that there may be some cases with new surface water rights that may be subject to reductions that come out of the adaptive management process as part of Senate Bill 3. Those rights could be reduced by as much as 12.5%.

Mr. Broad also had comments regarding the Summary Report's "Interpretive Assumptions for Application of Uniform Standards for Prioritization" section, item number 4(B)(i) on "Project Sustainability." Under the term "decreases," Drought Management is listed as a factor that results in a decrease to a water supply project. Mr. Broad suggested that in order to avoid confusion, the term that should be used here is "Drought Restrictions". Drought restrictions such as Critical Period Management restrictions on Edwards Aquifer permits do indeed reduce the amount of available supply. Drought Management, on the other hand, is a water management strategy that is used by the planning group to increase or extend the water supply for projects, much like Municipal Conservation. Therefore, Drought Management should be listed under factors that increase supplies, alongside Municipal Conservation.

Mr. Sam Vaughn, HDR Engineering added that the key reason Drought Management was used as a "decrease" in this section was because, in the 2011 RWP, that strategy was identified specifically as a short term WMS only in the first decade. In the subsequent decades, water provider is planning to meet projected needs, rather than planning to not meet them.

Tyson Broad suggested that in terms of how we treat Drought Management for the 2016 planning cycle, the terminology of Drought Management, as opposed to Drought Restrictions, seems contradictory to the potential reader.

Dianne Wassenich inquired about the reasoning the TWDB uses a statewide scoring matrix developed and put together by the chairs' Stakeholder Committee, asking if the reason was that the State wanted the scoring to be comparable across all the regional plans. Ms. Wassenich understood that the rankings with the scores will be compared statewide to each other, and those that are ranked highest will be looked at first for funding. David Meesey, TWDB, could not confirm that understanding. He indicated that only so many projects are ready to go and accept funding at any one time. Hence, if there's enough money for everyone needing it at a given point, TWDB



hopes to fund everyone. The priority ranking might not even be looked at. However, TWDB is still figuring these details out. Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, added that the rankings will not come into play unless an entity actually comes forward and applies for funding. Bill West noted that TWDB will be under a lot of pressure to allocate funds across the state throughout different regions. Mr. Mims agreed and reminded the group that there are other items that TWDB will have to consider outside the prioritization. This is just one criterion that TWDB can use to consider for funding purposes.

Suzanne Scott announced that Mr. Broad's comments regarding the terminology used in the "Interpretive Assumption for Application of Uniform Standards for Prioritization" section on "Project Feasibility" could be added to the Prioritization Workgroup's Compilation of Observations and Comments that will be submitted, along with the prioritization, to the TWDB. She also mentioned that the TWDB will still accept public comments throughout the process. Mr. Broad said he would prepare the comments for inclusion in the compilation.

Mr. Mims asked for any further comments. There were none.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Authorizing Administrator to Submit Draft Project Prioritization Report to TWDB**

Thomas Taggart made a motion to authorize the San Antonio River Authority, as Administrator to submit the draft Project Prioritization Report to TWDB. Suzanne Scott and Gene Camargo seconded the motion. Mr. Mims asked for any objections. There were none. The motion was approved.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Submittal of Technical Memorandum to TWDB by August 1, 2014.**

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, presented the explanation of the Technical Memorandum to the Planning Group members. At the beginning of this process, the TWDB had envisioned a process by which a technical memorandum would be written detailing how the Planning Group went about determining existing supplies, the population water demand projections and how needs were going to be calculated. The technical memorandum is due August 1, 2014. Essentially, it is a report that is run out of the database DB17. That report is not ready at this time. The database is not capable of generating that report at this time because we are still waiting on certain data from the TWDB. Eventually, before August 1, the database will generate the numbers that are the water demand projections. All of the existing supplies we have calculated at this time are in the database. The MAG numbers come from the TWDB. HDR will need to populate the data before running the report. The problem is that the Technical Memorandum is due August 1, 2014, which is before the next regularly scheduled Planning Group meeting. HDR asked that this item be placed on the agenda today so that the Planning Group could give authorization to Chairman Mims to review and submit the Technical Memorandum upon his approval.

Suzanne Scott asked that the Technical Memorandum be sent out to the Planning Group in advance, to allow members the opportunity to comment prior to Mr. Mims submitting the Technical Memorandum. Mr. Perkins said that in theory, allowing the Planning Group to review the Technical Memorandum prior to Mr. Mims submitting it should not be a problem. It will depend on the timing of the TWDB database going online. Mr. Mims confirmed that if timing allows, he will allow the Planning Group to review the Technical Memorandum with the opportunity for comment prior to submitting the Technical Memorandum to TWDB.

Dianne Wassenich made a motion to authorize Chairman Mims to review and submit the Technical Memorandum to TWDB by August 1, 2014, but allow the Planning Group members to review it if possible. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. Mr. Mims asked for any discussion or objection. There were none. The motion was approved.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Consultants Work and Schedule**

Mr. Perkins, HDR Engineering, presented an update on the schedule for work plan development highlighting upcoming Planning Group deadlines. Mr. Perkins also provided an update on the potential issues to the planning process that HDR and the Administrator are tracking.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Evaluation of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies (Task 4B), Draft Scopes of Work and Budgets for Submittal to TWDB and Inclusion into Planning Contract, TWDB Contract No. 1148301323**

Mr. Perkins, HDR Engineering, requested Planning Group authorization to perform technical evaluations for three additional Water Management Strategies (WMSs) and to submit the projects to TWDB for inclusion into the Planning Contract. The projects presented for the Planning Group's consideration were as follows: 1) Vista Ridge Project (SAWS), 2) Storage Above Canyon Reservoir (ASR), 3) Hays/ Caldwell PUA – Texas Water Alliance Joint Project, with the total estimated costs of the authorization being \$28,100.00. Mr. Perkins provided a list of WMSs previously approved throughout this planning cycle with current Region L budget figures reflecting the authorization costs of the three projects being considered. He noted that there is about \$61,254.00 left for future authorizations to be used throughout the remainder of the 2016 regional planning cycle.

Art Dohmann made the motion to authorize HDR Engineering to perform the technical evaluation for the three additional WMSs; and to submit the three additional WMSs to the TWDB for inclusion in the 2016 Regional Water Plan. Don Dietzmann seconded the motion. Mr. Mims asked for discussion or objections. There were none. The motion carried by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Authorizing Administrator to Submit Request for Notice-to-Proceed for Evaluation of Water Management Strategies and Authorize Administrator to Execute Contract Amendment with TWDB**

Dianne Wassenich made a motion to authorize the San Antonio River Authority as the Administrator to submit the request for Notice-to-Proceed for the evaluation of the three WMSs (Agenda Item No. 14) and authorizing the administrator to execute the contract amendment with TWDB. Doug McGooky seconded the motion. Mr. Mims asked if there were any objections. There were none. The motion was carried by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies (Task 4B), Draft Scopes of Work and Budgets for Consideration at the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group Meeting**

Mr. Perkins began by presenting a graphic to address what affects the implementation of the recommendation and policy of Carrizo Workgroup would have on the Planning Group's ability to

meet needs with WMSs. He then proceeded to seek consent from the Planning Group to draft scopes of work and budgets for two potentially feasible water management strategies for consideration at the August 2014 meeting. The two projects included a Seawater Desalination Project sponsored by SAWS, which would be an update to the plan previously approved in the 2011 plan. The other plan proposed for scopes of work and budget was a Steam Electric Project sponsored by GBRA.

Mr. Bill West made a motion to authorize the technical consultant, HDR Engineering, to draft scopes of work and budgets for the projects. Mr. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. Mr. Mims asked if there were any discussion or objections. There were none. The motion carried by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Evaluation and Recommendation of Water Management Strategies (WMSs) (Task 4D)**

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, presented ten technical evaluations to the Planning Group. The first evaluation was on the Facilities Expansion WMS. This evaluation includes a number of small projects that include the expansion of major components of existing infrastructure so Water User Groups (WUGs) can continue to provide a safe and reliable water supply to their customers during the planning period. The WUGs included in this WMS were Atascosa Rural WSC, the City of Helotes, Gonzales County WSC, Springs Hill WSC, Yancey WSC, SAWS, Port O'Connor, and CCMA.

Mr. Perkins presented the evaluation for the Local Groundwater Supplies WMS. This WMS is developed to culminate all of those entities that are a one supply source. WMS is broken down to an aquifer by aquifer basis: Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, Gulf Coast Aquifer, Trinity Aquifer, and Leona Gravels Aquifer. Other than specific municipal WUGs, there are also a few County Other entities that have needs throughout the region. Mr. Perkins noted that in projects where the current MAG was already occupied to capacity, the recommended strategies were scaled down to meet MAG limits, while accounting for potential water transfers. However, the initial envisioned WMSs will be included as alternative WMSs, allowing for an expedited amendment to the Regional Water Plan should the MAG change.

Mr. Perkins also presented the technical evaluations for New Braunfels Utilities (NBU) Trinity Wells, Canyon Regional Water Alliance (CRWA) Wells Ranch Phase II, Brackish Wilcox for CRWA, Expanded Local Carrizo for SAWS, Local Brackish Wilcox for SAWS, Expanded Brackish Wilcox for SAWS (Wilson County), Carrizo for Cibolo Valley LGC, and Brackish Wilcox Groundwater for SS WSC.

There was discussion regarding MAG limits as it relates to prioritization. It was clarified that the TWDB will not allow projects that exceed MAG limits in the Regional Water Plan as recommended strategies, but that projects that are envisioned to exceed MAG limits could be included in the Regional Water Plan as alternative strategies. Only recommended strategies are eligible for state funding.

However, the point was reiterated that an alternative strategy could potentially replace the recommended strategy if the MAG limits changed in a way that would allow for the alternative

strategy to operate within the new MAG limits. It was further explained that projects included in the plan as alternative strategies can still be pursued assuming the permits are available for transfer and the groundwater conservations district is willing to issue the permits. It was emphasized that these factors are outside the scope of Region L authority. A regional water planning group cannot issue permits. Because TWDB allows strategies that project a MAG limited zero firm yield, the Planning Group can recommend viable strategies to meet the needs of water users that will not necessarily be pursued with SWIFT funding. However, if the MAG limits change, or the water user acquires permits within the MAG sufficient for the project, the project will already be in the plan and can easily become eligible for funding without having to file a Major Amendment.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group Meeting**

Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group members for any suggested agenda items to be placed on the agenda for the August 2014 meeting. There were none at the time.

Bill West notified the group that GBRA initiated some legal proceedings last week in Travis County. The purpose for the litigation is to protect GBRA's existing water rights at the lower end of the Guadalupe River Basin, and to authorize the bond financing of the Lower Guadalupe Basin Storage Project.

Meeting Adjourned.

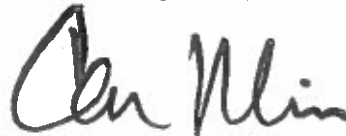
Recommended for approval.



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GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014.



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CON MIMS, CHAIR