

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
February 2, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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-eight of the 29 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

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| Jena Leathers for Jason Ammerman | Mike Mahoney |
| Tim Andruss | Dan Meyer |
| Donna Balin | Gary Middleton |
| Evelyn Bonavita | Con Mims |
| Darrell Brownlow | Ron Naumann |
| Rey Chavez | Annalisa Peace for Iliana Pena |
| Alan Cockerell | Darren Thompson for Robert Puente |
| Will Conley | Steve Ramsey |
| Don Dietzmann | Suzanne Scott |
| Art Dohmann | Greg Sengelmann |
| Rick Illgner for Karl Dreher | Milton Stolte |
| Kevin Janak | Tom Taggart |
| Bill Jones | Jim Murphy for Bill West |
| John Kight | Tony Wood |

Voting Members Absent:

Vic Hilderbran

Non-Voting Members Present:

Norman Boyd, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)
Matt Nelson, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Ken Weidenfeller, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)
Albert Garces, South Texas Water Master, Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Public Comment

There was no public comment at the time.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes

Chairman Con Mims asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from May 5, 2011 and August 4, 2011 or a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ron Naumann made a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2012

Mr. Mims opened the nominations for election of officers for Region L by asking for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Suzanne Scott made a motion to nominate Mr. Mims to serve as Chairman. Ron Naumann seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

Mr. Mims asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Mrs. Scott made a motion to nominate Mike Mahoney to serve as Vice-Chair. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

Mr. Mims asked for nominations for Secretary. Mr. Taggart made a motion to nominate Gary Middleton to serve as Secretary. Karl Dreher seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

Mr. Mims asked for nominations for the two At-Large Member positions. Mrs. Scott made a motion to nominate Evelyn Bonavita and Mr. Naumann as At-Large Members. Tony Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Status of Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP)

Dr. Robert Gulley, EARIP, provided an update of EARIP activities to the Planning Group. Dr. Gulley stated the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and the funding mechanism for the HCP has been submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for initial review. A permit number was appointed to the HCP and forwarded to Austin and Albuquerque for additional review and processing. The process is going well. The next step will be putting the HCP out for public comment. At this time, the plan is to begin implementation on January 1, 2013.

Dr. Gulley also stated that with the approval of the HCP by the Edwards Aquifer Authority, to a great extent the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Committee will continue to function, but the largest part of the day-to-day management of the HCP will fall to an Implementing Committee which will consist of the five applicants of the permit: EAA, SAWS, City of New Braunfels and City of San Marcos, Texas State University. In addition, GBRA will serve as a non-voting member of the Implementing Committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Chair's Report

Mr. Mims had no report at the time.

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

Matt Nelson, TWDB, informed the Planning Group the TWDB is going through rules revisions for Regional Water Planning and State Water Planning rules. A pre-publication draft was sent to all planning group members and stakeholders for early input to incorporate into the formal draft for publication. Should anyone have any additional comments, please forward to Mr. Nelson as soon as possible for incorporation into the informal draft revisions. There is not a set date for publication of the draft rules at this time, but once they have been approved by TWDB

to be published, public comments will be accepted for 30 days. The public comments will be incorporated into the draft rules and the draft rules will go back to TWDB for approval of changes. The draft rules will be published again for public comment for 30 days. Upon completion of the public comment period, the final draft rules will be presented to TWDB for final approval and adoption. Mr. Nelson then reviewed proposed revisions and new requirements within the informal draft rule revisions to date.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Proposed Region L By-Laws Revisions

Mr. Mims stated several amendments to the Region L By-Laws are being considered in the category of membership (Article V Voting Membership) on the planning group. The proposed amendments would address membership designated by groundwater management areas, which is a voting membership and represented in the attached draft by-laws in red (Section 1 Composition; Section 2 Terms of Office; Section 5 Attendance; and Section 7 Removal of Voting Members). Rick Illgner made a motion to approve proposed amendments to by-laws as presented, with two clarification suggestions. Mr. Mahoney seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: 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)

Mrs. Scott, Chair of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays Basin and Bay Stakeholder Committee (GSA BBASC) provided a brief update and a Summary of Recommendations from GSA BBASC for Environmental Flows.

Mr. Mims asked Mrs. Scott if BBASC recommendations are approved by TCEQ, what will the effects be on the yield of existing approved Region L water management strategies in the affected areas. Mrs. Scott stated only one currently approved Region L water management strategy on the Guadalupe was modeled for GSA BBASC and the analysis provided only a slight decrease in yield (from 25,000 ac-ft/year to 22,800 ac-ft/year).

Steve Raabe, SARA, followed by clarifying what this mean for regional water planning. The first three regional water plans used Consensus Criteria for Environmental Flows Needs (CCEFNN) developed by the three state agencies (TCEQ, TWDB and Texas Parks and Wildlife) to use in evaluating surface water management strategies that go into the regional plan. When TCEQ adopts the new rules for environmental flow standards they will be, in essence, adopting new standards for evaluating water management strategies for the Guadalupe and San Antonio River basins, as well as the Nueces, which will replace the former CCEFNN, for regional water planning.

Dianne Wassenich, Co-Chair of GSA BBASC, commented that the GSA BBASC recommendations and what the stakeholders are trying to show is how we can shape water projects into the future, similarly to what Region L does, providing water for both the environment and human needs.

Mr. Mims, as Chair of the Nueces River and Corpus Christi and Baffin Bays Stakeholder Committee (Nueces BBASC), stated the Nueces BBASC have received the Nueces BBEST

report and are meeting to review the report. The Nueces BBEST has concluded that parts of the Nueces River Basin as being in an unsound ecological condition (Nueces Bay and Estuary). The designation could potentially affect the eligibility to secure future water rights in the basin, as well as the ability to permit Edwards Aquifer Recharge facilities we have in Region L. Mr. Mims will continue to update the Planning Group as studies in the Nueces River Basin occur.

Sam Vaughn, Chair of Nueces BBEST, stated the consensus view of the Nueces BBEST of the unsound condition of the Nueces Bay, is based on a variety of things; the primary factor considered was the change in the ability to support the species that have lived there historically but are not as prevalent now. The key species is oysters. Freshwater inflow has been a factor, as well as sediment transport changing the character of the delta, and frequency of inundation of the delta area.

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

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, reviewed the current proposed schedule for work plan development. At this time, there is a delay in completing some tasks due to not having the draft Population and Water Demand Projections data. The Population and Water Demand Projections are the demands that are to be met by existing water supply and recommended Water Management Strategies. The schedule will be updated continuously throughout the planning process.

Mr. Perkins presented a draft letter to TWDB requesting approval of the hydrologic assumptions and models Region L will use in development of the 2016 Regional Water Plan (RWP). The draft letter of approval has two attachments for review and discussion, Attachment A, Hydrologic Assumption and Operational Procedures for Assessment of Groundwater and Surface Water Supply and Attachment B, Hydrologic Models.

Mr. Perkins reviewed Attachment A with the Planning Group, pointing out new or revised assumptions to be used. Jerry James asked Mr. Perkins to add the City of Gonzales to item 5, entities reporting/listing effluent discharge/return flow in the Guadalupe-San Antonio River Basin.

Mr. Perkins then reviewed Attachment B with the Planning Group, discussing the hydrologic models for groundwater and surface water that could potentially be used by HDR in developing the regional water plan. Mr. Vaughn stated that the Flow Regime Application Tool is used to evaluate Water Management Strategies with complex environmental flow standards.

Mr. Middleton made a motion to approve the letter requesting TWDB approval of the hydrologic assumptions and models to be used in the development of the 2016 RWP. Ms. Bonavita seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Developing a Process of Identifying Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies

Mr. Perkins, HDR Engineering, presented the outline for the process of identifying potentially feasible water management strategies HDR will use to develop the 2016 RWP.

Mr. Naumann made a motion to approve the Identification of Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies as presented. Mr. Middleton seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections

Mr. Perkins, HDR Engineering, provided a breakdown of the non-municipal water demand projections, to include irrigation, manufacturing/industry, steam-electric power, mining and livestock; and a comparison of the proposed projections with the adopted 2012 State Water Plan Projections.

Mr. Mims suggested a sub-workgroup to review the non-municipal water demand projections and make recommendations at the next Planning Group meeting for discussion and action. Darrell Brownlow volunteered to chair the sub-workgroup. The sub-workgroup will consist of Mr. Brownlow, Mr. Mahoney, Art Dohmann, Rey Chavez, Milton Stolte, Kevin Janak, John Waugh, (SAWS), Mr. Nelson (TWDB) and HDR Engineering.

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

Mr. Mims proposed the following agenda item for the May 3, 2012 meeting:

- EARIP Update
- Status of SB3, Environmental Flows Process
- Discussion Regarding TWDB Projections
- Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Region L By-Laws, Section 5 Attendance

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

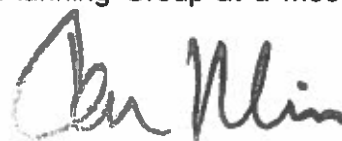
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 2:03 p.m.

Recommended for approval.



GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on August 2, 2012.



CON MIMS, CHAIR