

**Minutes of the  
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
February 3, 2011**

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.

Nineteen of the 22 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

**Voting Members Present:**

Jason Ammerman	Ron Naumann
Donna Balin	Iliana Peña
Evelyn Bonavita	Robert Puente
Darrell Brownlow	Suzanne Scott
Rey Chavez	Steve Ramsey
Mike Fields	Milton Stolte
John Kight	Tom Taggart
Mike Mahoney	Jim Murphy for Bill West
Gary Middleton	Tony Wood
Con Mims	

**Voting Members Absent:**

Tim Andruss  
Bill Jones  
David Langford

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Ron Fiesler, Lower Colorado RWPG  
Matt Nelson, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)  
Ken Weidenfeller, Texas Department of Agriculture

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

There were no public comments at this time.

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

Chairman Con Mims asked if there were any corrections to be made to the minutes. Evelyn Bonavita asked that a correction be made to Agenda Item No. 2 of the minutes, reflecting the appropriate title, "League of Women Voters". Mr. Mims asked for a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Ms. Bonavita made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Ron Naumann seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

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

Dr. Robert Gulley, EARIP, provided an update of EARIP activities to the Planning Group. The EARIP has continued to work on the final plan and development of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Part of the package EARIP is charged with completing is to find funding to implement the final plan and processes. The EARIP has been discussing strategies to propose funding for implementation. Three options under consideration are potential federal funding through grants programs, regional funding divided equally between pumpers and non-pumpers, and/or a regional sales tax. Dr. Gulley stated the statute requires a final HCP, to include demonstrating adequate funding is available for implementation of the HCP. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services will not be able to approve the final plan if the EARIP is unable to demonstrate that adequate funding of any actions proposed within the final HCP is available.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Chair's Report**

Mr. Mims informed the Planning Group two errata's to the 2011 Regional Water Plan have been posted to the Region L website and provided to TWDB by HDR Engineering. Neither errata's affect the plan, but were slight editing corrections.

Mr. Mims asked Robert Puente to provide a brief update on SAWS' new water supply contract, importing water from Gonzales County through existing pipelines, rather than building new pipelines. Mr. Puente stated the regional partnership between all parties involved, to include Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation (SSLGC), the cities of Schertz, Nixon, and Seguin contributed to the overall success of the project.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Election of Planning Group Officers and At-Large Executive Committee Members for 2011**

Mr. Mims opened the floor to nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and two At-Large positions to serve for 2011. Milton Stolte made a motion to nominate the current Executive Committee Members. Mr. Puente seconded the motion. The current Executive Committee Members agreed to serve another term. The motion carried by consensus.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Replacement of Planning Group Members**

Mr. Mims informed the Planning Group that he received a call from David Langford, who currently represents the Agricultural interest on the Planning Group. Mr. Langford is stepping down from his position on Region L effective immediately. Mr. Langford's term expires August 2011 and will be open for nominations at that time. Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group if they would like to solicit to fill the vacancy at this time, or wait until the nomination process begins at the May 5, 2011 meeting at which time the administrator will request authorization to begin the nomination process for expiring terms. The members stated their preference to wait for the next nomination process in May.

Mr. Mims informed the Planning Group four nominations were received for the two vacant Water District positions and three nominations were received for one vacancy in Counties. The Executive Committee met on January 20, 2011 to conduct interviews with all nominees. The Executive Committee recommends Karl Dreher, General Manager, Edwards Aquifer Authority

and Greg Sengelmann, General Manager, Gonzales County Underground Water District to represent the interest category, Water Districts, in the two vacancies. The Executive Committee then recommended Commissioner Will Conley, Hays County Commissioner, to represent Counties in the Counties interest category.

Tom Taggart made a motion to approve the Executive Committee's nominations for all three vacancies. Tony Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: 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, Chair of BBASC, provided a brief history of the BBASC charge, as well as the many processes the Expert Science Team studies to develop their recommendation report to the Stakeholder Committee. The BBASC has been charged to review the environmental flow analyses and environmental flow regime recommendations submitted by the Expert Science Team (BBEST) and consider them in conjunction with other factors, including present and future needs for water for other uses related to water supply planning in the pertinent river basin and bay system. BBASC shall develop recommendations regarding environmental flow standards and strategies to meet the environmental flow standards and submit those recommendations to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas Environmental Flows Advisory Group.

Ms. Scott informed the Planning Group the Expert Science Team will submit their final report/recommendations, which will be based on best available science, to the Stakeholder Committee by March 1, 2011. The Stakeholder Committee will then use the recommendations to develop their final recommendation report to TCEQ. The BBASC meets next March 2, 2011 at SAWS.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Communications**

Matt Nelson, TWDB, informed the Planning Group Kevin Ward, TWDB Executive Administrator, is leaving TWDB and the Interim Executive Administrator will be Melanie Callahan.

Mr. Nelson gave a brief update on the upcoming fourth cycle regional water planning cycle and initial funding available to planning groups to begin developing the 2016 Regional Water Plan (RWP). Mr. Nelson stated population estimates from the new census may be available by the end of the year, which will then be broken down to cities and counties by the state demographer. TWDB will provide draft numbers early 2012, but non-population numbers will be available this summer. The Managed Available Groundwater numbers (total pumping numbers) may be available in December 2011 or January 2012.

Mr. Nelson informed the Planning Group a summary of all regional water plans is now available on the TWDB website for review.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion and Appropriate Action to Authorize Administrator to Provide Public Notice and Submit a Grant Application for Regional Planning Grant Funding to TWDB for the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning**

Mr. Mims asked Mr. Nelson to provide background on the grant application process, as well as the initial scope of work TWDB has provided to begin developing the 2016 RWP. Mr. Nelson confirmed TWDB will provide opportunity for planning group's to comment and negotiate on draft population numbers and water demands during the fourth cycle planning process within their areas, using new census numbers.

Mike Fields made a motion to approve authorizing administrator to provide public notice and submit a grant application for regional planning grant funding to TWDB for the fourth cycle of regional water planning. Mr. Stolte seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discussion and Appropriate Action to Authorize Administrator to Provide Public Notice and Hold a Public Meeting to Take Input for the Scope of Work for Region L for the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning**

Mr. Mims asked for a motion approving authorizing administrator to provide public notice and hold a public meeting to take input for the scope of work for Region L for the fourth cycle of regional water planning. John Kight made a motion to approve. Mr. Fields seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Discussion and Appropriate Action Authorizing Administrator to Solicit Requests for Proposal for Regional Water Planning Consultant Services**

Erin Newberry, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), discussed the re-solicitation process for consultant services for the fourth cycle of regional water planning. The Request for Proposal will be based on draft scope of work and initial funding currently provided by TWDB. Mrs. Newberry asked the Planning Group to provide direction on several items for the solicitation process.

Mrs. Newberry briefed that SARA, as administrator for Region L, would like to solicit for one agreement with a consultant team or firm that could provide all consultant services deemed necessary by the planning group during the planning process (technical, public participation and/or facilitation). The Planning Group agreed one agreement with a primary consultant would be more efficient. The Planning Group also agreed the RFP should be for technical consultant services; however, sub-contracting for other services may be needed at a later date and should be based on Planning Group approval of such services.

The Planning Group selected seven Planning Group members to serve as a Selection Committee, to review submissions, interview firms and bring back a consultant recommendation to the May 5, 2011 meeting. At that time, the Planning Group will make a final selection for consultant services. The Selection Committee will be Mr. Dreher, Mr. Mims, Mr. Puente, Mr. West, Ms. Bonavita, Mr. Taggart, and Mrs. Scott.

Mrs. Newberry also presented a draft of SARA's standard evaluation criteria for RFP's in the agenda packet. The Planning Group reviewed the criteria and suggested minor revisions.

Donna Balin asked if the criteria could specify all submitting firms should disclose any existing contracts for projects within Region L that could be a conflict of interest. Mrs. Scott stated just because a consultant firm may have a contract with an entity within Region L, it is not necessarily deemed a conflict of interest. The process of selecting a consultant should be done in the spirit of full disclosure. Any consultant firm submitting a proposal should disclose their contracts with entities in the region in a show of full disclosure; however it shouldn't be recognized that if that firm has contracts with entities within the region, it would be considered a conflict of interest by the Selection Committee.

Mr. Mims stated Mrs. Newberry can draft the RFP, as well as the evaluation criteria and forward to the Selection Committee for final review before posting the RFP. This action was acceptable to the planning group.

Mr. Kight made a motion to approve authorizing administrator to solicit Requests for Proposals for Regional Water Planning Consultant Services. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Discussion Regarding Proposed Legislation Affecting Groundwater Ownership**

James Murphy, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, provided a brief description of Senate Bill 332 (SB 332) and how, if the bill passed, it would affect regional water planning.

#### **Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group**

Mr. Mims proposed the following agenda item for the May 5, 2011 meeting:

- EARIP Update
- Status of SB3, Environmental Flows Process
- Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Consultant Selection for the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning
- Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Authorizing Administrator to Begin Soliciting Nominations for SCTRWPG Voting Members Whose Terms Expire in August 2011
- Public Meeting to Receive Input from the Public on Scope of Planning Activities to be Considered During the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning

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

There were no public comments made.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 12:48 p.m.

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 May 5, 2011.

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

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CON MIMS, CHAIR