

**Minutes of the  
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
February 6, 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:**

Mark Meek for Tim Andruss	Gary Middleton
Donna Balin	Con Mims
Gene Camargo	Iliana Pena
Patrick Garcia for Rey Chavez	Robert Puente
Alan Cockerell	Steve Ramsey
Don Dietzmann	David Roberts
Art Dohmann	Roland Ruiz
Blair Fitzsimons	Diane Savage
Vic Hilderbran	Suzanne Scott
Kenneth Eller for Kevin Janak	Greg Sengelmann
John Kight	Thomas Taggart
Gená Leathers	Dianne Wassenich
Doug McGooky	James Murphy for Bill West
Dan Meyer	

**Voting Members Absent:**

Will Conley  
Milton Stolte

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

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

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

John Kight requested his letter be recorded in the minutes and proceeded to read the attached letter to the Planning Group. (Letter dated February 6, 2014 from John C. Kight, PE (Retired) is attached).

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

Mr. Mims asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 7, 2013 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: Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2014**

Mr. Mims began the election of officers by confirming that voting members shall elect officers from among the nominees by consensus or by affirmative vote of a majority of the voting membership. Presently, the voting membership is 29 voting members and a majority would be 15. Also, no two voting members representing the same interest shall serve as members of the Executive Committee at the same time. Included in the agenda packets is a current list of voting members and their designated Interest category they represent to assist in the nominations.

Mr. Mims asked for nominations for the election of officers beginning with Chairman. Dianne Wassenich nominated Mr. Mims to serve as Chair, John Kight seconded the nomination. David Roberts nominated Tim Andruss to serve as Chair, Jim Murphy seconded the nomination. Mr. Mims was re-elected to serve as Chair by majority vote.

Suzanne Scott nominated Roland Ruiz to serve as Vice Chair, Gene Camargo seconded the nomination. Art Dohmann nominated Mr. Andruss to serve as Vice Chair, Mr. Murphy seconded the nomination. Mr. Andruss was elected to serve as Vice Chair by majority vote.

Mr. Mims then asked for nominations for Secretary. Mr. Kight made a motion to re-elect Gary Middleton as Secretary. Robert Puente seconded the nomination. The motion carried by consensus and Mr. Middleton was re-elected to serve as Secretary by consensus.

Mr. Mims asked for nominations for the two At-Large positions. Mr. Murphy nominated Donna Balin to serve in the At-Large position. Mr. Dohmann seconded the nomination. The motion carried by consensus. Mrs. Balin was elected to serve as an At-Large Executive Committee officer.

Mr. Murphy nominated Don Dietzmann for the second vacant At-Large position on the Executive Committee, and Mr. Dohmann nominated Kevin Janak. A majority vote could not be reached. Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group if it would hold filling the vacancy of the second At-Large position until the May meeting when both nominees were in attendance to see if a majority vote or a consensus could be reached. The Planning Group members agreed to move filling this vacancy to the May meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Status of Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)**

Nathan Pence, EAHCP Executive Director, provided a brief overview of progress on the HCP. Mr. Pence stated the completion of the first year of implementation and currently working on the annual report due as part of the Incidental Take Permit. The report is due to US Fish and Wildlife Service on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The report is a great summary of all the accomplishments implemented over the first year. Information from the draft report may be obtained at the

website, [www.eahcp.org](http://www.eahcp.org). The annual report will be presented at the March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Implementing Committee meeting. There will also be a presentation of the take estimation and methodology to determine the amount of take under the permit for the year 2013.

Mr. Pence also stated the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program (EARIP) planning process was awarded the Secretary of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: 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), informed the Planning Group TWDB approved the solicitation for funding of studies allocated in the last Legislation for implementation of the Work Plan. TWDB has not posted the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to date but should be doing so soon. Funds, totaling up to \$750,000, were requested as follows:

- (a) Texas Instream Flow Program Studies (\$200,000)
- (b) Lower Basin/Estuarine Inflow Studies (\$200,000)
- (c) *Rangia* Clam Investigations (\$150,000)
- (d) Key estuarine faunal species studies (\$150,000)
- (e) Strategy Options for Meeting Attainment Frequencies for the Estuaries (\$50,000)

The GSA BBASC will be coordinating efforts with TWDB, the GSA BBEST and other agencies to seek studies, in accordance with its work plan that builds upon existing data, existing or ongoing research, and/or requires limited additional field work to assist in the validation or refinement of the adopted Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) environmental flow standards in sustaining the environmental health of the rivers, bays and estuaries.

The next GSA BBASC meeting is tentatively scheduled March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 based on the final submission deadlines of the RFQ.

Mr. Mims, Chair of the Nueces River and Corpus Christi and Baffin Bays Stakeholder Committee (BBASC), informed the Planning Group the Nueces Work Plan and budget has been submitted to TWDB with a request for funding of \$312,500 to accomplish four studies related to coastal freshwater inflow issues. The studies are expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2015 and do not affect Region L water planning. TCEQ's rule adoption for the Nueces is scheduled for the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 board agenda. Once the environmental flow regime has been adopted by TCEQ, all the environmental flow requirements established for the San Antonio, Guadalupe and Nueces river basins. For Region L planning purposes, TCEQ adopted flow regimes will be used instead of Consensus Criteria previously used for surface water modeling.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Chair's Report**

- **Report on Uniform Standards to be Used by Regional Water Planning Groups to Prioritize Projects**

- **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Creation of Work Group to Begin Draft Prioritization Projects from 2011 RWP**
- **Report by SAWS on Bed and Banks Permit Application**

Mr. Mims provided an update to the Planning Group on the status of the Regional Water Planning Group Project Prioritization Committee, of which he is a stakeholder representing Region L. The committee was created as a result of House Bill 4 (HB) last legislative session and provided \$2 Billion to capitalize loans to be used to plan and construct projects in the State Water Plan. Under HB4, each Planning Group throughout the state is required to use their existing approved regional water plan (2011 RWP) and prioritize the Recommended Water Management Strategies using a scoring template that has been created by the Prioritization Committee. Mr. Mims stated a copy of the scoring template, Uniform Standards for Prioritization, is in the agenda packet and has been approved by the Board (TWDB). Mr. Mims added he has provided a more detailed report on Uniform Standards to be used by Regional Water Planning Groups to prioritize projects is in the agenda packet.

Mr. Mims would like to create a work group to develop the first draft of project prioritization from the 2011 RWP and submit the list to the Planning Group at the May Planning Group meeting. The Planning Group members had no objection to creating the work group. The work group members are: Mr. Puente, Gená Leathers, Doug McGookey, Mrs. Scott, Tom Taggart, Bill West, Mrs. Balin, Mr. Dietzmann, Greg Sengelmann, Rey Chavez, Mr. Janak, Blair Fitzsimons and Calvin Finch. Mrs. Scott was named Chair. Mrs. Scott will coordinate the first meeting with HDR Engineering, Inc.

Mr. Mims stated Mr. Dohmann had requested a brief presentation on SAWS' Bed and Banks Permit Application for downstream water and introduced Steve Clouse, Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President (SAWS) to give the presentation. Mr. Clouse stated that SAWS is submitting this bed and banks (B&B) application to convey and reuse return flows derived from privately owned groundwater. SAWS intends to reuse 50,000 acre feet of its B&B authorized return flows, less carriage losses, solely for instream use in Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, Goliad, Victoria, Refugio and Calhoun Counties. SAWS intends to use the remainder of its B&B authorized return flows for municipal, agricultural, industrial, mining, and instream use in Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, Goliad, Victoria, Refugio and Calhoun counties. Through this application SAWS is requesting a single diversion point near the mouth of the Guadalupe River.

The wastewater treatment plants in San Antonio produce, in a dry year, about 130,000 ac-ft of water. SAWS allocates 25,000 ac-ft of water to the direct reuse purple pipe recycle system, 50,000 ac-ft to CPS Energy and the remainder (50,000 ac-ft +) is provided to the environment, released into the streams. The water discussed in the permit application is groundwater and is consistent with the wishes of the 1988 City of San Antonio Regional Water Resources Plan. The report developed designated 55,000 ac-ft of water to flow past the Falls City gage on an annualized basis and is consistent with environmental flow standards.

Mr. Clouse stressed those surface water permits issued with reliance on effluent coming from the wastewater treatment plant will be protected and SAWS is not infringing on those permits in any way. The application is focused on groundwater-based effluent SAWS is already discharging potentially being dedicated for environmental purposes under a Bed and Banks authorization. This permit application process may take up to a year or so.

Mrs. Scott asked Mr. Clouse for clarification on the 261,000 ac-ft of water. Currently, SAWS does not need a permit if it chose to use the future flow for direct reuse, which is authorized with the groundwater based component. So this permit application gives SAWS the ability to potentially discharge and keep up to 50,000 ac-ft of water in the streams to provide environmental benefits all the way down to the San Antonio Bay.

After Mr. Clouse's presentation, Mr. Murphy began to give GBRA's opinion on the SAWS bed and banks permit application, at which time Mr. Mims asked the discussion be held for a more appropriate date and time, such as the May meeting. Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group if they would like to see a panel discussion on this topic on the May agenda, which the Planning Group members approved. Mrs. Scott asked that she be able to sit on the panel discussion to speak from the GSA BBASC perspective, as dedication of wastewater return flows is listed as a Strategy in the approved GSA BBASC Work Plan for Adaptive Management and would like for the permit application to be seen from the context of the Senate Bill 3 (SB3) process as well. The Planning Group agreed and Mr. Mims asked the Administrator to add a panel discussion regarding SAWS' Bed and Banks Permit Application on the May agenda.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Authorizing Administrator to Begin Soliciting Nominations for SCTRWPG Water District Vacancy (Term Expires August 2016)**

Mr. Mims informed the Planning Group of Mike Mahoney's resignation as of the previous Planning Group meeting. With the resignation, Mr. Mahoney leaves a vacancy in the Water District Interest category. There are three options before the Planning Group today; (1) the Planning Group may choose not to replace the voting member, (2) choose to seek nominations to fill the Water District vacancy, or (3) choose to change the vacancy to a different Interest category and seek nominations to fill that Interest category.

There were no objections by Planning Group members to keep the Interest category as a Water District vacancy and to seek nominations to fill the vacancy.

Erin Newberry, SARA, provided an overview of the proposed schedule for accepting nominations. A draft copy of the Public Notice was in the agenda packet for review as well as a tentative schedule of the nomination process and a copy of the current members' terms of office.

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

Mr. Mims introduced David Meeseey who will be the new TWDB representative to Region L. Mr. Meeseey also introduced Dr. Larry French, Groundwater Division Director for TWDB. Dr. French accompanied Mr. Meeseey to the Planning Group meeting to answer any questions the Planning Group may have regarding groundwater issues.

Mr. Meeseey provided an update on changes that have taken effect with the passing of Proposition 6. Remaining actions in 2014, TWDB will post instructions for using SWIFT on the TWDB website, by June 1, 2014 Planning Groups must have the first draft of prioritized WMS delivered to TWDB for review and comment and the final list must be submitted by September 1, 2014. By December 1, 2014, TWDB provides a report to the Governor and the Legislature for the regarding the use of SWIFT funds for WMS. The TWDB must adopt rules for allocating

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SWIFT funds for specific purposes and for prioritizing projects. Initially Prepared Plans (IPP) are due to TWDB by the Planning Groups by May 1, 2015. In January 2016, the approved 2016 Regional Water Plans (RWP) with a project priority list will be submitted to TWDB and taken to the Legislature and by December 1, 2016, TWDB will submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the use of SWIFT funds for the 2016 RWPs and progress that has been made.

During project prioritization, Planning Groups must consider decade of need, project feasibility which includes the availability of water rights, project viability, project sustainability, and cost effectiveness.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Report, Discussion and Appropriate Action from Carrizo Aquifer Water Management Strategies Work Group - Greg Sengelmann, Chair**

Mr. Sengelmann provided a status report on work group actions to date on the Carrizo Aquifer WMS work group and restated the work group charge, which was also included in the Summary of Activities and Recommendations in the agenda packet.

Mr. Sengelmann outlined the TWDB memo, "Water for Texas: The Role of Modeled Available Groundwater in Regional Water Planning", also included in the agenda packet, and informed the Planning Group the constraints the work group had to work with to formulate today's recommendations.

In order to accomplish its charge, the workgroup established procedures for compliance with TWDB rules and guidance for the regional water planning, developed explanatory language to protect the interests of all concerned and formulated the recommendations presented today. The group compiled available information on modeled available groundwater (MAGs), exempt and grandfathered water uses, and production permits by aquifer, county, and groundwater conservation district. MAG values were acquired from the TWDB, as approved by the Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs).

After evaluating the compiled information, the consensus of the work group was it should be assumed all allocated groundwater will eventually be used, thus full allocated amounts should be used for planning rather than projected pumpage amounts. If permitted water is not being used by a permit holder, it can be assumed that someone else may purchase the permit or lease the rights to produce groundwater under the permit.

The work group then agreed that for aquifers in counties in which allocated groundwater is less than the MAG, the Planning Group may rely on the full permit amounts for existing uses and potentially feasible WMSs. Additionally, the MAG amount less the allocated groundwater amount can be available for WMSs to the extent they require new permits. However, for counties in which allocated groundwater exceeds the MAG, the work group addressed four key questions:

1. How to address allocated groundwater use in excess of the MAG when determining existing supplies?
  2. How to plan for potentially feasible WMSs where allocated groundwater exceeds the MAG?
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3. How to plan for potentially feasible WMSs where allocated groundwater is less than the MAG, but allocated groundwater plus WMSs exceeds the MAG?
4. How to present the technical evaluations of potentially feasible WMSs with firm supplies proportionately reduced or shown as zero for MAG compliance?

Mr. Sengelmann asked Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, to review the Carrizo Aquifer Work Group Recommendation presentation with the Planning Group in which the above questions were answered, examples of the various scenarios were provided and six recommendations were presented.

1. When allocated groundwater exceeds the MAG in any decade, the Workgroup recommends that exempt use be maintained at the full estimated amount, while the permitted and grandfathered use amounts are reduced proportionately for planning purposes so that the total firm supply equals the MAG.
2. Where potentially feasible WMSs are contemplated that require new permits and allocated groundwater exceeds the MAG, show a firm supply of zero in the plan for the WMSs for planning purposes, but explain that groundwater for the WMSs may be obtained under existing permits through the Carrizo/Wilcox Transfers WMS or under new permits issued in accordance with GCD rules.
3. Where potentially feasible WMSs are contemplated that require new permits and allocated groundwater is less than the MAG, but allocated groundwater plus WMSs exceeds the MAG, show firm supplies of no more than the difference between allocated groundwater and the MAG in the plan for planning purposes, but explain that supplemental groundwater for the WMSs may be obtained under existing permits through the Carrizo/Wilcox Transfers WMS or under new permits issued in accordance with GCD rules.
4. For potentially feasible WMSs with firm supplies proportionately reduced or shown as zero for MAG compliance, evaluate facilities and costs for WMSs at both the reduced firm supply value associated with MAG compliance without transfers and at the supply amount that the sponsor seeks to develop.
5. For existing groundwater supplies that are fully permitted, or grandfathered, by a GCD and are proportionately reduced in quantity for planning purposes in this Plan for MAG compliance, include the following explanatory note in the regional water plan document and database at appropriate locations:

*For each aquifer in the region, the GCDs have adopted desired future conditions (DFCs). In some GCDs, full use of all groundwater supplies (permitted, grandfathered and exempt) may result in non-achievement of the DFCs for an aquifer. To ensure consistency with the DFCs, TWDB currently requires that groundwater availability for each aquifer be limited for planning purposes to the modeled available groundwater (MAG) for the aquifer. This has resulted, for planning purposes only, in adjustments to supply amounts in this plan for some areas for certain time periods. This should not be construed as recommending or requiring that GCDs make these adjustments. SCTRWPG recognizes and supports the ability of permit holders to exercise their rights to groundwater use in accordance with their permits and it recognizes and supports the GCDs'*

*discretion to issue permits and grandfather historical users for amounts in excess of the MAG. SCTRWPG may not modify groundwater permits that GCDs have already issued or limit future permits that GCDs may issue. If the MAG is increased during or after this planning cycle, SCTRWPG may amend this Plan to adjust groundwater supply numbers that are affected by the new MAG amount.*

6. For potentially feasible WMSs that have GCD permits for a portion of the needed supply and the remainder is not yet permitted, include the following explanatory note in the regional water plan document and database at appropriate locations:

*For each aquifer in the region, the GCDs have adopted desired future conditions (DFCs). In some GCDs, full use of all groundwater supplies (permitted, grandfathered and exempt) may result in non-achievement of the DFCs for an aquifer. To ensure consistency with the DFCs, TWDB currently requires that groundwater availability for each aquifer be limited for planning purposes to the modeled available groundwater (MAG) for the aquifer. This has resulted, for planning purposes only, in adjustments to permit amounts, and a lack of firm water available for future permits in this plan for some areas for certain time periods. This should not be construed as recommending or requiring that GCDs make these adjustments, or deny future permit applications. SCTRWPG recognizes and supports the ability of permit holders to exercise their rights to groundwater use in accordance with their permits and it recognizes and supports the GCDs discretion to issue permits and grandfather historical users for amounts in excess of the MAG. SCTRWPG may not modify groundwater permits that GCDs have already issued or limit future permits that GCDs may issue. If the MAG is increased during or after this planning cycle, SCTRWPG may amend this Plan to adjust groundwater supply numbers that are affected by the new MAG amount.*

Mrs. Scott asked Mr. Perkins if HDR Engineering will be able to show the Planning Group where additional water management strategies utilizing other sources of water will be required due to the lack of groundwater availability. Mr. Perkins stated HDR Engineering would be able to provide that information by the May meeting if today's recommendations were approved by the Planning Group.

Mrs. Wassenich repeated the language used in Recommendations 5 and 6, "SCTRWPG recognizes and supports the ability of permit holders to exercise their rights to groundwater use in accordance with their permits and it recognizes and supports the GCDs discretion to issue permits and grandfather historical users for amounts in excess of the MAG." and asked Mr. Sengelmann why the Planning Group had to support the GCD's discretion to issue permits and grandfather historical users for amounts in excess of the MAG. Mr. Sengelmann stated it was to protect the permit holders and the groundwater districts, especially when it comes to proportionately reducing allocated groundwater that exceeds the MAG for planning purposes.

Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group if there was any objection to the six recommendations presented today. There were no objections and the recommendations were approved by consensus. Mr. Mims thanked the work group and technical consultants for the extensive work that was needed to work through the issues and develop the recommendations.



**AGENDA ITEM 10: 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, as well as revisions by TWDB to some of the deadlines and activities. Mr. Perkins also provided an update on the potential issues to the planning process that HDR and the Administrator are tracking, as well as an update to the budget.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: 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**

At the November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Planning Group Meeting, HDR Engineering received authorization to begin drafting scopes of work and budgets for seven additional WMS: 1) Carrizo Transfers, 2) Brush Management, 3) Recycled Water Management Strategy - Amendment, 4) Hays County – Four Star Water, 5) Regional Water Supply Project – RFCSP (SAWS), 6) Regional Brackish Wilcox Project – Alternative (SAWS), and 7) Carrizo/Buda/Austin Chalk/Leona & Regional ASR (City of Uvalde).

Mr. Perkins presented the results to the Planning Group, reviewing each WMS and budget for evaluation with the exception of the Regional Water Supply Project – RFCSP (SAWS). Based on recent information, SAWS agreed to waiting until the May meeting to ask the Planning Group to approve the draft scope of work and budget for submittal to TWDB on this potential water management strategy. Mr. Mims reminded SAWS of the risks associated with waiting past the May meeting to submit this potentially feasible water management strategy for scope and budget and possible inclusion into the regional water plan.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Authorizing Political Subdivision to Submit Request for Notice-to-Proceed for Evaluation of Seven Water Management Strategies and Authorize Administrator to Execute Contract Amendment with TWDB**

Mr. Middleton made a motion to authorize the San Antonio River Authority, as Administrator, to submit a request for Notice-to-Proceed #4 for the evaluation of six WMSs presented by HDR Engineering, and execute a contract amendment with TWDB. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: 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**

Sam Vaughn, HDR Engineering, requested Planning Group authorization to begin drafting scopes of work and budgets for three additional WMS: 1) Storage Above Canyon Reservoir, 2) HCPUA/TWA Joint WMS Project, 3) a surface water component to the HCPUA/TWA Joint WMS at GBRA's request. In addition to the three additional WMS' listed, Mr. Vaughn will complete the

draft scope of work and budget for the WMS previously authorized by the Planning Group, the Regional Water Supply Project – RFCSP (SAWS).

Mr. Taggart asked Mr. Mims if Graham Moore, HCPUA Agency Manager, may speak on behalf of the HCPUA/TWA Joint WMS Project. Mr. Moore thanked the Planning Group for the consideration of the HCPUA/TWA Joint WMS Project and stated GBRA's request today to have HDR Engineering draft a scope of work and budget for a surface water component to HCPUA's project is the first time HCPUA has heard of this request (WMS #3 listed above). HCPUA's board has not considered surface water as a possibility with this project. Therefore HCPUA's board would not like to see inclusion of GBRA's request for surface water as a possible water management strategy with HCPUA and TWA's joint project. Mr. Murphy, GBRA, stated a conjunctive use project has always been studied and a Recommended WMS and GBRA thought the HCPUA/TWA project would be a great opportunity to use the most current data and update the current conjunctive use strategy with the information from the joint HCPUA/TWA project. GBRA has not received authorization from HCPUA or TWA at this time and both HCPUA and TWA currently have permits.

Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group if there were any objections to authorize HDR Engineering to begin drafting a scope of work and budget for HCPUA/TWA Joint WMS Project. The Planning Group had no objections. The motion carried by consensus.

After Planning Group discussions, Mr. Mims recommended all principals involved (HCPUA, TWA and GBRA) meet between now and the May meeting and come back to the Planning Group with a final decision on a joint project, with or without a surface water component for an updated conjunctive use strategy for GBRA.

Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group if there were any objections to authorize HDR Engineering to begin drafting a scope of work and budget for the Storage Above Canyon Reservoir. There were no objections by the Planning Group. The motion carried by consensus.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Evaluation of Water Management Strategies**

Before proceeding with the technical evaluations, Mr. Mims reminded the Planning Group that decisions on whether a WMS presented would be Recommended, Alternate or Needs Further Study will need to be made by November 2014. During the technical consultants' presentation of technical evaluations, Planning Group members are encouraged to ask questions or provide comment. At a future meeting(s), HDR Engineering will ask the Planning Group for recommendations on each strategy (Recommended, Alternative or Needs Further Study) as the technical consultants compile the draft IPP for Planning Group review and authorization.

Mr. Vaugh presented the technical evaluations for the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan and the Edwards Transfers WMSs.

Mr. Perkins presented the technical evaluations for Municipal Water Conservation, Advanced Meter Infrastructure, Direct Recycled Water Programs, CRWA Siesta Project, New Braunfels Utilities ASR Project, and GBRA New Appropriation (Lower Basin).

Mr. Vaugh presented the technical evaluation for the GBRA Mid-Basin Water Supply Project. Mr. Vaugh stated there were four different strategies being pursued in parallel of this project:

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Surface Water and Reservoir, Surface Water and Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR), Conjunctive Use, and a Groundwater Strategy which would be the first step in a Conjunctive Use Strategy. The surface water component also relates to a pending surface water application and the strategy was evaluated consistently with and within the constraints of what was in that application. Of the four strategies being pursued, the hopes are one will become the Recommended WMS and the remainder Alternate WMS.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group Meeting**

Mr. Mims proposed the following agenda items for the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 Planning Group Meeting:

- EAHCP Update
- Status of SB3, Environmental Flows Process
- Report, Discussion and Appropriate Action from Project Prioritization Work Group
- Bed and Banks Panel Discussion
- WMS Technical Evaluations

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Public Comment**

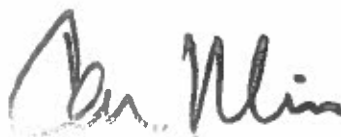
Recommended for approval.



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GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.



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CON MIMS, CHAIR