

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
May 5, 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.

Twenty-three of the 24 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Jason Ammerman	Con Mims
Tim Andruss	Ron Naumann
Tyson Broad for Donna Balin	Iliana Peña
Evelyn Bonavita	Robert Puente
Rey Chavez	Steve Ramsey
Will Conley	Suzanne Scott
Karl Dreher	Greg Sengelmann
Kevin Janak for Mike Fields	Milton Stolle
Bill Jones	Tom Taggart
Micah Voulgaris for John Kight	Bill West
Diane Savage for Mike Mahoney	Tony Wood
Gary Middleton	

Voting Members Absent:

Darrell Brownlow

Non-Voting Members Present:

Norman Boyd, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)
Ron Fiesler, Lower Colorado RWPG
Matt Nelson, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Public Comment

Humberto Ramos, Bexar Metropolitan Water District, introduced Tom Gallier, the new Interim General Manager for Bexar Metropolitan Water District.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Approval of Minutes

Chairman Con Mims asked if there were any corrections to the minutes or a motion to approve the minutes. Gary Middleton made a motion to approve the minutes. 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 developed a good, valuable plan. The funding is divided into two approaches – the first is a regional vote on a possible sales tax to fund the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The EARIP was able to get a hearing with the House of Natural Resources and presented their case for the proposed regional sales tax. The second approach was coming up with a mechanism to fund the HCP within the region; dividing the cost between the pumpers and the non-pumpers. Meetings have been held since early December 2010 regarding this option with both sides continuing communications. Though some suggestions within the EARIP have been to delay the HCP until after the 2013 Legislation Session due to funding issues within the region, the overall consensus is to continue working towards a solution, stay on schedule meeting deadlines in Senate Bill (SB) 3 and come up with a plan that will satisfy the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. Discussions continue within the EARIP to search for creative ways to fund the HCP.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Chair's Report

Mr. Mims had no report at the time, but asked Bill West to discuss any legislation effecting regional water planning. Mr. West stated the largest issue at this time is the budget and potential funds available through the Texas Water Development Board for water projects through loans.

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)

Suzanne Scott, Chair of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas and San Antonio BBASC, provided an update of what BBASC is currently working on. The BBASC has received the report from the BBEST and is reviewing the report, which is extremely comprehensive and complex. The next step for the BBASC will be to take the information from the report and begin to understand the science and how it relates to preserving and protecting the ecology of the rivers, bays and estuaries. The group must also take the science and apply it to human needs for water, to include water supply.

The BBASC has hired a Technical Consultant to apply BBEST flow regime recommendations to various scenarios, both real and hypothetical, to assist stakeholders in understanding how the recommendations are applied and the potential effects.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Authorizing Administrator to Begin Soliciting Nominations for SCTRWPG Voting Members Whose Terms Expire in August 2011 (13 members)

Erin Newberry, SARA, informed the Planning Group that there will be thirteen voting members whose terms expire in August 2011. Ms. Newberry asked the Planning Group for authorization for the Administrator to begin soliciting nominations for the upcoming vacancies.

Ron Naumann made a motion to approve authorizing the administrator to begin the process to solicit nominations for the thirteen vacancies. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

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

Matt Nelson, TWDB, provided an update to the Planning Group on the next steps the Planning Group will be taking for the next round of regional water planning. Mr. Nelson stated the Application for Funding for all sixteen regional water groups will be going before their board in June to ask authorization to begin negotiating and executing contracts for regional water planning grants for the next round. The grant contract will be executed with the Administrator for Region L, the San Antonio River Authority, by August 31, 2011.

Mr. Nelson informed the Planning Group the next round will be different from the last round of regional water planning in that all projections will be revisited from scratch. The planning period will be extended to 2070. The mining projections are available on the TWDB website now for review and comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: CONVENE PUBLIC MEETING to Receive Public Input on Issues that Should be Addressed or Provisions that Should be Included in the Regional or State Water Plan for the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning (Public Meeting Notice Posted Separately on February 18, 2011)

At this time, 10:45 am, Mr. Mims recessed the Region L meeting and convened the Public Meeting.

Mr. Mims convened the public meeting to receive public input on issues that should be addressed or provisions that should be included in the Regional or State Water Plan for the fourth cycle of regional water planning. Mr. Mims received three comment cards.

C. Thomas Koch, P.E., asked the Planning Group to address the assumed cap to be placed on the availability of water from the Trinity Aquifer for water users in Comal County. Mr. Koch stated throughout the first three rounds of regional water planning the cap has been set at less than 1,600 acre-feet per year. This is equivalent to limiting the production from all wells withdrawing water from the Trinity Aquifer in Comal County so that the total production is less than 1,600 gpm, assuming each well is operated 62% of the time. The assumed cap is an issue that needs to be addressed early in the fourth round of regional water planning.

Mr. Koch stated current withdrawals in Comal County already exceed the Region L assumed cap several fold. Comal County is one of the fastest growing counties in Region L and in the future will face a water shortage. The assumed cap on Trinity Aquifer water availability in Comal will determine the year that a major multi-hundred-million dollar water supply project will need to be financed and constructed.

Two Groundwater Management Areas cover Comal County, GMA 9 and GMA 10; which have adopted Desired Future Conditions and preliminary estimates of Managed Available Groundwater for permitting from the Trinity Aquifer. These estimates are substantially different from the assumed cap used in the 2011 Regional Water Plan. The estimates of GMA 9 and GMA 10 need to be incorporated into the regional water plan so water users can plan for future water needs with more certainty than presently exists.

Mr. Koch presented his second public comment on behalf of the Bexar Medina Atascosa Counties Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 ("BMA"). BMA requests that it be included as a Wholesale Water Provider in the fourth round of regional water planning. BMA fulfills the requirements of a wholesale water provider since it has contract for delivery of 19,974 acre-feet per year of municipal water from Medina Lake (via bed and banks of the Medina River) to Bexar Metropolitan Water District. The term of the contract is from January 1, 2008 and continues through December 31, 2049.

Mr. Koch delivered his written comments, in the form of two letters, to Ms. Newberry.

Alan Cockerell, General Manager Schertz-Seguin Local Government Corporation (SSLGC), announced a new organization has been formed to work in conjunction with SSLGC, the Cibolo Valley Local Government Corporation (CVLGC). Five cities have joined Cibolo Valley LGC, Cibolo, Converse, Schertz, Seguin and Selma. The Cibolo Valley LGC will work with SSLGC to complete the Guadalupe County portion of the Regional Carrizo for SSLGC for expansion project, a water management strategy included in the 2011 Regional Water Plan. Both entities will also work together to design and develop the Regional Carrizo/Brackish Wilcox SSLGC Expansion Water Management Strategy which was introduced in the last planning cycle and reflects as a project that requires further study. The entities will work together towards this project becoming a Recommended Strategy.

Kirk Holland, General Manager Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, which is in both Region K and Region L asked for the Planning Group to give serious consideration to brackish groundwater desalination, especially in the Edwards Aquifer. Mr. Holland believes this is a water management strategy whose time has come and Region L can be a catalyst to help overcome of the obstacles regarding Edwards Aquifer desalination.

Mr. Mims asked if there were any additional public comments. As there were none at this time, **Mr. Mims closed the Public Meeting at 10:55 am.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Consultant Selection for the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning

Mr. Mims provided an updated on the selection process for consultant selection for the fourth round of regional water planning. One proposal for consultant services was received from HDR Engineering, Inc. The selection committee reviewed the proposal and is recommending that HDR Engineering, Inc. be approved as Region L's consultant for the fourth cycle of regional water planning.

Milton Stolte made a motion to approve HDR Engineering, Inc. as the selected consultant for Region L for the fourth cycle of regional water planning. Mr. Middleton seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discussion and Appropriate Action Authorizing Administrator to Enter Into a Contract with TWDB for Fourth Cycle Regional Water Planning

Ms. Newberry presented the draft task budget for initial regional water planning from TWDB and requested Planning Group authorization for SARA, as Administrator, to negotiate and enter into a contract with TWDB for the grant contract. The draft task budget has been set at

\$306,119.00, which will assist in developing the Technical Memorandum and the regional water plan. The contract must be executed by August 31, 2011.

Mr. Middleton made a motion to authorize SARA, as Region L's Administrator, to negotiate and enter into a contract with TWDB for Fourth Cycle Regional Water Planning. Mr. Naumann seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

Mr. Mims proposed the following agenda item for the August 4, 2011 meeting:

- EARIP Update
- Status of SB3, Environmental Flows Process
- Replacement of Planning Group Members
- Discussion Regarding TWDB Mining Numbers

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Public Comment

There were no public comments made.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:38 a.m.

Recommended for approval.



GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on August 4, 2011.



CON MIMS, CHAIR