

**Minutes of the  
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
November 7, 2013**

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

**Voting Members Present:**

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

**Voting Members Absent:**

Gene Camargo  
Don Dietzmann

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Norman Boyd, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Ron Fieseler, Region K Liaison  
Matt Nelson, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)  
Steve Ramos, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, South Texas  
Ken Weidenfeller, Texas Department of Agriculture

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

Chairman Con Mims informed the Planning Group he had received Mike Mahoney's resignation on the Planning Group effective immediately. The solicitation process to fill that vacancy will begin in February 2014. Mr. Mahoney represented Water Districts.

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

Mr. Mims asked if there were any additions or corrections to the August 1, 2013 meeting minutes. There were no corrections or revisions requested. Gary Middleton made a motion to

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approve the minutes as presented. Milton Stolte seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: 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 was upon the group. There were many success and challenges and they are continuing to make progress into the future. The work plans for 2014 and conservation to be implemented have been established and approved by the Implementing Committee. The activities to be implemented in 2014 are listed on the EAHCP website. The HCP process first annual report, which is due to US Fish and Wildlife Service in March 2014, will contain all the information and details of methodology, accomplishments, and directions taken in the first year. Mr. Pence also informed the Planning Group the next Implementing Committee meeting will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at EAA. The meeting will be a joint meeting of the Implementing Committee, the Science Committee, and the Stakeholder Committee and will be an all-day meeting.

Mr. Pence provided details of the effects of the high water event on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 in San Marcos and New Braunfels. In New Braunfels, the flows on the Comal River reached about 4,000cfs (cubic feet per second). There has been a great deal of restoration completed in that area and there was concern the restoration would be adversely affected. Mr. Pence stated the high water flow came through the dry Comal Creek and bypassed the important habitat for the species and much of the restored habitat in New Braunfels was not affected.

In San Marcos, the gages stopped working at some point so it is unknown the exact amount of water. There are still several roads closed in the area, as well as a large amount of water still coming in to the system out of the creek as it continues to drain off. At this time, it is unknown how much damage has been done to the restoration in the area.

A presentation will be given at the next Implementing Committee meeting showing the effects of the high water event. A copy of the presentation will also be on the EAHCP website. Mr. Pence also offered to give the presentation at the next Planning Group meeting in February.

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

- **Update of House Bill 4 Stakeholder Committee**

Mr. Mims provided an update on the status of the House Bill 4 (HB4) Stakeholder Committee, of which he is a member representing Region L. HB4, passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature in 2013, 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 regional water plan (2011 RWP) and prioritize the Recommended Water Management Strategies (WMS) using a scoring template that is currently being created by the HB4 Stakeholder Committee. Mr. Mims stated a copy of the draft template is in the agenda packet for review by Planning Group members. Mr. Mims reviewed the draft template with the group and requested Planning Group members provide any comments to him.

Mr. Mims also asked HDR Engineering to choose a sample set of five WMS from the 2011 RWP and score them using the draft template. Mr. Mims stated the objective of the template is to provide a uniform method of scoring water projects throughout the state.

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The Stakeholder Committee will submit its recommendations for uniform scoring and the scoring template to TWDB for its approval. TWDB will then forward the approved template to the Regional Water Planning Groups with instructions to begin the process of prioritizing all the Recommended WMS in their 2011 plans and have the first draft of prioritization submitted to the TWDB by Summer 2014 with final prioritization submitted later in 2014.

Once all the planning groups have submitted their final prioritizations to TWDB, TWDB will prioritize projects in the State Water Plan for purposes of funding through the SWIFT funds. TWDB has different project prioritization criteria.

Dianne Wassenich requested the Administrator email the scoring results of the sample set of five projects to the entire Planning Group upon completion for their review.

**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)**

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 (BBASC), informed the Planning Group the next GSA BBASC meeting will be held at the San Antonio River Authority on November 21, 2013 at 1:00pm.

Currently, the GSA BBASC Evaluation Criteria Work Group is developing draft criteria for Request for Proposal Statements and Proposal Evaluation Matrix to assist TWDB, the contracting entity for the appropriated funding for Environmental Flows Work Plan for Adaptive Management studies. As previously stated, the GSA BBASC has been allocated \$750,000 for continued study of environmental flows and instream flows for the river basins by the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature. 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 TCEQ environmental flow standards in sustaining the environmental health of the rivers, bays and estuaries.

Mr. Mims, Chair of the Nueces River and Corpus Christi and Baffin Bays Stakeholder Committee (BBASC), informed the Planning Group TCEQ has proposed rules for the Nueces BBASC. The proposed rules may be adopted in February of 2014. The proposed rules are very close to what the stakeholder committee recommended for the Nueces. One concern is the proposed rules leave an opportunity for new water rights to be issued from the Nueces River Basin, though many feel the Nueces River Basin is already over allocated. He noted that the Nueces Bay and Delta was determined by the Science Committee to not be in an ecologically sound condition.

Sam Vaughn, HDR Engineering, noted that the environmental flow standards will put regional water planning and state water permitting on the same footing. In the past, regional water plans used Consensus Criteria environmental guidance and now with the Environmental Flow Standards adopted, when we look at a strategy for regional planning, it's the same kind of look TCEQ will be doing when looking at permitting. It's a nice bridge between permitting and planning.

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## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Review/Approve Administrator's Budget**

Erin Newberry, San Antonio River Authority, provided an update on the expenditures to the Administrators Budget as of September 30, 2013. Currently, the Administrator is trending under budget for the year. On behalf of SARA, as Administrator of the SCTRWPG, Mrs. Newberry requested approval from the Planning Group to the 2014 Administrators budget of \$58,000.00. Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group for a motion to approve the CY2014 Administrators budget of \$58,000.00. Mrs. Wassenich made a motion to approve the Administrators budget for Calendar Year 2014 as presented. Mr. Stolte seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

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

- **TWDB Administrative Update**
- **New Planning Group Member Presentation**

Matt Nelson provided an update on changes that will begin to take effect with the passing of Proposition 6. There will be a rule making process in regards to SWIFT funds which will involve an advisory committee to advise the board and developing the rules. This process is quite extensive. Mr. Nelson also stated TWDB will announce a significant reorganization on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Following an administrative update, Mr. Nelson provided a presentation on regional water planning for new planning group members.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Report, Discussion and Appropriate Action from Work Group**

- **Carrizo Aquifer WMS 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 background information on managed available groundwater (MAGS) and Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) for better understanding of the issues the work group faces in the Carrizo Aquifer area. Mr. Sengelmann stated a major issue is TWDB rules and guidance regarding managed available groundwater.

Mr. Sengelmann stated that after all calculations were completed (allocated groundwater by aquifer in each county), there were five counties in the Carrizo Aquifer that reflected allocated amounts greater than the MAG – Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, Wilson and Gonzales Counties. The key questions that the work group will consider are (1) how to address allocated groundwater in excess of the MAG when determining existing supplies; (2) how to plan for potentially feasible water management strategies where allocated groundwater exceeds the MAG; (3) how to plan for potentially feasible water management strategies where allocated groundwater is less than the MAG or allocated groundwater plus water management strategies exceed the MAG; and (4) how to present the technical evaluations of potentially feasible water management strategies with firm supplies proportionately reduced or shown as zero for MAG compliance.

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, provided a brief presentation reflecting how to potentially handle the two situations the planning group faces regarding WMS' from the Carrizo Aquifer; (1) existing groundwater supplies proportionately reduced for MAG compliance and; (2) WMS' with firm supplies proportionately reduced or shown as zero for MAG compliance. Mr. Perkins

reminded the Planning Group that MAG compliance equates to TWDB's policy of not over-allocating water supplies over the MAG for the aquifer.

Following discussions on groundwater management areas, DFCs and MAGs, Mr. Nelson stated that he will ask a staff member from TWDB's Groundwater Division to attend the February Region L meeting to answer questions and discuss GMA processes, setting DFCs and groundwater modeling.

Charles Ahrens, SAWS, stated the illustrations presented by HDR Engineering should show there is water permitted above the MAG which causes several problems for existing and potential WMS' in the Carrizo Aquifer.

Mr. Mims stated the work group will have a final recommendation for the planning group at the February meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Presentation of "Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) Water Supply Enhancement Program - Enhancing Surface and Ground Water Supplies Through Brush Control in Region L" - Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB Natural Resources Specialist**

Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB, provided a presentation on the TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program, formerly the Brush Control Program and how the program is currently being implemented. Mr. Wendt also discussed how the program has changed over the years, brush control work in the Upper Guadalupe River and the effects on Canyon Lake and, lastly, brush control in Gonzales County and possible impacts on the Carrizo Aquifer.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Consultants Work and Schedule**

- **Technical Memorandum Update**

Mr. Perkins, HDR Engineering, presented an update on the TWDB schedule for work plan development highlighting upcoming TWDB deadlines for the Planning Group. At this time, water demands projections and population projections are fairly completed. Existing supplies will need to be completed once the Carrizo Aquifer WMS work group presents their recommendations to the Planning Group. Technical evaluations of WMS' will be presented to the Planning Group throughout 2014; however, in order to answer how many WMS' are needed and which WMS' need to be evaluated, we will need to know what water needs must be met.

The Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) is due May 1, 2015 which means all WMS evaluations must be completed and presented to the Planning Group for consideration to be included in the RWP as Recommended, Alternative or Needs Further Study by the November 2014 Planning Group meeting. The draft IPP would then be ready for Planning Group review at the February 2015 meeting to be completed and turned in to TWDB by the May 1, 2015 deadline.

Mr. Perkins informed the Planning Group on the change to the original scope of work for the Technical Memorandum and the revised deadline date of August 1, 2014.

Mr. Perkins also updated the Planning Group on the task and expense budget to date and reviewed the list of potential issues for development of the 2016 RWP HDR is tracking.

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**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Report on TWDB Final Recommendations on Population and Water Demand Projections, Results of Phase 2 Survey to Water User Groups (WUG) and Wholesale Water Providers (WWP) and Draft Needs Analysis Review (Tasks 4A & 4B)**

Mr. Perkins told the Planning Group that TWDB finalized water demand projections (municipal and non-municipal) on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and provided a recap of Region L's requests for revisions and TWDB's responses to the requests. TWDB accepted all Eagle Ford Shale revision requests for DeWitt, Dimmit, Goliad, Gonzales, Karnes, LaSalle and Refugio Counties. TWDB approved population and water demand projections for City of Converse, City of Schertz, Fair Oaks Ranch, City of San Marcos and Plum Creek Water Company. TWDB approved population only revision requests for County-Other for Bexar, Caldwell, Comal, Hays and Kendall Counties. TWDB partially approved a revision request of population and water demands for the City of Cibolo. Mr. Perkins provided a presentation of the results and a regional summary breakdown for the Planning Group's review. Mrs. Scott reminded Mr. Perkins to ensure that by increasing the gallons per capita per day (GPCD) in the Eagle Ford Shale counties, there isn't an issue with conservation strategies or the counties aren't penalized in any way.

Mr. Perkins also presented Phase 2 Survey Results – Phase 2 Survey focused on confirming population and water demand projections, confirming firm supplies for each decade point, calculating needs, if any, and the list of WMS' from the 2011 RWP to meet the entity's needs. Phase 2 also asked questions regarding drought management and emergency supplies/connections. The survey was sent out to 137 WUGs, the survey was reviewed by 39 WUGs (representing 76.4% of the population of Region L). Seven WUGs requested changes or provided additional information based on the survey's information.

Mr. Perkins informed the Planning Group the Draft Needs Analysis is not complete due, in part, to the groundwater issues the Carrizo Aquifer WMS Work Group is working through presently.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: 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 (Task 4D)**

At the August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 Planning Group Meeting, HDR Engineering received authorization to begin drafting scopes of work and budgets for sixteen WMS: 1) Edwards Transfers, 2) Purchase from WWP, 3) Water Resources Integration Pipeline (SAWS), 4) Advanced Meter Infrastructure (SAWS), 5) Regional Water Supply Project – RFCSP (SAWS), 6) Regional Brackish Wilcox Project – Alternative (SAWS), 7) Integrated Water-Power Project (GBRA), 8) Luling ASR (GBRA), 9) New Braunfels ASR Project (NBU), 10) New Braunfels Trinity Well Field (NBU), 11) New Braunfels Reuse Project (NBU), 12) Expansion Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer, Guadalupe County (SSLGC), 13) Lavaca River Off-Channel Reservoir, 14) Brackish Wilcox Groundwater for SS WSC, 15) Carrizo/Buda/Austin Chalk/Leona & Regional ASR (City of Uvalde), and 16) Texas Water Alliance (Trinity Well Field in Comal).

Mr. Perkins presented the results to the Planning Group, reviewing each WMS and budget for evaluation. Though sixteen WMS' were requested by HDR to begin drafting scopes of work and budgets, Mr. Perkins is presenting twelve of the sixteen today to the Planning Group. Work is still ongoing on the remaining four, but will be presented to the Planning Group at the February

meeting. Mr. Perkins also provided an estimate of the budget to be allocated after the sixteen WMS presented is \$133,850.

Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group if there were any objections to the scope and budget of the twelve water management strategies presented by HDR Engineering. Mr. Ahrens moved to approve the draft scopes and budgets as presented. Alan Cockerell seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Authorizing Political Subdivision to Submit Request for Notice-to-Proceed for Evaluation of Twelve Water Management Strategies and Authorize Administrator to Execute Contract Amendment with TWDB**

Mr. Mims asked the Planning Group if there was any objection to the San Antonio River Authority, as Administrator, submitting a request for Notice-to-Proceed #3 for the evaluation of the twelve WMS presented by HDR Engineering and authorizing Administrator to execute a contract amendment with TWDB. The Planning Group had no objections and approval was made by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: 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 requested Planning Group authorization to begin drafting scopes of work and budgets for four additional WMS: 1) Carrizo Transfers, 2) Brush Management, 3) Recycled Water Management Strategy - Amendment, 4) Hays County – Four Star Water. In addition to the four additional WMS' listed, Mr. Perkins will complete the draft scopes of work and budgets for three WMS' previously authorized by the Planning Group: 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).

Tom Taggart asked if Carrizo Transfers, in comparison to Edwards Transfers, had a regulatory and/or legal framework in place governing such transfers (outside of the governing district) and, if not, how the Planning Group would evaluate and recommend a Carrizo Transfer WMS without the legalities in place. Mr. Perkins stated the evaluation could be completed on Carrizo Transfers as a WMS by HDR, presented to the Planning Group in February, and at that time, if the Planning Group does not agree or is not ready to authorize the WMS, it could be placed on hold until such time the Planning Group wishes to review the evaluation and forward to TWDB for authorization.

With Planning Group authorization, HDR Engineering will draft scopes of work and budgets for future technical evaluations. Mr. Mims asked if there were any objections to HDR Engineering beginning to draft scopes of work and budgets for the seven water management strategies presented. The Planning Group had no objections. The approval was given by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Set Dates and Times of Regional Water Planning Group Meetings for 2014**

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Ms. Newberry presented a schedule of meeting dates, times and locations to the Planning Group for Planning Group meetings and Staff Work Group meetings in 2014. The Planning Group will continue to meet quarterly on the first Thursday in February, May, August and November at SAWS' Customer Service Building, Room CR-145. Staff Work Group meetings are held at the San Antonio River Authority. Ms. Newberry reminded the Planning Group all meeting details are listed on the calendar on the Region L website at [www.RegionLTexas.org](http://www.RegionLTexas.org).

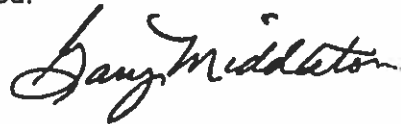
**AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group Meeting**

Mr. Mims proposed the following agenda items for the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Planning Group Meeting:

- EAHCP Update
- Status of SB3, Environmental Flows Process
- Report, Discussion and Appropriate Action from Work Group
- Groundwater Discussion with Appropriate TWDB Staff
- Administrator Authorization to Begin Solicitation Process for Water District Vacancy

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

There was no public comment and meeting adjourned.



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GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on February 6, 2014.



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CON MIMS, CHAIR