

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
August 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-nine of the 30 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Gená Leathers for Jason Ammerman	Dan Meyer
Tim Andruss	Gary Middleton
Donna Balin	Con Mims
Evelyn Bonavita	Ron Naumann
Darrell Brownlow	Iliana Peña
Alan Cockerell	Charles Ahrens for Robert Puente
Will Conley	Steve Ramsey
Don Dietzmann	Diane Savage
Art Dohmann	Suzanne Scott
Rick Illgner for Karl Dreher	Greg Sengelmann
Vic Hilderbran	Milton Stolte
Kevin Janak	Tom Taggart
Bill Jones	Tommy Hill for Bill West
John Kight	Doug McGooky for Tony Wood
Mike Mahoney	

Voting Members Absent:

Rey Chavez

Non-Voting Members Present:

Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Norman Boyd, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife (TPWD)
Ron Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Matt Nelson, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Steve Ramos, 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 February 2, 2012 or a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ron Naumann made a motion to approve the February 2, 2012 minutes. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Status of Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan

Dr. Robert Gulley, EARIP, provided an update of activities to the Planning Group. Dr. Gulley stated an application for the Incidental Take Permit with the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) has been submitted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The US Fish and Wildlife Service issued a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on July 10, 2012, in which the approval of the Habitat Conservation Plan was the preferred alternative. That decision and the issuance of a Notice of Intent on the draft Environmental Impact Statement triggers a 90-day comment period. Over the next few weeks, there will be public meetings held in seven different locations, such as San Marcos, San Antonio, Uvalde, New Braunfels, Kerrville, Corpus Christi and Victoria. The public meetings will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement. The US Fish and Wildlife will have an opportunity to respond to those comments. At the end of the 90-day comment period, all responses will have been drafted. At that point, US Fish and Wildlife will be able to issue a decision on the HCP. The decision will be published in the Federal Register. Thirty days after publication of the decision in the Federal Register, US Fish and Wildlife can issue the permit. Dr. Gulley stated if everything stays on schedule, we should have a decision or an approved HCP by late November/early December 2012.

Our goal is to begin work on January 1, 2013, which is the date Senate Bill 3 required us to have the HCP in place.

Dr. Gulley stated that the EARIP has transitioned into a program more dominated by the Permittees. The Permittees are Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio Water System, City of New Braunfels, City of San Marcos, and Texas State University. Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority will serve as a non-voting member. The Permittees will form the Implementing Committee and will meet on a monthly basis.

The Stakeholder Committee, which consists of the former EARIP committee, will meet on a quarterly basis and continue working on developing and refining the work plan, as well as the budget and set targets.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: 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), provided a brief update to the Planning Group on the GSA BBASC activities. Ms. Scott informed the Planning Group TCEQ's proposed rules for the Guadalupe and San Antonio basin came out on April 13, 2012 for public comments. The GSA BBASC met in May to discuss the proposed rules and the environmental flows process. It had not been possible for the GSA BBASC to agree on specific comments on the proposed rules, so a letter was drafted regarding the environmental flows process. The letter was approved and signed by a super majority of the stakeholders. Ms. Scott handed out a copy of the letter for the Planning Group to read and discuss.

The GSA BBASC submitted the Work Plan for Adaptive Management to the Science Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC complemented the GSA BBASC on the Work Plan as one of the best they have read to date.

TCEQ has published their revisions to the proposed rules based on public comments received, particularly in the area of in-flows to the bay. Though some changes were made by TCEQ, the rules are still not to the level the GSA BBASC recommended, however; they are improved.

On August 7, 2012, the SAC will meet to submit official comments on the GSA BBASC Work Plan for Adaptive Management and on August 8, 2012 TCEQ will meet to adopt the rules. There may be more changes made to the proposed rules by the TCEQ Commissioners at that time.

Mr. Mims, Chair of the Nueces River and Corpus Christi and Baffin Bays Stakeholder Committee (BBASC), informed the Planning Group the Nueces BBASC should be approving and adopting their Environmental Flows Recommendations Report later this month and the report will be submitted to TCEQ by September 1, 2012. After submitting the Recommendations Report for the Nueces BBASC, the group will begin work on their Work Plan for Adaptive Management. Mr. Mims stated the Nueces BBASC was unique in that the Nueces River is one of the driest river basins in the state and they were the only environmental flows group that was determined to have un-ecologically sound conditions in the Nueces Bay and Delta by their BBEST team. It was also found that in order to achieve the freshwater in-flows to the Nueces Bay and Delta to bring that system back to an ecologically sound condition, would require the removal of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon Reservoir, which is not a viable option. The Nueces BBASC will rely heavily on activities vetted in the Work Plan to enhance environmental flows to the maximum extent possible while preserving the water supply.

In the Recommendations Report, the Nueces BBASC has recommended several activities that will also be reflected in the Work Plan, to improve the Nueces Bay. In the upper part of Nueces Basin, from the reservoir system, North, there is very little water left for appropriation, so it isn't likely any new permits will be granted in the future.

Mr. Mims also stated the Nueces BBASC recommendations, while trying to balance environmental needs and human needs, the stakeholders recommendations have tilted slightly towards the environmental needs for freshwater streamflows due to present ecological conditions. These recommendations may impact regional water planning due to more restricted permitting. The Edwards Aquifer Recharge Dams would not be permitted despite the environmental flows program without reaching an agreement with the City of Corpus Christi and the Nueces River Authority on their water rights to Choke Canyon and Lake Corpus Christi. While the Nueces BBASC recommendations may make it more difficult to permit the recharge dams, in the overall scheme of things, it may not make a difference.

Diane Wassenich, Vice Chair of the GSA BBASC, complemented Ms. Scott and her staff and the San Antonio River Authority, on the work done on behalf of the GSA BBASC on the Work Plan and administrative duties throughout the environmental flows process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Chair's Report

Mr. Mims had no report at the time.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Discussion and Appropriate Action Authorizing Administrator to Solicit Nominations for Vacant Planning Group Position

Mr. Mims informed the Planning Group of two vacancies on the Planning Group at this time. Karl Dreher is no longer with the Edwards Aquifer Authority, but currently is represented by his designated alternate, Rick Illgner, at today's meeting, in the Water Districts position. Jason Ammerman has also recently resigned his position on the Planning Group as a representative for Industries. Mr. Ammerman is currently represented by his designated alternate, Gena Leathers.

John Kight asked that the designated alternates be allowed to complete the terms, which expire in August 2013, with the Administrator requesting authorization to begin the solicitation process in May 2013.

Mr. Mims asked if there were any objections to accepting the designated alternates; Mr. Illgner for Water Districts and Ms. Leathers for Industries, to fulfill the terms of the vacancies, with voting rights. There were no objections. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion and Appropriate Action Appointing a Region L Liaison to Region M

Mr. Mims introduced Region M's liaison to Region L, Don McGhee. Region M has asked if Region L would like to appoint a liaison to Region M, as well. The Planning Group chose not to appoint a liaison to Region M at this time, but will monitor Region M's activities and attend meetings as needed.

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

Matt Nelson, TWDB, informed the Planning Group that TWDB has approved and adopted the new regional water planning rules. There were no significant changes to the draft rules presented to the Planning Group at the previous meeting, such as new membership and the use of Managed Available Groundwater (MAGs) data. The adopted rules are posted on the TWDB website.

Mr. Nelson reviewed new requirements for public notification, region-specific drought contingencies, and Planning Group actions for alternate sources of water supply for entities with populations of 7,500 or less if the entities reach 180-day water supply.

Mr. Nelson stated the Request for Applications (RFA) for the second round of planning and the final allocation of \$9.5 million dollars has been allocated and the official RFA will be posted in the Texas Register. The Scope of Work is standard, with the exception of the water strategies, which the Planning Group will need to be identify potential water management strategies and scope what strategies to be analyzed and how to spend the funding associated with that task and submit the scope to TWDB and TWDB will review and negotiate the scope and the sub-budget for that task.

At this time, the Administrator will submit the RFA, requesting the funds be allocated to the region and the deadline for submitting the RFA is October 4, 2012.

Mr. Nelson also informed the Planning Group that TWDB is still awaiting population projections from the State Demographer.

There ensued a lengthy discussion on the difficulty in coordinating the groundwater conservation districts' development of Managed Available Groundwater amounts and water needs developed by regional water planning groups.

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

Julia Velez, San Antonio River Authority, asked the Planning Group for authorization, as Administrator, to provide public notice and submit the application to TWDB for the second half of regional water planning, on behalf of Region L. Ms. Velez stated public notice would be posted in the Victoria Advocate and San Antonio Express News on Sunday, August 26, 2012; and mailed out in accordance to TWDB statute. Over 1,500 public notices will be mailed to the public and Region L counties. A copy of the draft public notice is provided in the agenda packet for Planning Group approval. Mr. Naumann made a motion to authorize Administrator to provide public notice and submit the application for regional water planning to TWDB on behalf of Region L. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discussion and Appropriate Action to Authorize Administrator to Negotiate and Execute Contract Amendment with TWDB for the Fourth Cycle of Regional Water Planning

Ms. Velez asked the Planning Group for authorization to negotiate and execute the contract amendment with TWDB for the second half of regional water planning, completing activities for the 2016 Regional Water Plan, as Administrator. John Kight made a motion to approve the Administrator negotiate and execute a contract amendment with TWDB for the fourth cycle of regional water planning. Mr. Naumann seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Consultants Work and Schedule

Brian Perkins, HDR Engineering, reviewed the current work and schedule with the Planning Group and briefed on the condensed schedule due to not having received population projections to date. Mr. Perkins reviewed new due dates for tasks and tasks that are on-going that may affect other task deadlines and the Technical Memorandum.

Mr. Perkins informed the Planning Group the hydrologic assumptions and models have been approved after clarification by HDR to TWDB. On hydrologic assumptions, for existing surface water supplies, HDR may use the models approved by the Planning Group at February's meeting. For water management strategies for surface water strategies, TWDB requested HDR use TCEQ WAM (Water Availability Model) (WAM Run 3) model downloaded from TCEQ's website, with one exception; HDR may change springflows so they are consistent with state law (SB3). HDR recommends the Planning Group use SB3 springflows in the existing water supply calculation and in the calculation of cumulative effects; this ensures consistency throughout the planning process.

Mr. Nelson stated TWDB can write the approval letter of the assumptions based on present use of SB3 assumptions/model. TWDB didn't approve the use of HCP numbers because the HCP isn't in place at this time. In the event the HCP is finalized, then you can use those numbers, but not until that time. The TWDB response can be open-ended response and once the HCP is finalized, the Planning Group may decide which numbers to use.

Mr. Perkins reviewed the scope of work for Task 4D, Evaluation and Recommendation of Water Management Strategies. Currently, there is \$95,717 budgeted for this task in the first half of regional water planning. In addition, the second half of planning provides an additional \$414,187 for this task in accordance to the draft budget. Mr. Perkins provided a listing of current recommended water management strategies in the 2011 RWP to the Planning Group. At the November Planning Group meeting, HDR Engineering will ask the Planning Group to begin evaluating current water management strategies to include in the 2016 RWP. Mr. Perkins asked agency representatives present to be prepared to discuss their recommended strategies at the November meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding Submittal of Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections to TWDB

Mr. Mims asked Darrell Brownlow, as Chair of the Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections Work Group, to present the findings of the work group. Mr. Brownlow stated the work group met on February 23, 2012 and reviewed the draft projections for all non-municipal water demand categories by TWDB up to the 2070 decade. TWDB was present and reviewed the methodology used to develop the estimates for draft projections for non-municipal water demands.

Mr. Brownlow informed the Planning Group the greatest reduction was in Irrigation by 10% by 2020; Manufacturing had a 20% increase by 2020; Mining (including aggregate and fracking water demands) had a 300% increase; Steam-Electric demands stayed roughly the same, as did Livestock demands. Based on TWDB's draft projections, Mr. Brownlow stated there were two requested changes to the draft projections by Art Dohmann for Goliad and Dewitt Counties in the Irrigation and Mining categories.

Mr. Dohmann requested an increase to Goliad County, Irrigation, demands from current draft projections to 3,200 ac-ft/year for 2020 - 2070; and an increase on behalf of Dewitt County from current draft projections to 1,485 ac-ft/year for 2020 - 2070. The increase projections are based on current permits and historical use.

Regarding Mining projections, Mr. Dohmann requested an increase in Goliad County's current draft projections to 1,700 ac-ft/year for 2020 - 2040; decreasing to 700 ac-ft in 2050 and 500 ac-ft in 2060 - 2070 and an increase in the current draft projections for Dewitt County to 3,165 ac-ft/year for years 2020 - 2070. The request for increase in draft projections are based on historical use, permit applications and TCEQ approval of permits. Mr. Dohmann has forwarded all documentation to HDR Engineering and TWDB.

Mr. Brownlow's recommendation is to forward all draft projections for non-municipal demands, with Mr. Dohmann's requested revisions and related documentation, to TWDB for review and approval. Mr. Mims added a caveat that draft projections for Mining, Steam-Electric, Agriculture and Livestock be submitted to TWDB for approval now. The Planning Group still has concerns with Irrigation and Manufacturing estimates. Mr. Mims asked Planning Group members that

have concerns with Irrigation and Manufacturing projections coordinate with HDR Engineering and be prepared to discuss and/or revise those categories at the November meeting. The Planning Group must submit their final draft projections on Irrigation and Manufacturing in November to TWDB for approval.

Mr. Mims recommended a motion to submit non-municipal draft projections and related documentation for requested revisions to TWDB for Mining, Steam-Electric, Agriculture and Livestock categories. The motion was made, seconded and carried by consensus. Irrigation and Manufacturing will be reviewed again and submitted for Planning Group approval at the November meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Presentation and Discussion of SAWS' 2012 Water Management Planning Process – Mr. Charles Ahrens, Vice President Water Resources and Conservation

Charles Ahrens, Vice President Water Resources and Conservation, SAWS, provided a presentation to the Planning Group on SAWS' 2012 Water Management Planning process. Mr. Ahrens stated SAWS' Water Management Plan is a dynamic plan currently being updated and briefed on the "building blocks" used to update the 2012 Water Management Plan. The current plan is from 2005. Mr. Ahrens discussed the planning assumptions, supply and demand, drought of record scenarios, water management strategies, and the public outreach SAWS will undertake to publicize the 2012 Water Management Plan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Possible Agenda Items for the Next South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group

Mr. Mims proposed the following agenda item for the November 1, 2012 meeting:

- EAHCP Update
- Status of SB3, Environmental Flows Process
- Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding TWDB Non-Municipal Draft Projections
- Administrator's Budget for CY2013
- 2013 Region L Meeting Dates

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by consensus at 1:42 p.m.

Recommended for approval.



GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on November 1, 2012.



CON MIMS, CHAIR