

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
August 3, 2017**

Chairwoman Suzanne Scott called the meeting to order at 9:00 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.

28 of the 30 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Gary Middleton
Pat Calhoun	Con Mims
Gene Camargo	Kevin Patteson
Rey Chavez	Robert Puente
Will Conley	Steve Ramsey
Curt Campbell	Blaine Schorp for Weldon Riggs
Art Dohman	David Roberts
Blair Fitzsimons	Marc Friberg for Roland Ruiz
Annie Kellough for Charlie Flatten	Dianne Savage
Vic Hilderbran	Suzanne Scott
Kevin Janak	Thomas Taggart
Russell Labus	Dianne Wassenich
Glenn Lord	Adam Yablonski
Doug McGooky	
Dan Meyer	

Voting Members Absent

Iliana Pena
Greg Sengelmann

Non-Voting Members Present:

Ron Ellis, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Iliana Delgado, South Texas Water Master (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Jamie McCool, Texas Department of Agriculture

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Marty Kelley, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Carl Crull, Region N Liaison

Beginning with the February 11, 2016, meeting of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group, all recordings are available for the public at www.regionltexas.org.

All PowerPoint presentations and meeting materials referenced in the minutes are available in the meeting Agenda Packet at www.regionaltexas.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: PUBLIC COMMENT

Graham Moore, Executive Director of the Alliance Regional Water Authority, announced that the former “Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency” underwent some changes with the passing of SB 1198, effectively converting the HCPUA from a public utility agency to a regional water authority. HCPUA is now Alliance Regional Water Authority, and the new website is www.alliancewater.org. Additionally, Mr. Moore voiced support for the adoption of the Environmental Workgroup’s recommendations, which were to be considered under Agenda Item No. 9.

Terry Burns, with the Alamo Chapter of the Sierra Club, made some comments in support of rainwater harvesting and stormwater capture, and gave brief comments supporting the Sierra Clubs alternative water management plan.

Allen Montemayor, echoed Mr. Burns, asking the planning group members to go back to the organizations that they represent and focus on education and outreach regarding planning and reducing water demand by using water sustainably.

Suzanne Scott announced that Adam Yablonski was named Conservation Farmer of the Year by the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 4, 2017, MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION L)

Chair Scott asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May 4, 2017. Con Mims made a motion to approve the minutes. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) – NATHAN PENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EAHCP

An update for the EAHCP was not provided.

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)

Suzanne Scott reminded the Planning Group that the next GSA BBASC meeting would be held on September 15, 2017. A new member orientation was scheduled to begin at 9:00 am, and the regular agenda would begin at 10:00 am.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) COMMUNICATIONS

Ron Ellis, TWDB, gave some brief updates regarding the latest at TWDB. Mr. Ellis informed the group that TWDB would be updating the rules due to some legislative changes, which were adopted during the 85th Legislative Session. More information would be going out in the future, and an opportunity for public comment on the rules would be provided.

Regarding population and water demand projections, all of TWDB's initial projection figures had been sent out, and information regarding non-municipal demand projections would be presented later on during the meeting. Mr. Ellis reviewed several deadlines with regard to population and demand projections, and noted that he anticipated TWDB action adopting all population and water demand projections by March 2018.

Mr. Ellis also reviewed the results of the TWDB's Planning Stakeholder Survey (the PowerPoint presentation and results are available at www.regionltexas.org).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Scott briefed the Planning Group on the recent legislative changes, which may impact members of the group and/or the regional water planning process generally. Namely, a non-voting member would be added to represent the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. A bill, which generally sought to sync up the planning process with the desired future conditions (DFC) process, had been signed into law as well. Lastly, a bill requiring subcommittees of the regional water planning groups to adhere to the Texas Open Meetings Act had also been adopted during the 85th Legislative Session.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY'S (GBRA) PROPOSED SUBSTITUTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IN THE 2016 REGION L REGIONAL WATER PLAN, THE MID-BASIN WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (MBWSP) — CONJUNCTIVE USE WITH AQUIFER STORAGE & RECOVERY (ASR), FOR TWO RECOMMENDED WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN THE 2016 REGION L REGIONAL WATER PLAN: 1) THE GBRA MID-BASIN PROJECT (ASR), AND 2) THE TEXAS WATER ALLIANCE (TWA) CARRIZO PROJECT.

Kevin Patteson delivered a presentation on GBRA's plans to substitute an alternative water management strategy, identified in the SCTRWPG 2016 Regional Water Plan, for two recommended water management strategies, identified in the SCTRWPG 2016 Regional Water Plan. The presentation and Power Point are available at www.regionltexas.org.

Mr. Patteson gave a similar presentation at the May 4, 2017, Region L meeting. Since then, Region L had fulfilled the preconditions necessary for submitting 2016 Plan revision. TWDB had approved the revision as a "substitution" per the TWDB Rules, and now needed action by the Planning Group to effectuate the change. Mr. Patteson requested the SCTRWPG to consider adopting the GBRA proposed substitution of an alternative water management strategy in the 2016 Region L Plan, the Mid-basin Water Supply Project (MBWSP) — Conjunctive Use With Aquifer Storage & Recovery, for two recommended water management strategies in the 2016 Region L Regional Water Plan: 1) the GBRA Mid-Basin Project, and 2) the Texas Water Alliance (TWA) Carrizo Project.

After some discussion, Will Conley moved to adopt GBRA's substitution request. The motion was seconded. Dianne Wassenich abstained. The motion passed.

The items below were not captured on the audio recording due to an equipment malfunction. Therefore, the record is prepared from notes and memory, and agreed upon by the Planning Group by virtue of having adopted these minutes at the November 2, 2017, Region L Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: 2021 PLAN ENHANCEMENT PROCESS: RECAP OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AND ADOPTED

Chair Scott reviewed the previously approved Guiding Principles, highlighted some changes made to the 2021 Plan Enhancement Schedule, and reminded the planning group of the 2021 Plan Enhancement Process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKGROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS OF THE 2021 PLAN ENHANCEMENT PROCESS:

- A. THE ADEQUACY OF EVALUATING THE PLAN'S EFFECTS ON FRESHWATER INFLOWS TO SAN ANTONIO BAY**
- B. THE ADEQUACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Steven Siebert, Chair of the Environmental Assessment Workgroup, presented a brief PowerPoint presentation on the charge and work of the Workgroup. Mr. Siebert noted that the Workgroup was tasked with evaluating current methodologies, and determining if additional or alternative environmental assessments of instream effects and freshwater inflows into the San Antonio Bay, and of individual water management strategies, are necessary. Additionally, if such additional or alternative methodologies were recommended, the Workgroup would identify and address the associated costs.

Mr. Siebert briefed the Planning Group on the structure and principles by which the Workgroup conducted its work, addressed the Planning Group charge, and reviewed different aspects discussed by the Workgroup. The Workgroup's recommendation was presented as follows:

- Include high level write-up of climate variability for Planning Group member review and comment
- Eliminate Environmental Assessment comparisons of current plan to past plans
- Initiate Environmental Assessments earlier into the regional planning process
- Chapter 8 Policy Workgroup to consider recommendation for consistency in the regional planning process
- The Workgroup recommendation also noted that TWDB could be more prescriptive in how Environmental Assessments are organized and presented in the plans.

Rey Chavez made a motion to adopt the Workgroup's proposed recommendation. Kevin Janak seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

Following the adoption of the recommendation, Chair Scott requested that Mr. Siebert memorialize

the recommendation in the form of a guiding principle for the Planning Group to consider at the next Planning Group meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS WORKGROUP

Tim Andruss, Chair of the Minimum Standards Workgroup, briefed the Planning Group on the progress made by the Minimum Standards Workgroup. Mr. Andruss informed that the Planning Group that the Minimum Standards Workgroup anticipated having a recommendation for the Planning Group to consider at the November, 2017, Region L meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS OF THE 2021 PLAN ENHANCEMENT PROCESS

a. THE ROLE OF REUSE WITHIN THE REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Brian Perkins, Black and Veatch, provided a PowerPoint presentation (available at www.regionltexas.org) addressing roles of effluent, modeling, and reuse within the scope of the regional water planning process. Mr. Perkins explained that effluent is modeled in the Regional Planning Water Availability Model (WAM) as 1) return flow factors on water rights, and 2) point discharges, which is not directly tied to a water right. Point discharges modeling is used to emulate historic discharges from most wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs).

Mr. Perkins reviewed the parameters for which effluent is accounted for in existing supplies, water management strategy evaluation, and cumulative effects in the 2016 Plan. This was provided as a baseline for developing the 2021 Plan hydrologic assumptions. In accounting existing supplies, the TWDB Rules assume a full authorization of water rights amounts. Absent a request for the inclusion of effluent, the default assumptions do not incorporate effluent into a water user group's current supply. With regard to the 2016 Region L Plan, the Planning Group included historical effluent (pre-2006). This is distinguishable from the assumptions required by TWDB Rules for the evaluation of water management strategies, which assumes full authorization and no effluent. Per the Rules, the 2016 Region L Plan did not include effluent in the evaluation of water management strategies. And lastly, in developing the cumulative effects analysis of the 2016 Plan, per TWDB Rules, full authorized water right amounts are assumed, and the inclusion of effluent is left to the Planning Group's discretion. The 2016 Region L Plan projected effluent to the year 2070.

Next, Mr. Perkins presented on the role of reuse. Reuse is included in the Region L Plan in two ways. The first is existing supply, which includes reuse projects constructed, operating, and delivering water to customers (e.g. SAWS Recycle Program). Reuse is used in the calculation of need (i.e. needs minus demands equal existing supplies). Reuse is also reflected in the cumulative effects analysis of the Plan, which accounts for the planned reused projects to meet needs. Mr. Perkins provide a list of water user groups and wholesale water providers that count reuse as an existing supply, and a list of reuse projects that were included in the 2016 Plan. Lastly, Mr. Perkins reviewed the framework by which reuse water management strategies are evaluated.

Discussion ensued regarding the Planning Group's guiding principle on the role of reuse within the regional water plan. Comment varied, but generally recognized that there was no role for effluent, absent a direct reuse project or contract for reuse. Most agreed that the Planning Group

should defer to the TWDB Rules, the language of which could be used as a basis for developing a guiding principle. Concerns were raised regarding environmental flow information not being included. It was voiced that there should an explanation as to why the Plan does not include effluent outside of the exceptions (reuse project, or contracted use of reuse).

After some deliberation, Chair Scott suggested that Cole Ruiz develop some language, which can be reviewed by the Executive Committee, and then proposed for adoption—or editing—at the November, 2017, Region L meeting. No action was taken.

a. IDENTIFYING SPECIAL STUDIES OR EVALUATIONS DEEMED IMPORTANT TO ENHANCE THE 2021 PLAN AND IDENTIFICATION OF OUTSIDE FUNDING SOURCES

b. THE EXTENT TO WHICH INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES SHOULD BE USED

Mr. Perkins, following up on the discussion that began at the May, 2017, Region L meeting (see minutes and recording, available at www.regionltexas.org) by reminding the Planning Group that no funding currently exists for special studies. However there could be a request to evaluate a strategy—“innovative” or otherwise—under Task 5, which would entail the same timeline as any strategy under evaluation.

A brief discussion followed, where members suggested setting a timeline for completion of a study in order to have the Planning Group consider including it in the Plan. Under such circumstances, the Planning Group may agree to waive the timeline.

After some deliberation, Chair Scott suggested that Cole Ruiz develop some language, which can be reviewed by the Executive Committee, and then proposed for adoption—or editing—at the November, 2017, Region L meeting. No action was taken.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: EVERGREEN UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRESENTATION ON WEATHER MODIFICATION AS A POTENTIAL INNOVATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

This item was postponed for the November 2, 2017, Region L meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CONSULTANT’S WORK AND SCHEDULE

Brian Perkins briefly reviewed the consultants schedule for the fifth cycle of regional water planning, and disseminated a list of ongoing projects Black and Veatch and their subcontractors are involved with on a contractual level.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING

The Planning Group discussed and generally agreed that the following items may be placed on the next agenda for the November, 2017, Region L meeting.

- San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Water Management Plan presentation;
- Status and possible action regarding draft population and demand projections;
- Minimum Standards and Environmental Assessment Guiding Principle adoption;
- Hydrologic assumptions for the 2021 Regional Water Plan;
- Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District presentation on weather modification;
- The process by which the Planning Group considers potentially feasible water management strategies;
- Region L meeting schedule for Calendar Year 2018.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

Chair Scott adjourned the meeting.



GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on November 2, 2017.



SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR