

**Minutes of the  
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
February 2, 2017**

Chairwoman Suzanne Scott called the meeting 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.

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

**Voting Members Present:**

Tim Andruss	Con Mims
Pat Calhoun	Kevin Patteson
Herb Williams for Gene Camargo	Sara Beasley for Iliana Pena
Patrick Garcia for Rey Chavez	Robert Puente
Don Dietzmann	Steve Ramsey
Art Dohman	Weldon Riggs
Alston Beinhorn for Blair Fitzsimons	David Roberts
Charlie Flatten	Roland Ruiz
Vic Hilderbran	Clifton Stacy for Dianne Savage
Kevin Janak	Suzanne Scott
Jay Troell for Russell Labus	Greg Sengelmann
John Kight	Thomas Taggart
Glenn Lord	Dianne Wassenich
Doug McGooky	Adam Yablonski
Dan Meyer	
Gary Middleton	

**Voting Members Absent**

Will Conley

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Ron Ellis, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)  
Marty Kelley, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison  
Jamie McCool, Texas Department of Agriculture

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison  
Don McGhee, Region M 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](http://www.regionltexas.org).***

***All PowerPoint presentations and meeting materials referenced in the minutes are available in the meeting Agenda Packet at [www.regionaltexas.org](http://www.regionaltexas.org).***

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Con Mims move to re-elect the current officers by acclamation. Multiple voter members seconded the motion. The motion carried by consensus. The officers for calendar year 2017 are Chair: Suzanne Scott, Vice-Chair: Tim Andruss, Secretary: Gary Middleton, At-large: Kevin Janak, and At-large: Adam Yablonski.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 4, 2016, MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)**

Con Mims made a motion to approve the minutes from November 3, 2016, meeting of the SCTRWPG. Kevin Janak seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed by consensus

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) – NATHAN PENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EAHCP**

No update was provided.

## **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)**

Chairwoman Scott briefed the Planning Group on the BBASC's recent efforts to recharge interest in BBASC operations. She informed the group of several vacancies on the BBASC, and notified the group that BBASC was currently receiving nominations. Mrs. Scott invited planning group members, who were interested in serving on the BBASC or nominating others to serve, to complete the nomination form provided in the agenda packet.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) COMMUNICATIONS**

### **a. GOLDWATER PROJECT PRESENTATION ON A UNIFORM METHODOLOGY FOR MEASURING CONSERVATION ACROSS REGIONS**

Steven Cortez, Averitt and Associates, informed the planning group about the Goldwater Project. Averitt and Associates is under contract with TWDB to quantify water conservation efforts throughout the state, region by region, utility by utility. The Goldwater Project is a statewide study, which seeks to maximize conservation efforts for water utilities through large-scale, uniform measurement and analysis. Participating regions under the State Water Plan will be provided the tools to achieve their short- and long-term conservation goals. The project is designed to help water planners and utilities understand how water conservation strategies are being implemented to meet local, regional, and statewide water conservation goals.

## **b. TWDB RULES PRESENTATION**

Ron Ellis, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), briefed the planning group on deadlines, and schedule regarding regional water planning processes. He reminded the planning group that applications to amend the regional water planning contracts pursuant to TWDB's request for applications (RFA), were due by noon on February 21, 2017. April 6, 2017 was the anticipated board meeting that would potentially approve the amendment applications. August 31, 2017, is the deadline for executing the amendments. Mr. Ellis also informed the group that TWDB is looking for comments on the regional water planning "guidelines" document, which was in the process of being revised by TWDB. Comment were due by February 21, 2017. Draft population projects, as well as the municipal demand and mining demand projections were sent out to the planning groups on December 22, 2017. Mr. Ellis anticipated that by June 2017, TWDB would release projections for irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, and steam electric power. In addition, historical water use data for municipal water user groups would sent out.

Mr. Ellis then presented the revised TWDB rules regarding state and regional water planning. The rule were adopted on November 17, and became effective on December 8, 2016. Notable changes included revisions to the definition of "water user group" to reflect the utility-based planning approach, revisions to the definitions of "wholesale water providers" and "major water providers," and the addition of the term "water management strategy project." Moreover, the TWDB revised public notice requirements and requirements related to the analysis of existing surface water supply, groundwater availability. Mr. Ellis reviewed a number of other rule revisions, and provide a PowerPoint, available at [www.regionltexas.org](http://www.regionltexas.org) for reference (*see* <http://www.regionltexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Agenda-Packet-1-2-2017.pdf>).

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chairwoman Scott provided updates to the planning group regarding recent conference call among the regional water planning chairs. Additionally, she provided a report produced by the Region A Chair, C.E. Williams, which compared the bylaws of each regional water planning group. Chair Scott also provided a legislative report of bills filed at the outset of the 84th Texas Legislature.

## **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 ADOPTING GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE 2021 PLAN ENHANCEMENT PROCESS**

- a. THE ADEQUACY OF EVALUATING THE PLAN'S EFFECTS ON FRESHWATER INFLOWS TO THE SAN ANTONIO BAY; AND THE ADEQUACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL WMS'S**

Chair Scot stated the agenda item, reviewed past discussion, opened up discussion to the planning

group concerning the adequacy of evaluating the plan's effects on freshwater inflows to the San Antonio Bay, and the adequacy of environmental assessments of individual water management strategies.

Dianne Wassenich read a letter from Norman Johns, a critical response to Region L's 2016 Plan's environmental components. Discussion ensued among planning group members.

Brian Perkins, Black and Veatch, provide insight regarding TWDB rules and guidance requirements related to environmental assessments as a baseline. Additionally, a memo developed by SWCA, provided potential options for revamping the Region L environmental assessment process. It was noted that costs are the prohibitive factor, as regional water planning activities are largely limited to the scope and budget approved by TWDB, excepting outside funding sources. Mr. Perkins noted that what Region L has done in the past in term of environmental assessments, has been at least sufficient to meet the TWDB expectation, by virtue of the plans being accepted and adopted into the state water plans. The question then becomes, whether the current process is satisfying to the planning group.

After some discourse, Robert Puente motioned to adopt a guiding principle, which—in effect—would state that the planning group adequately evaluates the Regional Water Plan's effects on freshwater inflows to the San Antonio Bay and the Plan's impacts on the environment as evidenced by TWDB's adoption of the State Water Plan, and that no workgroup is needed to explore improvements to the planning group's historic practice. Gary Middleton seconded the motion, conditioning it on further open discussion.

Further discussion ensued. Jenna Cantwell, SWCA, noted that not all of the recommended options require additional work. Some options simply restructure information in a more transparent and user-friendly way.

After more discussion, Robert Puente withdrew his motion, and proposed alternate language that would establish a workgroup. Gary Middleton agreed to withdraw his second to Robert's initial motion as well.

Further discussion lead to the crafting of guiding principle that would establish one workgroup to address both: 1) the adequacy of evaluating the plan's effects on freshwater inflows to the San Antonio Bay; and 2) the adequacy of environmental assessments of individual water management strategies.

Robert Puente motioned to adopt the following language:

The SCTRWPG's evaluation of its plan's effects on the instream effects and freshwater inflows to the San Antonio Bay, and its environmental assessments of individual water management strategies are currently meeting the regulations and statutes for regional water planning. It is the SCTRWPG's intent to create a workgroup to evaluate the current methodologies and whether additional or alternative environmental assessment of instream effects and freshwater inflows into the San Antonio Bay, and of individual water management strategies, are necessary. If additional or alternative methodologies are recommended, the workgroup shall identify what costs would be associated with the additional evaluation and how these costs would be covered. The Workgroup will report back to the full SCTRWPG on any recommendations it may have.

Gary Middleton seconded Mr. Puente's motion. The motion passed by consensus

**b. CREATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKGROUP**

The following members and staff were identified to participate on the workgroup: Steven Siebert (SAWS), Kevin Janak, Jonathon Stinson (GBRA), Con Mims, Marty Kelly, Charlie Flatten, Rey Chavez, and Diane Wassenich. Steven Siebert was designated Chair. Chair Scott set a goal of May 2018 as a deadline for developing a comprehensive recommendation to the planning group.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS OF THE 2021 PLAN ENHANCEMENT PROCESS**

- a. HOW WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES ARE CATEGORIZED; E.G. RECOMMENDED, ALTERNATE, NEEDING FURTHER STUDY**
- b. ESTABLISHING MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES INCLUDED IN THE PLAN**
- c. MAINTAINING MANAGEMENT SUPPLIES WHILE AVOIDING "OVER PLANNING"**

Brian Perkins gave a presentation outlining TWDB's rules and guidance, and Region L historic processes concerning the categorization of water management strategies and the implications of each category, minimum standards of water management strategy evaluations, and management supplies.

The presentation sparked questions and discussion. Before taking any action, the planning group broke for lunch.

Upon reconvening, the planning group opened up Agenda Item No. 10 for discussion. After several ideas were raised, Chair Scott suggested creating a Minimum Standards Workgroup to address defining what—if any—minimum standards ought to be implemented for water management strategies; to explore the nature of recommended, alternate, and needs further study categories, and whether different minimum standards should be used for each category; and to outline the process by which the planning group should address the three overarching issues: 1) categorization of water management strategies, 2) setting minimum standards, and 3) maintaining management supply.

The following members were designated to participate on the planning group: Tim Andruss, Con Mims, Tom Taggart, Greg Sengelmann, Donovan Burton, and Dianne Wassenich. Tim Andruss was designated Chair of the newly created workgroup.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING CONSULTANT'S WORK AND SCHEDULE**

- a. TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD'S DRAFT POPULATION AND WATER DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL AND MINING**

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.

Mr. Perkins then presented on population/ municipal water demand projections and mining demand projections. Crucially, Mr. Perkins focused on observations of the projections delivered by TWDB.

The following observations were noted: 1) mining projections are unchanged from 2016 Plan; 2) region-wide population projection is nearly identical; 3) region-wide municipal water demand projections increases by approximately 12,500 acre-feet per year; 4) effects of Eagle-Ford shale activities on municipal water demands have been removed from the projections (effects 7 counties); 5) county-wide, three counties water demand projections are significantly lower (Caldwell, Guadalupe, and Wilson counties); 6) county-wide, 7 counties water demand projections are significantly higher (Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, hays, Medina, Uvalde, and Victoria).

Mr. Perkins laid out the following response procedure to TWDB's projections: ask TWDB for clarification on a few issues; survey water user groups and wholesale water providers for review of TWDB draft projections; report water user groups and wholesale water providers comments to Region L Planning Group at a future meeting; and then develop list of requested revisions for submittal to TWDB.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: COMMERCIAL SCALE RAINWATER HARVESTING PRESENTATION FROM REGION K CHAIR—JOHN BURKE**

Charlie Flatten introduced John Burke, Chair of Region K Regional Water Planning Group. Mr. Burke gave presentation on commercial scale rainwater harvesting. The PowerPoint slides are available at [www.regionltexas.org](http://www.regionltexas.org).

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING**

- a. **ADOPTION OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
- b. **DISCUSSION ON THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS OF THE 2021 PLAN ENHANCEMENT PROCESS: 1) IDENTIFYING SPECIAL STUDIES OR EVALUATIONS DEEMED IMPORTANT TO ENHANCE THE 2021 PLAN AND IDENTIFICATION OF OUTSIDE FUNDING SOURCES; 2) ADDRESS THE ROLE OF REUSE WITHIN THE REGIONAL WATER PLAN; AND 3) THE EXTENT TO WHICH INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES SHOULD BE USED.**
- c. **TWDB PLANNING 101 PRESENTATION**

The planning group reviewed the items scheduled for the next meeting. No items were added.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rachel Cywinski offered public comment, noting the difficulty of finding scheduled meetings on the Region L website. Ms. Cywinski also noted the importance of looking consumptive uses versus non-consumptive uses as a consideration for water planning.

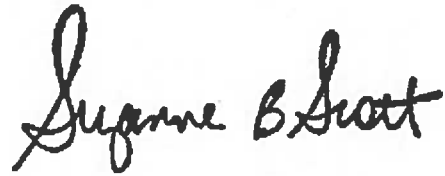
Chair Scott adjourned the meeting.

Handwritten signature of Gary Middleton in cursive script.

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GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on May 4, 2017.

Handwritten signature of Suzanne B. Scott in cursive script.

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SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR