

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
May 4, 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	Kevin Patteson
Pat Calhoun	Iliana Pena
Gene Camargo	Robert Puente
Don Dietzmann	Steve Ramsey
Art Dohmann	Weldon Riggs
Alston Beinhorn for Blair Fitzsimons	David Roberts
Charlie Flatten	Roland Ruiz
Vic Hilderbran	Dianne Savage
Kevin Janak	Suzanne Scott
Russell Labus	Greg Sengelmann
Glenn Lord	Thomas Taggart
Peter Schram for Doug McGooky	Dianne Wassenich
Dan Meyer	Adam Yablonski
Gary Middleton	
Con Mims	

Voting Members Absent

Will Conley
Rey Chavez

Non-Voting Members Present:

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

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Carl Crull

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: (9:00 AM) Planning 101: New Member Orientation (Refresher for Veteran Members) by Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)—Ron Ellis

Ron Ellis, TWDB, presented an introduction to and overview of Regional Water Planning in Texas, specifically with regard to the Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Planning. The presentation included background information on regional and state water planning, regional water planning groups, fundamentals of water planning, and the foundation of the State Water Plan. Members were invited to ask questions throughout the presentation. The presentation is available at www.regionltexas.org.

Toward the end of the presentation, Con Mims asked if the TWDB, by approving a regional water plan, is indicating that said plan meets all of the requirements of promulgated by the planning process and rules. Mr. Ellis confirmed that, by approving a regional water plan, the TWDB is confirming that the submitted plan effectively meets the requirements set out by the planning rules and guidelines.

Kevin Janak asked whether a limit set by the Legislature on the amount of funding each region receives for planning purposes, and whether each region receives the same amount. Mr. Ellis responded, noting that the TWDB determines the amount of money each regions receives based on several factors. The funding varies from plan to plan, and from region to region.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: (10:00 AM) ROLL CALL

Suzanne Scott informed the Planning Group that Don Dietzmann, former voting member representing Groundwater Management Area 9 (GMA 9), was moving out of the area, thereby vacating his seat on the Planning Group. Chair Scott introduced Curt Campbell, who was appointed by GMA 9 as Mr. Dietzmann's replacement, to the Planning Group.

Cole Ruiz, San Antonio River Authority, called the roll, and confirmed a quorum.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

Meredith McGuire passed out an alternative water management plan prepared by the Sierra Club. Ms. McGuire described the particulars of the plan, and noted that it drew from practices employed by the City of Melbourne, Australia during the recent drought that affected the city. Ms. McGuire stressed the importance of bring the water use per person down.

Alan Montemayor, also with the Sierra Club, continued the message of the alternative water management plan. Mr. Montemayor asked planning group members to pass the information along to their staffs and to provide feedback to the Sierra Club on the alternative water management plan.

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

Glenn Lord made a motion to approve the minutes from January 2, 2017, meeting of the SCTRWPG. Tim Andruss seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed by

consensus

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP) – NATHAN PENCE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EAHCP

Nathan Pence briefed the Planning Group on the implementation of the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan. Mr. Pence notified the Planning Group that the EAA is in the fifth year of implementation, the habitation restoration was making huge impacts on the springs systems, and the VISPO, ASR, and Regional Water Conservation programs were almost 90 percent complete. Refugia was in place, and things were generally doing well. Additionally the National Academy of Science had lauded the HCP as an enormous success so far.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: 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)

Chair Scott briefed the Planning Group on the BBASC's recent efforts to recharge interest in BBASC operations. She informed the group that several vacancies were filled on the BBASC, and that the meeting rules were being looked at to see if changes were needed. Ms. Scott also informed the Planning Group that the BBASC continues to receive updates on the ongoing studies for instream flow validation efforts.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) COMMUNICATIONS

Ron Ellis informed the Planning Group that the Planning Rules was revised, and a new version of the rules was being printed. Additionally, the TWDB had approved the applications to amend the planning contracts to expand the scope of work and budget for the Planning Group. Mr. Ellis also noted that an application period was for TWDB Agriculture Conservation Grants. The deadline was coming up on May 10, 2017. Mr. Ellis provided dates and deadlines for demand projections, and added that TWDB Direct Kathleen Jackson had been reappointed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairwoman Scott provided updates to the planning group, which included a legislative report that was provided in the packet for the benefit of Planning Group members. There was some general discussion about several bills that had been filed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO REQUEST WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE TWDB FOR THE GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY'S (GBRA) PROPOSED SUBSTITUTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR TWO RECOMMENDED WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN THE SCTRWP 2016 PLAN, OR A DETERMINATION OF WHETHER GBRA'S PROPOSED ACTION CONSTITUTES A MINOR OR MAJOR AMENDMENT

Kevin Patteson delivered a presentation on GBRA's plans to substitute an alternative water management strategy, identified in the SCTRWP 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.

There were several questions relating to the status of permits related to the substitution proposal. Mr. Patteson explained that GBRA is most focused on the groundwater component of the substitution, while the ASR and off-channel reservoir components would probably take a couple decades to develop and implement to meet the projected future need.

Ron Ellis explained to the Planning Group the process of substituting projects in the regional water plan, which is prescribed in TWDB rules. Before the Planning Group can make any revisions to a regional water plan, they must seek approval from the TWDB that the proposed revision qualifies as either a 1) substitution, 2) minor amendment, or 3) major amendment. GBRA is proposing a revision, and seeking the TWDB to approve the revision as a qualified “substitution.” The process that follows a substitution, as opposed to a minor or major amendment, varies. The action needed at the present was to authorize the administrator to seek confirmation from the TWDB as to whether the proposed revision indeed constitutes a substitution as provided by in the TWDB Regional Water Planning Rules. Additionally, the action should authorize SARA to request the TWDB to specify which other type of amendment the proposed revision constitutes, in the event that the Executive Administrator disagrees that the revision is a “substitution.”

Greg Sengelmann motioned to authorize the Administrator to submit a request to the Executive Administrator of the TWDB to approve GBRA’s proposed revision as a substitution, and—in the event that the Executive Administrator disapproves of the proposal—to identify whether the proposed revision is a minor amendment or a major amendment. Con Mims seconded the motion. There were no objections. Gary Middleton abstained. The motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: 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. 11: STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKGROUP’S PROGRESS 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 (SAWS), Chair of the Environmental Assessment Workgroup, briefed the Planning Group on progress made toward developing a guiding principle to recommend to the Planning Group, which would address the adequacy of evaluating the regional water plan’s effects on freshwater inflows, and the adequacy of environmental assessments of individual water management strategies. Mr. Siebert explained that the workgroup was focusing on the structure of the environmental assessment, and how it could be improved. Additionally, the workgroup showed interest in advancing a realism approach to the environmental assessment component of the plan. The goal of the workgroup is achieve guidelines that improve the structure and comprehension of

the environmental assessment portions of the plan, while introducing a realistic understanding of the plans effects on the environment.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: 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"**

Tim Andruss, Chair of the Minimum Standards Workgroup, briefed the Planning Group on the progress made toward achieving guiding principles on the categorization of water management strategies, establishing minimum standards, and maintaining management supply. Mr. Andruss informed the group that they are working on developing recommendations for the Planning Group to consider.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS OF THE 2021 PLAN ENHANCEMENT PROCESS

- a. THE ROLE OF REUSE WITHIN THE REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

For the full dialogue and Power Point presentation on this agenda item, please access the recording and agenda packet of the May 4, 2017, meeting at www.regionltexas.org.

Brian Perkins gave an informational presentation on Planning Group's historic approach to reuse and effluent.

Mr. Perkins began by providing a high level overview of effluent in the region, and how return flow factors vary among water users (i.e. irrigation, commercial, residential, manufacturing, steam-electric, cooling, etc...).

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).

Reuse is water that has been used by an entity once, then treated at a WWTP, and then reused by either the same entity, another community in some beneficial use. Mr. Perkins explained the differences between direct versus indirect reuse, and potable versus non-potable reuse. Using a hypothetical municipal utility, Mr. Perkins explained that a demand may be met by a reuse water management strategy. A utility's influent/ effluent is assumed to be 60 percent of its project demand. Thus, if a utility projects a demand of 100,000 acre-feet per year, it is assumed for planning purposes that the WWTP will discharge 60,000 acre-feet per year of effluent for potential reuse. Historically, the Planning Group has not distinguished potable from non-potable reuse at this stage. If the discharge sufficiently exceeds the unmet need (for example 20,000 acre-feet per year), the proposed reuse water management strategy is deemed feasible.

Mr. Perkins continued, saying that reuse is included in the current Region L Plan in as 1) existing supply, or 2) to as a water management strategy. Currently (2016 SCTRWP), SAWS, San Marcos,

New Braunfels, GBRA, SARA, Kyle, Kennedy, and Boerne have reuse supplies.

Mr. Perkins also noted that reuse and effluent becomes relevant in the development of hydrologic assumptions for the Planning Cycle, which must be approved by the TWDB.

A high level conversation ensued amongst Planning Group members regarding the impacts of how the Planning Group treats reuse in the planning process, specifically with regard to WAM Run 3. Chair Scott suggested that a workgroup be created to develop the hydrologic assumptions at a future meeting. That workgroup would address the reuse issue.

Further discussion revealed that perhaps a workgroup would not be necessary. The Planning Group resolved that the Mr. Perkins would offer a presentation at a future meeting on the hydrologic assumptions to get everyone up to speed on the process, and to provide clarity. At that point, the Planning Group could decide how to move forward, either with the creation of a workgroup or not

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

Brian Perkins reminded the Planning Group that the TWDB allocated funding for special projects. Region L completed five studies with these funds. Those included two environmental assessments, one related to water management strategies, the other on harvest equations in the estuary. One study focused on brush management. One focused on an all-inclusive conservation study. The last one focused on Lower Guadalupe Water Supply Project. The funding was provided exclusive from the funding dedicated to the tasks prescribed by the TWDB rules. However, it was noted that moving forward, there were no funds allocated from TWDB for special studies or evaluation. Mr. Perkins pointed out that, to the extent that an innovative strategy or something new emerges, and the Planning Group wants to evaluate it under the water management strategy budget, the Planning Group could choose to evaluate it within the context of the regional water planning scope of work. Any studies, not meeting the criteria of water management strategy would require additional funding, dedicated outside the current budget. Thus, sponsors of such a study would have to commit the funds outside the TWDB funding.

From this Mr. Perkins segued to innovative strategies included in past regional water plans.

c. THE EXTENT TO WHICH INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES SHOULD BE USED

Brian Perkins reminded the Planning Group of innovative strategies used in past regional water plans. These included advanced water conservation, drought management, reuse/ recycle programs, brackish groundwater desalination, seawater desalination, aquifer storage and recovery, brush management, rainwater harvesting, weather modification/ cloud seeding, and other special studies.

Discussion ensued regarding a number different potential innovated water management strategies that could be further discussed and incorporated in the 2021 Regional Water Plan. Members and the public were encouraged to bring their ideas and corresponding funding forward at future meetings (funding for those innovative strategies that do not meet the criteria of water management strategy or water management strategy project). While no action was taken during this item, each topic was tabled for the next regularly scheduled Region L meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: 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.

Mr. Perkins reminded the Planning Group that it has the opportunity to designate “sub-WUGs” to elevate water utilities, who do not currently meet TWDB’s threshold for WUG classification, to “Water User Group” status. However, no such utilities had come forward to request WUG status, despite having reached out to each one within the regional water planning area. Mr. Perkins made a recommendation that no changes to the current list be made, unless a non-WUG utility came forward to request WUG status. While no action was taken, the recommendation was generally accepted with no objections.

Lastly, Mr. Perkins briefed the Planning Group on recent efforts to disseminate TWDB water demand and population projection information throughout the regional water planning area, and solicit feedback. As a result of having sent out the surveys, Mr. Perkins received feedback from about 22 percent the water utilities, representing 75 percent of the population. While not every utility responded to the initial survey, the major water utilities throughout the region responded. Additionally, Mr. Perkins announced that the Regional Water Alliance, a group of water purveyors throughout the region, would be holding a Workshop on May 12, 2017. Part of the impetus behind the Workshop was to drive more responses from water utilities throughout the region.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS PRESENTATION: IMPACT OF FEDERAL LISTING OF FRESHWATER MUSSELS AS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES – KIMBERLEY A. HORNDESKI

Kimberley Horndeski, with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, gave a presentation on the Comptroller’s ongoing Central Texas Freshwater Mussels study, and its 12 month finding report. The purpose of the study was to identify state funding priorities based on immediacy of listing decisions, existing data gaps, and the potential impacts of listing decisions. Specifically, the study produced findings on impoundments, sedimentation, dewatering, chemical contaminants, and sand and gravel mining. The full recording and Power Point presentation is available at www.regionltexas.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING

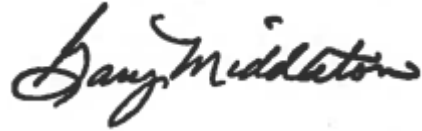
- A. ADOPTING SUBSTITUTION TO 2016 REGION L REGIONAL WATER PLAN**
- B. WORKGROUP UPDATES**
- C. REVIEW AND RECOMMEND REVISION REQUEST REGARDING DRAFT POPULATION DEMAND PROJECTIONS**
- D. SAWS 2017 WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

Chair Scott adjourned the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Middleton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on August 3, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne B. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR