

**Minutes of the  
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group  
February 15, 2018**

Chair 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.

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

**Voting Members Present:**

Tim Andruss	Sara Beasley for Iliana Pena
Pat Calhoun	Robert Puente
Herb Williams for Gene Camargo	Steve Ramsey
Rey Chavez	Weldon Riggs
Will Conley	David Roberts
Curt Campbell	Roland Ruiz
Annalisa Peace for Charlie Flatten	Dianne Savage
Kenneth Ehler for Kevin Janak	Suzanne Scott
Russell Labus	Greg Sengelmann
Glenn Lord	Heather Sumpter
Doug McGooky	Thomas Taggart
Dan Meyer	Dianne Wassenich
Gary Middleton	Adam Yablonski
Con Mims	
Jonathan Stinson for Kevin Patteson	

**Voting Members Absent**

Blair Fitzsimons  
Vic Hilderbran

**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  
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison  
Marty Kelley, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife  
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

Joseph McDaniel, Region J  
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](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**

Dr. Meredith McGuire, made some comments regarding water supply in the face of climate change. Dr. McGuire noted extreme weather patterns, and suggested prioritizing the uses of potable water, while supporting efforts to conserve water.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 3, 2017, MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (REGION L)**

Dianne Wassenich pointed out a mistake in the minutes. Chair Scott noted the mistake would be addressed. Chair Scott then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 2, 2017 as edited. Gary Middleton moved to approve the minutes. David Roberts seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: ELECTION OF OFFICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018**

Robert Puente motioned to approve the current officers to continue in their roles for calendar year 2018. The motion was seconded by Con Mims, and approved by consensus. Officially, the following appointments were made:

Chair: Suzanne Scott  
Vice Chair: Tim Andruss  
Secretary: Gary Middleton  
At-Large: Kevin Janak  
At-Large: Adam Yablonski

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

No update for the EAHCP 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)**

Chair Scott reported to the Planning Group that Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) had provided a status update on the progression of contracts with regard to the studies seeking funding for the next biennium. Information on each study was provided in the agenda packet.

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

Ron Ellis, TWDB, provided a status update on the rule-making process currently ongoing at the TWDB. Proposed rules were scheduled to go before the Board of Directors at TWDB in March 2018.

Mr. Ellis also provided an update on the most recent amendment to the Regional Water Planning

contract between the Planning Group and TWDB. The amendment would include changes to the Scope of Work and Budget. Agenda Item No 8. (below) would consider authorizing the San Antonio River Authority to execute the amendment.

Mr. Ellis also presented the Best Management Practices Guide for Regional Water Planning Group Political Subdivisions, which addresses new practices related to Planning Group conformity with the Open Meetings Act.

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

Chair Scott reported to the Planning Group that it was only about 73 percent compliant with the mandate from the TWDB requiring members to keep on file with the designated political subdivision a copy of each voting member's completion of the Open Meetings Act training. Chair Scott reminded the members to complete the training and provide their certificate to Cole Ruiz, San Antonio River Authority. Chair Scott also asked that designated alternates to complete the Open Meetings Act training and provide a copy of the certificate to Mr. Ruiz. It was generally agreed by the full Planning Group that the practice in the future would be to require alternates to comply with the Open Meetings Act to the same extent of the voting members they are sitting for. An official policy would be considered for adoption at the May 3, 2018, Planning Group meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the TWDB's guidance to prohibit conference calls during meeting Planning Group meetings and Planning Group committee meetings. The Planning Group generally agreed that the practice moving forward would be to not allow conference calls, but to record each meeting. The recorded files would be archived with the San Antonio River Authority, available upon request to the public and Planning Group members. An official policy would be considered for adoption at the May 3, 2018, Planning Group meeting.

Chair Scott presented a new document, which was the result of the 2021 Plan Enhancement Process. The document contained the previously adopted guiding principles and bylaws.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY (SARA) TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO TWDB CONTRACT NO. 1548301840 BETWEEN TWDB AND SARA, IN ITS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS DESIGNATED POLITICAL SUBDIVISION FOR THE SCTRWPG**

Cole Ruiz, San Antonio River Authority, informed the Planning Group that TWDB anticipated issuing an amendment to TWDB Contract No. 1548301840 between TWDB and SARA, the designated political subdivision for the Planning Group. To expedite the execution of the amendment, which requires Planning Group authorization, Mr. Ruiz asked the Planning Group to consider authorizing SARA to negotiate and execute the contract amendment.

Jonathan Stinson moved to authorize SARA to execute and negotiate the contract amendment. Glenn Lord seconded the motion. The motion was approved by consensus.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM'S (SAWS) PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE 2016 SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

Sara Eatman, Black and Veatch, was filling in for Brian Perkins, Black at Veatch. Ms. Eatman briefly explained that the SCTRWPG recommended the Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI)

water management strategy as part of SAWS's water conservation goals in the 2016 Region L Regional Water Plan. However, the capital costs for the AMI water management strategy project were not included in the database for the 2017 State Water Plan (DB17). The proposed minor amendment would—if adopted—incorporate the capital cost for the AMI water management strategy project in the DB17. Once the appropriate capital costs are added to the state database via the subsequent amendment to the 2017 State Water Plan, SAWS will be eligible to seek State financing options.

A brief discussion ensued. David Roberts motioned to approve the minor amendment. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE CITY OF ELMENDORF'S REQUEST FOR SCTRWPG SUPPORT FOR A REQUEST TO WAIVE THE CONSISTENCY REQUIREMENT, AS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 357.60 OF THE TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.**

Garry Montgomery, Utility Engineering Group, PLLC, representing the City of Elmendorf, gave a presentation on the City of Elmendorf's water supply and distribution project, indicating that the City is looking to expedite the development of new supplies (Power Point slides are available at [www.regionltexas.org](http://www.regionltexas.org)). The City entered into an agreement to acquire the required land for the project, which seeks to develop up to four Wilcox wells, along with the necessary infrastructure for treatment, storage, and distribution. The City has submitted an application for \$10,850,000 in financial assistances to the TWDB.

The City of Elmendorf was seeking a letter of support from the SCTRWPG for its request to waive the requirement that projects seeking non-SWIFT (State Water Implementation Fund for Texas) financing be consistent with the State Water Plan (projects seeking SWIFT funding must be recommended in the State Water Plan to qualify for SWIFT funding). The City of Elmendorf cited the immediacy of water demand, the inconsistency of the 2017 State Water Plan's description of the City's water sources with its current water purchase agreement with SAWS, and the significant increase of the MAG (modeled available groundwater) for the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer in Bexar County as justifications for waiving the consistency requirement.

Discussion ensued, the recording of which is accessible at [www.regionltexas.org](http://www.regionltexas.org). Robert Puente offered to reduce future SAWS needs from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer to be commensurate with the City of Elmendorf's current water demand (approximately 753 AF per year) projected to be satisfied by the City of Elmendorf's Groundwater Development Project. Following his proposal, Mr. Puente moved to authorize Chair Scott to issue a letter of support (a draft of which was provided in the agenda packet) for the project—consistent with day's discussion—to TWDB. Gene Camargo seconded the motion. The motion passed, with several voting members voicing “no” votes.

After the motion passed, discussion continued. A recommendation was made to include in the support letter a sentence addressing the water availability, and noting that SAWS would reduce its future needs from the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer commensurate with the City's current water demand. The Planning Group generally agreed on the compromise, which settled the concerns of voting members, who had previously voted against the measure.

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

Sara Eatman, Black and Veatch, briefly presented the updated 2021 Regional Water Plan schedule. Ms. Eatman also discussed the process for designating “major water providers.” Ron Ellis provided some context as to the reason for designating “major water providers.” The major water provider designation allows people looking at the regional water plans to be able to quickly identify the major water providers, and gather information on demands, met needs, unmet needs, etc. The Planning Group is tasked with informing the TWDB whether or not they will designate major water providers, and if so, developing a methodology for designating major water providers. This process is planned to be discussed in more detail at the May 3, 2018, meeting.

Ms. Eatman discussed water demand and population projections, and requested revisions. A notable and recent demand projection revision from CPS Energy came in after the official deadline. Ron Ellis, TWDB, noted that since the revision request came after the deadline, an amendment would be required to process the revision request.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING**

Chair Scott reminded the Planning Group that about half of the voting members’ terms were ending in August 2018. The agenda for the May meeting would have an item requesting authorization from the Planning Group to post notice soliciting nominations to fill the impending vacancies.

Items considering the adoption official policies regarding the designated alternates of voting members conformity with the Open Meetings Act, and regarding the use of conference calls during Planning Group meetings and Planning Group committee meetings would be added to the May agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 13. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Middleton moved to adopt the guiding principle as recommended by Mr. Siebert. Con Mims seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: 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 May 3, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR