

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
November 3, 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	Gary Middleton
Pat Calhoun	Con Mims
Herb Williams for Gene Camargo	Kevin Patteson
Patrick Garcia for Rey Chavez	Robert Puente
Will Conley	Steve Ramsey
Curt Campbell	Weldon Riggs
Heather Sumpter for Art Dohmann	David Roberts
Blair Fitzsimons	Roland Ruiz
Charlie Flatten	Dianne Savage
Vic Hilderbran	Suzanne Scott
Kevin Janak	Greg Sengelmann
Russell Labus	Thomas Taggart
Glenn Lord	Dianne Wassenich
Doug McGooky	Adam Yablonski
Dan Meyer	

Voting Members Absent

Iliana Pena

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

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Carl Crull, Region N Liason

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.regionaltexas.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

Ronald Fieseler provided an update to the Region L Planning Group regarding Groundwater Management Area 9, and the proposed 32,000 acre-feet of water to be pumped from the Trinity Aquifer in northern Bexar County. The Trinity Glen Rose is MAG-limited (modeled available groundwater), and the proposed output would exceed the modeled available groundwater, which may in turn affect regional water planning. Mr. Fieseler expressed concern about how the proposed project may affect the MAG and desired future condition (DFC).

Alan Montemayor spoke to the Planning Group about the San Antonio Water System's (SAWS) Water Management Plan, suggesting that certain areas of the Water Management Plan need to be reconsidered. Particularly, Mr. Montemayor expressed concerns about the Vista Ridge project. Mr. Montemayor asked the Planning Group to continue to consider the long term impacts of water planning for growth on its constituents, and to keep SAWS in check in that regard.

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)

Chair Scott noted that the recorder, which is used to record Planning Group meetings, had some technical difficulties, and cut out short of the August 3rd meeting concluding. The incident was noted in the draft minutes for August 3, 2017. Chair Scott then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 3, 2017. Greg Sengelmann moved to approve the minutes. Adam Yablonski 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

No update for the EAHCP was 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)

Chair Scott reported to the Planning Group that funding was renewed in the legislative budget to continue studies to work on the BBASC's work plan. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) was therefore, seeking study proposals for the next biennium. The GSA BBASC created a subcommittee to develop and prioritize potential studies to submit to TWDB for funding. A list of the prioritized of studies was provided in the agenda packet for Planning Group members to review. The TWDB had yet to respond to the prioritized list of studies, or issue a request for qualifications for any particular studies.

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

Ron Ellis, TWDB, gave some brief updates regarding the latest at the TWDB. Mr. Ellis informed the group that the SWIFT process was approaching. The timeframes and deadlines would be similar to the past process. A Regional Financial Assistance Workshop was scheduled for November 7th in Yoakum, Texas.

Mr. Ellis provided some informational guidance from the TWDB regarding new water planning rules concerning the Open Meetings Act. There are Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act training available on the Attorney General's website (<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/og/open-government-training>). All Planning Group members need to take the Open Meetings Act training, and maintain a certificate for that training. The San Antonio River Authority, as the designated political subdivision, will be responsible for maintaining record of the certificates of its planning group members. However, with regard to the Public Information Act, the Planning Group may designate a person or entity as the responsible party for responding to requests for public information. That person would be the only one required to take the Public Information Act training, and maintain a valid certificate. Additionally, all subcommittee/ workgroup meetings are now subject to the Open Meetings Act, and therefore require public notice in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Mr. Ellis clarified that members who have already taken the Open Meetings Act training and received a certificate, would not have to retake the training unless they are unable to locate the certificate. In such an instance, members would need to acquire a new certificate by taking the training again. To the question of how long a certificate is valid, Mr. Ellis deferred to the Attorney General's Office. However, Mr. Ellis did note that the deadline for completing the Open Meetings Act training was December 1, 2017.

Chair Scott requested that the Planning Group members send their Open Meetings Act training certificates to Cole Ruiz, San Antonio River Authority, prior to the deadline of December 1, 2017. Chair Scott recommended designating Mr. Ruiz to be record keeper for the Open Meetings Act purposes, and to be the designated Public Information Act trainee. Planning Group members generally agreed.

Mr. Ellis continued, notifying the Planning Group that the TWDB would soon be proposing rule revisions to implement the recent legislative changes. The rule changes will be distributed to planning groups and posted for public comment. Additionally, Mr. Ellis reminded the Planning Group that draft population and demand projections are due to the TWDB by January 12 (see agenda item 10). Lastly, Mr. Ellis briefed the Planning Group on a recent meeting of planning group chairs, which was recorded and available for viewing online. The meeting focused on recent proposed rule changes.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Scott did not have any particular updates, but did notify the Planning Group that Commissioner Will Conley had resigned from the Hays County Commissioners Court to run for County Judge. Since Mr. Conley was no longer serving in his previous capacity, Chair Scott requested that Mr. Conley provide some documentation from the Court or the sitting Judge reconfirming the Court's support for Mr. Conley to represent counties on the SCTRWPG. Mr. Conley agreed to provide such documentation.

Chair Scott informed the Planning Group that the recently adopted substitution (see minutes from August 3, 2017), would be going to the TWDB for final adoption at the state planning level in December.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION SETTING THE SCTRWPG MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018

Chair Scott directed Planning Group members to a SCTRWPG meeting schedule, which was included in the agenda packet. The quarterly meeting schedule generally followed the historical meeting schedule (first Thursday of February, May, August, and November). Chair Scott asked for a motion to approve the schedule. Weldon Riggs moved to adopt the proposed schedule. Glenn Lord seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO REQUEST WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE TWDB THAT THE SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM'S (SAWS) PROPOSED REVISION TO THE 2016 SCTRWPG REGIONAL WATER PLAN CONSTITUTES A MINOR AMENDMENT, OR A DETERMINATION OF WHETHER SAWS'S PROPOSED ACTION CONSTITUTES A SUBSTITUTION OR MAJOR AMENDMENT

Brian Perkins briefly explained the reason that a minor amendment would be necessary for SAWS to apply for SWIFT funding. 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). Therefore, the proposed minor amendment seeks to incorporate the capital cost for the AMI water management strategy project, as originally portrayed in the Region L 2016 Regional Water Plan, 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.

Mr. Ellis clarified the action required from the Planning Group at that time was to permit the administrator to submit a request for a determination of whether the particular revision to the 2016 Plan being sought, fits the character of a minor amendment, or another type of amendment. Following that determination, presumably at the next SCTRWPG meeting, the Planning Group would hold a public meeting in accordance with TWDB rules and take an action amending the plan.

Gary Middleton moved to authorize the Administrator to request written approval from the Executive Administrator of the TWDB that the SAWS proposed revision to the 2016 SCTRWPG Regional Water Plan constitutes a minor amendment, or a determination of whether SAWS's proposed action constitutes a substitution or major amendment. Kevin Patteson seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: PRESENTATION ON THE SAWS WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Donavon Burton, SAWS, delivered a presentation on the SAWS Water Management Plan. The PowerPoint slides and the recording of the presentation are available at www.regionltexas.org. In summary, Mr. Burton discussed previously planned SAWS projects, which are updated in 5-year intervals to account for various planning variables (population, demand, drought, and timing of supplies). The 2017 SAWS Water Management Plan Guiding Principles are conservation, technology, diversified water sources, and regional partnerships. Mr. Burton discussed various trends, successes, and challenges facing the region with regard to water supply, including conservation, wastewater treatment savings, extreme weather conditions, the utilization of technology, leveraging regional partnerships, increasing supply diversification, the implementation of Aquifer Storage and Recovery, brackish desalination, and the direct recycling of water.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE DRAFT POPULATION AND DEMAND PROJECTIONS

Brian Perkins, Black & Veatch, delivered a Power Point presentation to the Planning Group regarding the status of the draft population and demand projections. A Planning Group revision request was due to the TWDB by January 12, 2018. Upon review of the revision request, the TWDB would issue a decision either accepting or denying the request. Mr. Perkins then reviewed the population and demand projections for wholesale water providers submitting revision requests and justifications for those requests. The following water providers were submitting revision requests, the details of which were provided in Mr. Perkins's presentation: East Central Special Utility District, City of Garden Ridge, Goforth Special Utility District, Green Valley Special Utility District, Kendall West Utility, San Antonio Water System, City of San Marcos, Springs Hill Water Supply, SS Water Supply Corporation, and the City of Yoakum.

After some discussion, Dianne Wassenich moved to authorize the Administrator (SARA) and the Consultant (Black & Veatch) to submit the revision request to the TWDB, and to allow the Administrator and Consultant to make non-substantive revisions to the approved revision request as necessary. Tom Taggart seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: 2021 PLAN ENHANCEMENT PROCESS: RECAP OF GUIDING PRINCIPLES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AND ADOPTED

Chair Scott reminded the Planning Group of the guiding principles, which had previously been adopted over the course of the past year and a half. Copies of the adopted guiding principles, and a timeline of their adoption, was provided in the agenda packet. Chair Scott also reminded the Planning Group of the process by which the Planning Group will continue to review, discuss, and adopt the guiding principles, noting that previously adopted guiding principles will not be reconsidered, and that the appropriate time to challenge the guiding principle is prior to its adoption. The Planning Group would not be bring the guiding principles back up for consideration during the current planning cycle. There were no comments or questions about the previously adopted guiding principles from planning group members.

AGENDA ITEM NO. DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSEMENT WORKGROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Steven Siebert, SAWS and Chair of the Environmental Assessment Workgroup, refreshed the Planning Group's memory about the previously presented (at the August 3, 2017 meeting) recommendation. Mr. Siebert provided language for a potential guiding principle, based on the Environmental Assessment Workgroup's recommendation, to the Planning Group for consideration. The guiding principle, as recommended by Mr. Siebert and the Environmental Assessment Workgroup is provided below.

The SCTRWPG's evaluation of the Plan's effect on instream flows and freshwater inflows to the San Antonio Bay, and Plan's environmental assessments of individual water management strategies are currently meeting the regulations and statutes for regional water planning. The SCTRWPG believes a structural reorganization of the data presented will benefit the understanding of the Plan's

environmental assessments. The SCTRWPG will:

- Initiate environmental assessments earlier into the regional planning process;
- Eliminate environmental assessment comparisons of current plan to past plans;
- Consolidate threatened and endangered species information into the appendix rather than repeating in each water management strategy write-up;
- Update baseline year data to most current for potential impacts to vegetation and terrestrial habitat;
- Adjust distances for cultural resource sites;
- Include current conditions and streamflow protected by environmental flow standards in updated tabular form improving the way in which the data is presented;
- Include target flow regimes based on environmental freshwater inflow standards in updated tabular form improving the way in which the data is presented; and
- Include high level narrative of climate variability.

The SCTRWPG believes this environmental assessment structural reorganization will reflect realistic environmental impacts of the recommended water management strategies for both the public and planning group members.

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. 13: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE MINIMUM STANDARDS WORKGROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Tim Andruss, Chair of the Minimum Standards Workgroup, briefed the Planning Group on the actions and recommendation of the Minimum Standards Workgroup. Mr. Andruss provided the language recommended by the Minimum Standards Workgroup for consideration of the Planning Group. Mr. Andruss explained the reasoning behind the language being recommended, which is provided below.

Minimum Standards for Water Management Strategies

For a proposed strategy to be designated by the SCTRWPG as a water management strategy in the regional water plan, the proposed strategy must:

1. supply water, reduce water demands, or otherwise satisfy one or more identified needs;
2. include an evaluation and description consistent with standards used by the SCTRWPG and its technical consultants as required by TWDB Rules;
3. satisfy all relevant requirements established by the Texas Water Development Board, including environmental flow standards;
4. identify one or more entities, with sufficient ability and willingness to implement the strategy, as being the strategy's sponsor(s);
5. identify all entities, as reasonably possible, who own any existing or planned infrastructure or existing permit that could be affected by the

- proposed strategy as being strategy participants; and
6. identify groundwater conservation districts or Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) with jurisdiction over the proposed strategy.

Recommended Water Management Strategies

The SCTRWPG strives to develop a regional water plan that recommends water management strategies sufficient to supply water to all identified needs projected in the planning horizon for the region.

The SCTRWPG prefers designating water management strategies as recommended or alternative using a consensus approach while respecting the strategy sponsor(s)' wishes.

Prior to designating any water management strategies as recommended, the SCTRWPG will review the water management strategies to evaluate costs and environmental sensitivity of each water management strategy per TWDB Rules.

Kevin Janak moved to approve the Minimum Standards Guiding Principle. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS OF THE 2021 PLAN ENHANCEMENT PROCESS

- a) **THE ROLE OF REUSE WITHIN THE REGIONAL WATER PLAN**
- b) **IDENTIFYING SPECIAL STUDIES OR EVALUATIONS DEEMED IMPORTANT TO ENHANCE THE 2021 PLAN AND IDENTIFICATION OF OUTSIDE FUNDING SOURCES**
- c) **THE EXTENT TO WHICH INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES SHOULD BE USED**

Cole Ruiz, SARA, presented possible language for a guiding principle on the Role of Reuse within the Regional Water Plan, Identifying Special Studies or Evaluation Deemed Important to Enhance the 2021 Plan and Identification of outside Funding Sources, and the Extent to Which Innovative Strategies Should be Used. The language was drawn from previous Planning Group discussions at the August 3, and May 5, meetings of 2017.

After some discussion on the specific wording of the guiding principles, Con Mims moved to approve the following guiding principle on the Role of Reuse within the Regional Water Plan.

The South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (SCTRWPG) generally defers to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) rules for regional water planning as contained in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) on matters related to surface water supply analysis. For surface water supply analysis, the SCTRWPG will use the most current Water Availability Models from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to evaluate supplies, as required by section 357.32 (c) of the TAC. As per section 357.32 of the TAC, the SCTRWPG will assume full utilization of existing water rights and no return flows when using Water Availability Models.

The SCTRWPG agrees that effluent will be depicted in the Regional Water Plan only in cases of direct and/ or indirect reuse water management strategies, or where a preexisting contract for the supply of reuse is in place. Additionally, the SCTRWPG will not use effluent in the estimates of cumulative effects absent a direct and/or indirect reuse water management strategy or a preexisting contract for the supply of reuse.

Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

Next, Gary Middleton moved to adopt the following guiding principle on Identifying Special Studies or Evaluations Deemed Important to Enhance the 2021 Plan and the Identification of Outside Funding Sources, and the Extent to Which Innovative Strategies Should be Used.

The South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group (SCTRWPG) recognizes that there are no identifiable outside funding sources for special studies or evaluations. However, the SCTRWPG remains willing to consider evaluating any proposed water management strategies and special studies allowable under section 357.34 of the Texas Administrative Code.

Kevin Janak seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

Chair Scott notified the Planning Group that the guiding principles will be consolidated into a single document, and will be considered complete. Should any Planning Group member feel that the group should revisit a guiding principle as issues arise, then the Planning Group may take up those items in the future planning cycles.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE CONSULTANT'S WORK AND SCHEDULE

Brian Perkins briefed the Planning Group on the consultants work and schedule, noting specifically that Black & Veatch, technical consultant for the Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Planning, recently executed a contract amendment with SARA, Administrator for the Fifth Cycle of Regional Water Planning, to coincide with the congruous contract amendment between SARA and TWDB, which added funds and tasks to the development of the 2021 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan. Mr. Perkins provided the Planning Group with an updated schedule of the Fifth Cycle planning process.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING HYDROLOGIC ASSUMPTIONS

Brian Perkins provided a copy of the draft hydrologic assumptions to the Planning Group, and also displayed the document in PowerPoint form on the projection screen. Mr. Perkins reviewed the assumptions, and explained them to the Planning Group. The full presentation recording is available at www.regionltexas.org.

Dianne Wassenich moved to adopt the hydrologic assumptions as presented. Gary Middleton seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE SCTRWPWG CONSIDERS POTENTIALLY FEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Brian Perkins provided a draft copy of a document outlining the process by which the Planning Group will list all possible water management strategies and identify the water management strategies that are potentially feasible for meeting a need in the region, as required by TWDB rules. Mr. Perkins explained the process to the Planning Group.

Dianne Wassenich moved to adopt the hydrologic assumptions as presented. Charlie Flatten seconded the motion. The motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: EVERGREEN UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRESENTATION ON WEATHER MODIFICATION AS A POTENTIAL INNOVATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

As per the request of Planning Group member Russell Labus, Kendell LaRoche and Jonathan Jennings gave a presentation entitled, “An Overview of Weather Modification and Rainfall Enhancement across Texas.” The full presentation recording and PowerPoint slides are available at www.regoinltexas.org. The presentation included such topics as the objective of weather modification, cloud seeding areas, impacts from cloud seeding, rainfall enhancement, rain processes, warm rain process, warm rain visual, cold rain process, issues with natural clouds, cloud seeding agents, cloud seeding equipment, and among other items, a cloud seeding case study.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING

The Planning Group reviewed possible agenda items for the next meeting, which included election of officers and SAWS’s amendment request. More items were sure to come, and would be published on the February 2018, meeting agenda.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 20: 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 February 15, 2018.

SUZANNE SCOTT, CHAIR