

**Minutes of the
South Central Texas Regional Water Planning
Group**

August 1, 2019

At 9:00 AM, Natalie Ballew with the Texas Water Development Board made an informational presentation on the Groundwater Management Area Joint Planning process prior to the formal convening of the Region L planning group meeting.

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.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: (9:30 AM) ROLL CALL

Caitlin Heller, San Antonio River Authority, called the role, and confirmed a quorum

27 of the 31 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Weldon Riggs
Curt Campbell	Julia Carrillo for Roland Ruiz
Alan Cockerell	Dianne Savage
Charlie Flatten	Suzanne Scott
Vic Hilderbran	Greg Senglemann
Kevin Janak	Mitchell Sowards
Tom Jungman	Heather Sumpter
Russell Labus	Thomas Taggart
Glenn Lord	Ian Taylor
Dan Meyer	Diane Wassenich
Gary Middleton	Adam Yablonski
Jonathan Stinson for Kevin Patteson	
Illiana Pena	
Robert Puente	
Humberto Ramos	
Steve Ramsey	

Voting Members Absent:

John Byrum
Pat Calhoun
Rey Chavez
Will Conley

Non-Voting Members Present:

Elizabeth McCoy, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison
Chad Norris, TX Dept. of Parks and Wildlife
Jami McCool, TX Dept. of Agriculture

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Iliana Delgado, TCEQ-South TX Watermaster

Don McGhee, Region M Liaison

Carl Crull, Region N Liaison

Joseph McDaniel, Region J 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.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alan Montemayor, with the Sierra Club, spoke to the Planning Group and expressed gratitude about the work the group has done. He spoke appreciatively about the planning the group has done and how growing population has increased pressure on the water supply. He urged the group to not follow the California model of water planning and to look past viewing conservation through the lens of dollars and cents. Mr. Montemayor asked the group to continue their efforts towards sustainability and water reuse. Next, Ms. Rachel Cywinski spoke to the Planning Group. She thanked the group for making it easier to procure information about Region L meetings. Ms. Cywinski then praised the group for its civil discourse and participating in water planning.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 2, 2019, MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)

Ms. Pena moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Andruss seconded the motion. Ms. Lilly then stated that an amendment would have to be made to add in Andrew Young as the alternate for Mitchell Sowards in the list of voting members present for the May 2, 2019 meeting. Mrs. Pena accepted this amendment in her motion for the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: STATUS OF EDWARDS AQUIFER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (EAHCP), SCOTT STORMENT

Mr. Storment gave an update on the Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan's (EAHCP) May 23rd, 2019, Board Meeting. He explained that the Implementing Committee passed and approved the Phase 2 Work Plan and the attached Resolution. This puts a capstone on Phase 1 from 2013-2019 which was a developmental and research piece. Mr. Storment said that the EAHCP will now go into maintenance mode with the 2020-2028 Phase 2 which was passed at the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board meeting as well. He continued to say that the VISPO program was approved and that the Comal Springs system has been modeled. Mr. Storment then explained that the EAHCP was going to be moving into a busy fall and that he would be back at the November Planning Group meeting to provide another update.

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)

Ms. Scott updated the Planning Group on the progress and delivery dates of the BBASC 2018-2019 studies. She spoke on the BBASC nomination search for 5 vacancies and informed the group of the nomination processes. She requested that the Planning Group use the nomination sheet in the agenda packet and then send their nominations to Jade Rutledge with the TCEQ.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO NOMINATE A BBASC REGION L REPRESENTATIVE.

Ms. Scott brought attention to the Planning Group of the vacancy of the Region L representative for the BBASC. Ms. Pena offered to serve as the Region L representative for the BBASC. Ms. Wassenich nominated her to serve, seconded by Mr. Lord and all voted in favor of her nomination.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. McCoy gave an update on several items of significance. First, since the Planning Group's May 2nd, 2019 meeting, the TWDB has approved Block 2 and 3 which allocates all Task 5A funds. Secondly, she brought the attention of the Planning Group to the TWDB's new Data Planning Dashboard which allows for the visualization of the planning data of the state's Planning Board. Thirdly, Ms. McCoy gave a legislative update on bills 807, 721, 723, SB 7 and SB 8. She began with House Bill 807, stating that the TWDB is required to appoint an Interregional Planning council based on RWPG nominations. She explained that this will improve interregional coordination and discussion on water management strategies. Ms. McCoy stated that House Bill 807 also adds 5 requirements which must be incorporated into the planning rulemaking effective immediately. She requested that RWPG stakeholders submit comments about the new requirements by August 19th, 2019 and consider nominations for the Interregional Planning Group. She then proceeded to discuss the 5 requirements, starting with 1. "Identify Unnecessary or Counterproductive Variations in Drought Response Strategies." Ms. McCoy spoke on the 2nd requirement, "Provide a Specific Assessment for ASR Projects to Meet Significant Water Needs Identified in the RWPA." She explained that the Planning Group would need to determine what the threshold is for "significant" identified water needs. She stated that, regarding the 3rd requirement, "Set Specific GPCD Goals for Each Decade for Municipal WUGS," GPCD goals can be specific or a range and that they can be assigned individually or in groups. Ms. McCoy stated the 4th requirement, "Asses the Progress in Encouraging Cooperation between WUGS to Develop WMSs that Achieve Economies of Scale and Benefit the Entire Region," should be based on information collected in developments included in Chapter 11 of the IPP. She concluded HB 807 with the 5th requirement, "Recommend Legislative Changes to Improve the Water Planning Process," which she explained was similar to existing requirements and should be included in Chapter 8 of the IPP. Ms. McCoy then proceeded to talk about HB 721 which requires the TWDB to conduct studies of ASR projects and a statewide survey of major and minor aquifer projects. She explained that the first feasibility study will be completed by September 2020 and the statewide survey report is due to state leadership by December 15, 2020. She moved on to HB 723 which requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to obtain or develop updated WAMs for the Brazos, Neches, Red, and Rio Grande River Basins by December 1, 2022. Ms. McCoy reviewed SB 7 which provides funding for flood planning, protection, mitigation, data collection, modeling, and Hurricane Harvey Projects. She then proceeded to speak on SB 8 which establishes a state and regional flood planning process administered by the TWDB. She concluded with the TWDB request for input at their Flood Stakeholder meetings that will be held around the state in the first two weeks of August. She explained that the closest meetings to Region L would be held in Bastrop on August 6th, and in Kerrville on August 13th. She encouraged members to attend but stated if they could not they were free to provide written feedback by August 30th. Ms. Scott stated the importance of these meetings as the TWDB is looking at ways to move forward with structural and nonstructural flood planning and management. She explained that these meetings were a great opportunity to educate the population to know their risk regarding flooding.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE NOMINATION OF REGION L REPRESENTATIVE FOR INTERREGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Ms. Scott brought to the attention of the Planning Group the need to nominate a Region L representative to the TWDB's Interregional Planning Council. She explained that the purpose of this council was to improve coordination among the Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPG) and between the RWPGs and the TWDB in meeting goals of the state water planning process. Ms. Scott offered herself as a nominee but encouraged other nominations. Mr. Puente moved to nominate Ms. Scott, Mr. Middleton seconded, and all were in favor of the nomination.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Scott informed the Planning Group about the future Planning Group meetings. She explained that they will continue to have the November 7th, 2019 meeting but are planning on restructuring the meeting dates for February. Mr. Perkins spoke about the possibility of having two meetings in 2020 before the IPP is due to make sure that the Planning Group is able to get through all of the WMS. Ms. Wassenich asked if this meant that the normal February meeting was canceled. Mr. Perkins said yes, there will be two meetings, one on January 23rd, 2020, and one on February 20th, 2020. Mr. Raabe stated that the Planning Group would remove the May 2020 meeting in order to hold public meetings for the IPP. Ms. Scott explained that this rescheduling was in line with the Guiding Principles and will allow the Planning Group to have sufficient time to digest all of the WMS and the IPP. She requested that the group look at their schedules to ensure these future meeting dates would work for them.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: CONSULTANT'S WORK AND SCHEDULE

Mr. Perkins reviewed his schedule for the upcoming months, stating that Black & Veatch is currently in the process of evaluating water management strategies and working on the presentations for the Planning Group. He stated that the November meeting will have a large number of these presentations. He called attention to a list of updated projects, presented in the agenda packet. Then, Mr. Perkins called for a clarification on whether the definition of Major Water Providers was limited to municipal water user groups. The planning Group agreed that was their intention when they designated the entities as Major Water Providers. Mr. Perkins returned to his schedule, highlighting that the next meeting in November will have a large number of WMS presentations, as well as presentations on Chapters 3, 4, 7, and 8.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: PRESENTATIONS OF CHAPTERS OF THE REGION L WATER PLAN

Mr. Perkins began by stating that Black & Veatch was in the process of completing write ups for the chapters and will soon put them on the Region L website. He asked that the Planning Group review the chapters and send comments back to the River Authority and B&V. He explained that all chapters between now and the IPP will follow this process. Mr. Perkins stated that Chapters 1 and 2 will likely be on the Region L website in late August. Ms. Scott told the Planning Group that

they would receive emails to notify them once the chapters have been posted and encouraged them to send their comments in. Mr. Perkins then proceeded to summarize Chapter 1, which he called the Description of the Plan. He explained that this chapter talks about water providers, user groups, natural resources of areas, lands, and economic features of certain areas. He added that the chapter included historical populations, densities and age demographics. He highlighted the major and minor aquifers listed in the chapter and stated that this information comes from an updated version of the last plan. Mr. Perkins then proceeded to talk about Chapter 2 which shows population water demand projections for 2020-2070. Mr. Taggart pointed out a discrepancy between the two chapters where Chapter 1 displayed the population that resided only in Region L but Chapter 2 showed the entire population. Mr. Perkins agreed that it should be consistent and told the Planning Group he would change it. He went on to say that Chapter 3 would be about supply analysis, Chapter 4 is on connecting Chapter 2 and 3, and that Chapter 5 is on WMS. Mr. Taggart asked about steam electric power and how it was displayed in the presentation. Mr. Perkins explained that their demand is projected to remain steady over the next 50 years. He also briefly presented on a graph representing a draft of Chapter 7. He told the group that Black and Veatch has reached out to various entities on drought management and summarized the information in the chart which can be found in the agenda packet.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING ADHERENCE TO HOUSE BILL 807 REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Perkins proceeded to lead a discussion on the 5 requirements from House Bill 807. He started with requirement 1, asking the Planning Group how they would like to define any of the measures in specific drought management strategies as counterproductive or unnecessary. Mrs. Wassenich stated that the reason that individual entities can handle their own drought management is because there are variations in their situations. Mr. Ramos agreed, saying that unless the Planning Group was willing to survey all of these entities, the group should move to say nothing is unnecessary or counterproductive. Mr. Taylor affirmed, saying that different entities have different goals and trying to force them into an alignment would become a policy issue. Mr. Puente stated that he supported the motion. Chairwoman Scott called Mr. Ramos' motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed to deem nothing counterproductive or unnecessary. Mrs. Scott expressed that the Planning Group is ensuring local managers can manage their local customers, leaving the responsibility with the water providers.

Mr. Perkins then called attention to the 2nd requirement, telling the group that they would need to define "significant water need." He asked the group if they wanted to recognize that they are currently evaluating ASR strategies. Several members questioned the legislative intent and Mr. Perkins responded by stating that what this legislation is trying to do is to get them to consider ASR for users with significant need. He explained that the Planning Group has 4-5 strategies that are ASR related and the bill wants the group to see who qualifies for ASR and decide why or why not. Ms. Wassenich moved to define "significant need" as 10,000 acft or more of a particular use type to consider ASR evaluation. Mr. Andruss seconded, all members voted in favor and the motion passed. Mr. Perkins told the group that Black and Veatch would be able to write this up with the research they currently have and Mrs. McCoy clarified that this would work.

Mr. Perkins moved on to requirement 3, stating that the Planning Group actually uses the requirement's guidance already and the group has a reduction summary. He went on to say that the group can plug in the numbers that have been calculated and put it into the plan in Section 5B. He proceeded to talk about how requirement 4 is already a part of Region L's IPP in Chapter 11 and that he would summarize what the group has done for this section. Mr. Perkins concluded that requirement 5 is likewise already in the plan under Chapter 8.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: DISCUSSION REGARDING CHAPTER 8 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING GROUP

Ms. Scott gave an update on the progress of the Chapter 8 Policy Workgroup, stating that the group has made it about 2/3rds of the way through the chapter. She explained that the Workgroup is planning on separating the chapter into two sections, policy and funding. Ms. Scott informed the group that the next meeting is scheduled for August 27th from 10:00-12:00 pm and that she would provide another update at the November meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EMERGENCY INTERCONNECTION REPORT

Mr. Perkins informed the group of the need to summarize emergency interconnections with other Regional Planning Groups. He stated that Black & Veatch is in the process of reaching out to these groups. He explained that part of the requirement is that it must be a separate document that is sent directly to the TWDB due to its sensitive information. He went on to say that this is complicated due to the Open Meetings Act which makes it difficult to have confidential meetings to review such sensitive information. Ms. Scott broached the idea of having an executive session which is covered in the Open Meetings Act. Ms. McCoy encouraged the Planning Group to have the confidential information handled by either the consultant team or a political subdivision, then discussed at a very high level in an open meeting while limiting who holds on to the confidential information. Ms. Scott offered SARA to review the work but stated that it may be better to have an independent do it. She asked if there was anyone willing to work with the consultant. Ms. Wassenich offered Thomas Taggart. Mr. Taggart agreed to review the information with Mr. Perkins. Ms. Wassenich asked how they would keep the information confidential if there is a whole team of consultants working on it. Ms. Scott responded that they are bound by ethics. Mr. Perkins confirmed, saying that this process was confidential in the last cycle. Mr. Taggart stated that this was necessary due to post-9/11 laws that keep structural and confidential information in check. Ms. Scott agreed and asked Mr. Perkins when the report will be delivered. Mr. Perkins responded that he would have the report completed in January.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: PRESENTATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Mr. Perkins presented on 8 of the 29 water management strategies that have been approved for evaluation so far: CRWA Siesta, SSLGC Brackish Wilcox, SSLGC Expanded Carrizo, CVLGC Carrizo Well, NBU ASR, NBU Trinity Well Field, Victoria ASR, and Local Groundwater. These presentations can be found in the August 1, 2019 Planning Group agenda packet. On each presentation there was a slide concerning "Environmental Considerations" which caused several Planning Group members to question the definition. Mr. Perkins clarified that this is how the U.S.

Corps of Army Engineers defines it and reminded the group that these considerations were merely conceptual. He also revealed a graphic table of all WMS to display how they relate to each other in terms of cost, cultural, and environmental impacts. The group approved of the development of the graph but asked that a different color scheme be used.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSULTANT TO PROCEED ON WORK FOR TASK 5A SUBTASK 21 ii) ADDITIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Mr. Perkins explained to the Planning Group that at the end of the estimated cost and scope process for the various WMS they have some remaining funds. He went on to say that Black & Veatch would like to spend a portion of this money performing an analysis on the city of Kenedy and their new well. He stated that they have received a letter from the city's engineer who is looking to create a Carrizo well field for the city to use. Ms. Scott asked for an estimate of the cost and Mr. Perkins responded that it would be around \$2000-\$3000. Mr. Ramos moved to authorize this. Mr. Andruss seconded, and all were in favor of the authorization.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY TO AMEND AND EXECUTE THEIR REGIONAL WATER PLANNING CONTRACT WITH TWDB TO INCREASE AUTHORIZED FUNDS TO THE FULL CONTRACT AMOUNT

Mr. Raabe informed the Planning Group that funding from the last legislative session would complete the funding for this Region L planning cycle in the area of task 5A. He went on to say that shortly after September 1st, the TWDB will be allowed to enter into an amendment to bring these funds to the Planning Group. He explained that because the group would not be meeting until November, he wanted to bring this to the group now so that they could authorize SARA to do this. Mr. Taggart moved to authorize this. Mr. Stinson seconded, and all were in favor of the authorization.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19: DISCUSSION REGARDING AMENDING THE SCTRWPB BYLAWS TO CONFORM TO REVISION TO THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Raabe explained to the Planning Group that the recent Legislature instituted revisions to the Open Meetings Act that have to do with public comment and how they are handled at meetings. He continued to say that this legislation allows an entity to adopt rules on how to allow public comment at their meeting. He produced a draft set of rules that he had adapted from SARA's public comment rules, as SARA is also a public entity. He explained the rules which can be found in the August 1, 2019 Planning Group agenda packet. Mrs. Scott clarified that these rules could not be acted upon at the current meeting and requested that members send comments to SARA who will provide a notice about the possible action 10 days prior to the November meeting. Several members questioned how they were going to inform the public about this addition to the Planning Group's Bylaws. Mrs. Scott and Mr. Raabe offered suggestions of posting the new bylaws on the SCTRWPB website and printing laminated cards with the rules to place next to the comment cards.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 20: POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGION L MEETING

Mr. Perkins brought up several possible agenda items for the next meeting, including continuing the WMS evaluations, the possible public comment change to the Bylaws, and setting the meeting schedule for 2020.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 21: PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment to be heard.

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 pm.

Approved by the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group at a meeting held on August 1, 2019.

GARY MIDDLETON, SECRETARY

SUZANNE B. SCOTT, CHAIR

