

**Minutes of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
August 3, 2023**

Chair Andruss called the hybrid meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., held both in person and through WebEx online platform.

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

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Weldon Riggs
Ryan Bayle	Roland Ruiz
John Byrum	Darrell Brownlow for Dianne Savage
Curt Campbell	Mitchell Sowards
Debbie Farmer	Jonathan Stinson
Steve Graham	Thomas Taggart
Tom Jungman	Dianne Wassenich
Russell Labus	Adam Yablonski
Glenn Lord	Dan Yoxall
Scooter Mangold	
Dan Meyer for Andrew McBride	
Gary Middleton	
Travis Pruski	
Robert Puente	
Vanessa Puig Williams	
Humberto Ramos	

Voting Members Absent:

Will Conley
Charlie Flatten
Terrell Graham
Daniel Meyer
Darren Simmons
Vic Hilderbran

Non-Voting Members Present:

Michele Foss, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Jami McCool, TX Dept. of Agriculture
Ronald Fieseler, Region K Liaison

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Iliana Delgado, TCEQ
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison
Carl Crull, Region N Liaison
Marty Kelly, TX Department of Parks and Wildlife
Rusty Ray, Texas Soil & Water Cons. Board

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.1: ROLL CALL

Ms. Caye Castillo took roll call.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2: PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Rachel Cywinski provided a comment regarding public activity and participation in the RWP process. Ms. Cywinski mentioned how she views the Region L website to be difficult and uninviting for the public as they may be unable to easily access meeting materials. She provided a recommendation to Region L to consider how they are inviting the public about the work they are doing.

Mr. Ted Boriack provided a comment regarding Gonzalez County and how in his experience this county has a lot of groundwater pumping which concerns the landowners. Mr. Boriack encourages the planning group members to keep subsidence in mind and look into these water issues.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP (SCTRWPG)

Mr. Riggs motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Mangold seconded, the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING FILLING EXISTING VACANCIES AND VACANCIES TO RESULT FROM FUTURE TERM EXPIRATIONS OR RESIGNATIONS

Chair Andruss provided the recommendation from the Executive Committee to the RWPG regarding the nominees slated to fill vacancies to result from future term expirations. Chair Andruss provided the nominees in attendance to introduce themselves to the RWPG.

Mr. Kelso introduced himself to the RWPG and provided background on his work in Municipalities.

Mr. Middleton motioned to approve the recommendation by the Executive Committee, second by Mr. Puente, motion approved by consensus.

Recommended Nominees:

- Water Districts:
 - o Tim Andruss
 - o Roland Ruiz
- Water Districts (Non-Groundwater District)
 - o Humberto Ramos

- Counties:
 - o Andra Wisian
- Agricultural:
 - o Thomas Jungman
- Small Business:
 - o Mitchell Sowards
- Public:
 - o Dianne Wassenich
- Municipalities:
 - o Ryan Kelso

AGENDA ITEM NO.5: STATUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY TWDB

Ms. Foss provided an update from TWDB. TWDB provided a reminder of upcoming deadlines regarding draft population and municipal demand projections as well as the Technical Memorandum deliverable.

Ms. Foss informed the RWPG of what occurred during the June 27, 2023 RWPG Chairs Call to include bills of interest from the 88th Legislative Session, update of 6th Cycle Regional Water Planning Activities, and the Interregional Planning Council.

Ms. Foss provided a presentation on Infeasible Water Management Strategies (WMS). Ms. Foss included background on the task, what RWPGs should be reviewing, and explanation on how to determine infeasibility. Ms. Foss also provided the RWPG with key targets on how to identify infeasible WMSs and important deadlines and deliverables.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6: STATUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING INCLUDING REPORTS BY THE CHAIR, REGIONAL LIAISONS, GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING GROUP

Chair Andruss provided a reminder that regional liaisons need to review the by-laws and guidance on their responsibilities. Chair Andruss also provided an update on GMA 15.

Ms. Wassenich stated that at this time she is not seeing conflict between Region L and Region K but it is early in the process and if anything changes she will update the RWPG.

Mr. Fiesler provided an announcement regarding his upcoming retirement on September 30th and stated that there is nothing of significance to report from Region K.

Mr. Yablonski informed the group of a Rural Community Outreach Subcommittee meeting that was held on July 28th at the Nueces River Authority. He included that the invited participants were informed about background on Region L and the RWP process.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7: PRESENTATION BY THE SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM ON THE 88TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Ms. Parker provided an 88th Legislative Session overview to include key issues that were focused on legislatively and data on the bills and resolutions filed. Ms. Parker included details on infrastructure funding including SB 28/SJR 75 by Perry/King creating the Texas Water Fund and the New Water Supply for Texas Fund; and SB 30 by Huffman/Bonnen which included \$1 Billion for SB 28/SJR 75. Additionally, she provided details on bills passed/not passed impacting regional planning and relevant Sunset bills. Her presentation is available online at www.regionltexas.org.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8: PRESENTATION BY TECHNICAL CONSULTANT REGARDING:

a) SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS UPDATES

Ms. Gonzalez provided a conceptual schedule for the Region L plan development and emphasized major deadlines to include Hydrologic Variance (Task 3); process and analysis of infeasible WMSs (Task 4B); and process for identifying potentially feasible WMSs (task 5A).

b) PUPULATION AND MUNICIPAL WATER DEMAND PROJECTIONS AND SUPPORTING DATA

Ms. Gonzalez provided a summary of the TWDB data released to date and the process for examining the draft population and municipal water demand projections. Ms. Gonzalez included the justification needed for revision requests, a summary of Population and Municipal Demand Workgroup review activities, and the WUG feedback that was received on both population and water demand projections. Her presentation is available online at www.regionltexas.org.

Discussion ensued regarding the process for reviewing populations and migration scenarios for rural counties. Ms. Gonzalez explained the migration scenarios and what populations projections are based upon.

AGENDA ITEM NO.9: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING RECOMMENDATION FOR FEEDBACK TO TWDB ON POPULATION AND MUNICIPAL WATER DEMANDS DATA

Motion by Ms. Wassenich to accept recommendations from the Population and Water Demands Workgroup regarding feedback to the Texas Water Development Board on population and water demands projections revisions; and Authorize the technical consultant to continue working with the TWDB regarding population and water demands revisions, on behalf of the Regional Water Planning Group. Second by Mr. Taggart, motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.10: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES

Ms. Gonzalez provided a conceptual schedule for Region L plan development, workgroups that Region L has historically established to tackle complex technical subjects, and relevant past workgroups for 2021 plan development. Ms. Gonzles highlighted the Modeling and Reuse Workgroup and stated that while not anticipated, she recommends that the RWPG establish a Modeling and Reuse Workgroup in case technical review from the RWPG becomes necessary.

Mr. Ramos recommend a Modeling and Reuse Workgroup to be established by the RWPG, seconded by Mr. Pruski. Motion passed by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING TASK BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Ms. Gonzalez stated that the required effort to address WUG Population and Municipal Demand Revisions has exceeded the Task 2B budget to the point that an amendment is needed and is requesting to move budget from Task 7 (Drought Response) to Task 2B (Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections) that a required effort to address WUP Population and Municipal Demand Revisions has exceeded the Task 2B budget.

Motion by Ms. Wassenich to approve the request to move budget from Task 7 (Drought Response) to Task 2B (Population and Municipal Water Demand Projections), second by Mr. Campbell. Motion approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO.12: SCHEDULE AND POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SCTRWPG

The next SCTRWPG meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2023, at 9:30 AM.

AGENDA ITEM NO.13: PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Boriack provided a comment regarding attending potential future workgroup meetings and reiterated the importance to include focus on pumping levels, sustainability of well fills, and water level monitoring.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11: ADJOURN

Mr. Andruss motioned to adjourn. Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion, motion passed.