

**Minutes of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group
November 2, 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 32 voting members, or their alternates, were present.

Voting Members Present:

Tim Andruss	Travis Pruski
Micah Voulgaris for Curt Campbell	Robert Puente
Andra Wisian	Vanessa Puig-Williams
Debbie Farmer	Humberto Ramos
Charlie Flatten	Blaine Schorp for Weldon Riggs
Terrell Graham	Roland Ruiz
Vic Hilderbran	Darrell Brownlow
Thomas Jungman	Mitchell Sowards
Aarin Teague for Russell Labus	Jonathan Stinson
Glenn Lord	Thomas Taggart
Scooter Mangold	Ryan Kelso
Andrew McBride	Dianne Wassenich
Gary Middleton	Adam Yablonski

Voting Members Absent:

Ryan Bayle
John Byrum
Steve Graham
Daniel Meyer
Darren Simmons
Dan Yoxall

Non-Voting Members Present:

Carly Rotzler, TX Department of Parks and Wildlife
Michele Foss, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Jami McCool, TX Dept. of Agriculture

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Iliana Delgado, TCEQ
Don McGhee, Region M Liaison
Charles Wiedenfeld, Region J Liaison
Carl Crull, Region N Liaison
Rusty Ray, Texas Soil & Water Cons. Board
Ronald Fieseler, Region K 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.1: ROLL CALL

Ms. Caye Castillo took roll call.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2: PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES)

No public comments.

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

Mr. Puente motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Middleton 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 to approve the San Antonio River Authority to solicit for Industries and Water Districts interest groups due to a term expiration and a resignation.

Mr. Lord motioned to approve the San Antonio River Authority to solicit for the Industries and Water District interest groups. Mr. Hilderbran seconded, the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5: DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE TWDB CONTRACT TO INCREASE THE TOTAL PROJECT COST AND COMMITTED FUNDS FOR THE 2026 RWP

Mr. Middleton motioned to approve the San Antonio River Authority to Negotiate and Execute an Amendment with the TWDB Contract to Increase the Total Project Cost and Committed Funds for the 2026 RWP. Mr. Stinson seconded, the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6: DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT WITH BLACK & VEATCH BASED ON TWDB CONTRACT TO INCREASE TOTAL PROJECT COST AND COMMITTED FUNDS FOR THE 2026 RWP

Mr. Stinson motioned to approve the San Antonio River Authority to Negotiate and Execute an Amendment with Black & Veatch based on TWDB Contract to Increase the Total Project Cost and Committed Funds for the 2026 RWP. Mr. Middleton seconded, the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.7: STATUS REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY TWDB

Ms. Foss provided an update from TWDB including upcoming items of note such as Amended Contracts approved by the TWDB Board in August and Projections and Water Demands to be presented to TWDB Board for adoption on November 9, 2023. Ms. Foss also provided details on the RWPF Chairs Call held on September 28, 2023, details on the upcoming Interregional Planning Council meeting, and information on Proposition 6/SB and SJR 75.

AGENDA ITEM NO.8: 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 chair report that included that information on the interregional planning council working on draft report and recommends the planning group members join the meeting on August 17th.

Chair Andruss provided an update on Region P stating that they are on the same track as Region L.

Mr. Voulgaris provided an update regarding GMA 9 stating that they have been meeting every 2 months and are in the process of getting a consultant as well as waiting for TWDB updates.

Chair Andruss provided a GMA 15 update stating that they have identified Anterra as their preferred technical consultant and that they are waiting for the TWDB report that would compare the groundwater modeling.

Mr. Brownlow provided a GMA 13 update stating that they are looking into the performance of current regional model at this time.

AGENDA ITEM NO.9: PRESENTATION BY TECHNICAL CONSULTANT REGARDING SCHEDULE AND PROGRESS UPDATES

Ms. Gonzalez provided a conceptual schedule for Region L plan development. Her presentation is available online at www.regionltexas.org.

Mr. Ramos asked if Concan Water Supply Corporation be submitting a request for revisions. The Technical Consultant stated that they responded and agreed the migration looks fine.

AGENDA ITEM NO.10: PRESENTATION BY TECHNICAL CONSULTANT REGARDING INFEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION RESULTS

Ms. Gonzalez provided the process overview of the identification of Infeasible WMSs in the previously adopted 2021 Regional Water Plan and the evaluation methodology and results.

a. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING INFEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUTATION RESULTS

Mr. Ted Boriack (landowner) made a public comment regarding the issue of pumping groundwater in Gonzalez County. He stated that groundwater is being wasted and included that the plan is not feasible as it does not consider property rights. He also raised concerns on the impacts of agriculture and long-term sustainability.

AGENDA ITEM NO.11: PRESENTATION BY TECHNICAL CONSULTANT REGARDING PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIALLY FEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Ms. Gonzalez provided the requirements for the process to identify potentially feasible WMSs and the proposed process steps.

a. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIALLY FEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Mr. Ted Boriack stated that he would like to reiterate his previous comments and ask that they'd be considered here as well.

Ms. Puig-Williams made comments on Mr. Boriack's concerns and provided her understanding with the definition of feasible/infeasible.

AGENDA ITEM NO.12: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIALLY FEASIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Mr. Ramos motioned to Approve the Process for Identifying Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies. Mr. Middleton seconded, the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.13: REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING WATER AVAILABILITY, EXISTING WATER SUPPLIES, AND POTENTIAL NEED FOR PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF A HYDROLOGIC VARIANCE REQUEST TO THE TWDB

Ms. Gonzalez provided details and definitions for Surface Water Modeling, information on the Hydrologic Assumptions used last cycle and their plans for this cycle. Additionally, she provided the Surface Water Hydrologic Assumptions for 2026 RWP.

Motion by Mr. Puente to approve the surface water hydrologic assumptions, including hydrologic variance requests for the 2026 Regional Water Planning Cycle and to approve the technical consultant to submit the surface water hydrologic variance requests to the TWDB on behalf of the South-Central Texas (Region L) Regional Water Planning Group and authorize consultant to address any questions associated with processing these requests, as needed. Mr. Stinson seconded the motion, motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.14: DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEES

No motion to create an additional subcommittee.

AGENDA ITEM NO.15: SCHEDULE 2024 SCTRWPG MEETINGS

The RWPG chose to keep the same schedule as 2023 except for the first meeting of the year and selected the first Wednesday of February and the first Thursday of May, August, and November. The 2024 SCTRWPG meeting dates will be February 14, 2024, May 2, 2024, August 1, 2024, and November 7, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Taggart to approve the 2024 schedule of SCTRWPG meetings. Mr. Hilderbran seconded the motion, motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.16: SCHEDULE AND POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SCTRWPG

The next SCTRWPG meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

AGENDA ITEM NO.17: PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES)

Ted Boriack wanted to reiterate his comments regarding taking a look on groundwater pumping.

AGENDA ITEM NO.18: ADJOURN

Mr. Middleton motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hilderbran seconded the motion, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.