

LOWER COLORADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2004 REGULAR MEETING
AND JOINT MEETING WITH REGION L
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

These are the minutes approved by motion at the November 10, 2004 LCRWPG meeting.

Members Signing In:

John Burke, Water Utilities
Ron Fieseler, Environment
Rick Gangluff, Electric Generating Utilities
Ronald Gertson, Small Business
Dennis Jones, Municipalities
Jobaid Kabir, River Authorities
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Julia Marsden, Public
Bill Miller, Agriculture
Bill Neve, Counties
Bob Pickens, Other
Stanley Reinhard, Water Districts
Billy Roeder, Counties
Cole Rowland, alternate for Del Waters
Haskell Simon, Agriculture
Harold Streicher, Small Business
James Sultemeier, Counties
Paul Tybor, Water Districts
Jennifer Walker, Environment

David Bradsby, TPWD, Non-Voting Member
David Meesey, TWDB, Non-Voting Member

Voting Members Absent:

Jim Barho, Environment
Dale Henry, Other
Barbara Johnson, Industries
Chris King, Counties
Del Waters, Recreation

Region L Members

Evelyn Bonavida
Darrell Brownlow
Ron Naumann
Steve Radke
Gloria Rivera
Others attended, but did not sign public attendance sheets

Consultants/Support

Dan Strub, City of Austin Water Conservation	Mark Lowry, TC&B
Cynthia Braendle, Aqua Resources	Rebeka Lien, TC&B
Monica Segura, Group Solutions	Robena Jackson, Group Solutions

Visitors/Others:

State Rep. Patrick Rose	Judge Jim Powers
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Robert Kier, RSKC
Keith Hansberger, Lost Pines GCD
Ralph Boeker, Jr., TWDB
John Longoria, LCRA
Milton Stolte
Dirk Van Slyke, LCRA
David Griffith, State Rep. Hilderbran
Lisa Hatzenburger, LCRA
Dianne Wassenich, SMRF
Christine Engler, Freese & Nichols
Kevin Morrison, SAWS
Scott Ahlstrom, LCRA
Con Mims, NRA
Alice Darnell, Lost Pines GCD
Calvin Ransleben
Ann Mesrobian, Lost Pines GCD
Sneha Bhakta, City of Austin
Doug Wierman, Hay Trinity GCD
Jack Holton, HTGCD
Milton Holloway, Resource Economics
J Tom Ray, LAN
Travis McPhaul
Robert B Lee, Lost Pines GCD
Hal Talton, State Rep. Gattis
Joanna Wolaver
John Schraus, LCRA
Bob Larsen, BS/EACD
Andrew Backus, HTGCD
Jon Perrenti, City of Austin

Joe Cooper, Lost Pines GCD
Jim Cowan, Lost Pines GCD
Kraig Gallimore, TWDB
Mark Jordan, LCRA
Bryan Cook, LCRA
Timothy Riley, BS/EACD
Cindy Loeffler
David Cowan, LCRA
Stefan Schuster, Freese & Nichols
Tejashri Joshi Kyle, Freese & Nichols
Phil Weynand, SAWS
Neil Hudgins, Coastal Bend GCD
Glenn Marburger, LPGWD
John S. Knight, Kendall Co. Commissioner
Nadira Kabir, LCRA
Thomas D. Hill, GBRA
Tony Wood, Audubon Texas
Phoebe Allen, Lost Pines GCD
David Porkhill, TC&B
Augusto Villalon, KBR
Jack Goodman, BS/EACD
Billy Sherrill, Lost Pines GCD
Rebekah Adams, State Rep. Gattis
Karen Bondy, LCRA
Barry Mith, GCUWCD
Dan Opdyke, QEA
Ira Yates
Todd Votteler, GBRA
Greg Ellis, Edwards Underground Aquifer District

Quorum: Yes

Number of present voting members including designated alternates, representing absent voting members: 19.
Number required for quorum based on current voting membership of 23: 12.

**MEETING MINUTES:
JOINT MEETING WITH REGION L**

1) Call to Order

2) Welcome and Introductions

Evelyn Bonavida welcomed Representative Patrick Rose and Rebekah Adams and Hal Talton of Representative Dan Gattis' office.

3) Presentation and discussion of

a) LCRA-SAWS Water Project Update

Scott Ahlstrom and Fred Arce presented.

b) How SAWS/LCRA is handled in Region K plan

David Meesey presented. Gloria Rivera asked how groundwater would be used under the plan in a drought situation. Scott Ahlstrom said that groundwater would be used for short periods in drought situations to meet

agricultural needs, and studies would be conducted to better determine what the reliable supplies of groundwater would be in a drought. Rick Gangluff asked when the water would begin to be used by Region L. Fred Arce said that it was not certain. Rick said that in the Region K plan, the water started to be used around 2040. David said that it depends on when the water is needed, and that it would be determined for this round of planning by June 2005. It was asked how secure the availability of 150,000 AF to San Antonio would be in light of the interbasin transfer rules. John Burke said that it depends on the legislature, but he believes that it will likely be approved.

4) Presentation and discussion on how the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can help or hurt the LCRA/SAWS water sharing plan

Ronald Gertson presented.

5) Update on the Alcoa/SAWS Carrizo project

Fred Arce and Kevin Morrison presented. Haskell Simon asked if mitigation would be an instant response in cases where wells ran dry. Fred said that they wanted to pre-mitigate first, but if a well ran dry, they would first get water to replace the well water, and then examine why the well went dry and who was responsible. Haskell asked if there was a resolution process in cases of disputed responsibility. Fred said that they had not had to establish one yet, but they want to have a responsible process. Haskell asked if there was going to be a well level decrease that would be allowable, and was told it would be twenty feet. Haskell asked if SAWS would cover increased pumping costs caused by lower well levels, and was told they would not. Bill Neve asked if a larger pipeline would be needed from the Colorado River to San Antonio under option five. Fred said that a larger pipeline would be necessary, but they would have to revisit that option if it were chosen. Bill pointed out that one of the selling points of the SAWS/LCRA contract was that it would be limited by the size of the pipeline. Jennifer Walker asked if CPS had purchased the water rights, and was told they had. She asked if the ALCOA water was purchased through 2040. Fred said that the contract was for 40 years with a 40 year extension. Jennifer asked if the water was a byproduct of the mining. Fred said 30,000 AF was produced to depressurize the mine. An additional 10,000 AF would be produced from the aquifer. Jennifer asked if ALCOA could only sell water as long as the mine is active. Fred said that ALCOA would have to deliver the water whether or not they are mining. Ronald Gertson asked if the ALCOA water was under consideration to be included in the LCRA/SAWS plan. Fred said that it had not been precluded, but had not been specifically considered.

6) Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District Presentation and comments concerning planned groundwater exports

Robert Kier presented. Bob Pickens asked if the analysis includes the proposed groundwater to be exported from Burleson County. Robert said it did not, and the groundwater districts could not control withdrawals that are outside their district. Haskell Simon asked if the groundwater contribution to the Colorado River of 30,000 AF is an annual contribution. Robert said it was, based on surface flow hydrology from the GAM. Haskell asked if streamflows would contribute to the aquifer. Robert said that the model used for the analysis was a simple one, but the Colorado could become a losing stream if the groundwater pressure decreased. Gloria Rivera asked what an acceptable drawdown would be. Robert said that the amount of groundwater available had yet to be determined by the groundwater district, but the level that is acceptable he would leave to the policy makers. Fred Arce asked if Robert had made any runs of the GAMS to show what the regional water levels were to support the graphs showing artesian depletion. Robert said they were projected without running the GAMS, as the GAMS did not differentiate between in county demands and withdrawals for exports. They also reduced the withdrawals by a prorated amount, so they would not show the true impacts of the withdrawals. Fred asked if the analysis took into account any other ancillary effects on the aquifer in response to withdrawals. Robert said it did not take into account leakage. It was asked why the SAWS presentation showed the increase in demand differently. Robert said that his analysis was based on the population projections done by the regions, which are done in ten year increments. Also, the Sandow mine currently pumps approximately 30,000 AF a year, but it is scheduled to be closed in the next few years. Three Oaks is scheduled to begin in 2010, causing a gap in the numbers. It was asked if the Sandow mine withdrawals were included in the pre-200 numbers, and Robert said they were. He was asked how he came up with 30,000 AF for the amount of the withdrawal. Robert said HDR supplied that number, and it was in the final GAM report. The GAM had a surface water component, including stream gains and losses, and the 30,000 AF was shown as the contribution of the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. Jobaid Kabir said that in 1998,

the LCRA performed a study that showed that the recharge from the aquifer to the Colorado River was on the order of 10-12,000 AF a year. Sam Vaughan said the 30,000 AF assessment was from surface water gauging of base flows in the streams. To determine the full impact of the aquifer withdrawals, they would need to be run through the GAMs and WAMs. Robert said that the numbers in his analysis from HDR were derived base flow studies and are included in the GAMs.

7) Presentation and discussion on Guadalupe Blanco River Authority pipeline to City of Buda and Kyle and the GBRA contract to supply Canyon Lake water to the City of Blanco

Tommy Hill of the GBRA presented. Ron Fieseler asked if Creedmoor – Maha WSC or Goforth WSC were interested in participating in the project. Tommy said they had not yet shown interest, but the GBRA was open to their participation.

8) Presentation and discussion on City of Kyle groundwater exported from Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District

Ron Fieseler and Timothy Riley presented. Evelyn Bonavida asked if Kyle has a water conservation plan. Ron said that they do, as required by the EAA and the BS/EACD. Evelyn asked what Kyle's gpcd is. Ron said he did not know. Gloria Rivera said that Kyle is in a partnership to get water from Gonzales County, and asked how much water they would get. Timothy said the BS/EACD was not a party to the partnership, and since the water comes from outside of the district, they did not know. Ron said that some of the water supply corporations were exploring emergency interconnects with adjacent water supply corporations and obtaining water from the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. Gloria asked if they were going to get water from the Canyon Regional project. Ron did not know.

9) Intra-regional projects of interest:

a) Update on LCRA's 290 pipeline project

Karen Bondy of the LCRA presented. Jennifer Walker asked if the pipeline would only serve existing development. Karen said it would supply existing development and new development that complied with water quality measures. Jennifer asked if the water quality measures were part of the regional water quality plan. Karen said that the regional water quality planning was looking at the measures to include in the plan.

b) Update on Lower Guadalupe Supply Project

Phil Weynand of SAWS presented. Haskell Simon asked how the fresh water inflows related to the whooping crane population. Phil said that studies were being conducted at Texas A&M to examine the relationship. Bill Jones asked what the public opinion was of the project in the lower basin. Phil said that there were concerns about groundwater availability, but he is confident that the groundwater studies will dispel those fears. The current models show a maximum draw down of two feet in affected cities. It was asked that since chlorine was not feasible to treat the water, would UV and ozone be used to treat the water. Phil said that chloramines is an issue, based on cost, but it would be cheaper to convert SAWS to chloramines treatment than to treat the water from the Guadalupe and Colorado Rivers to the point that it would not need treatment in San Antonio. Gloria Rivera asked that the presentation be posted on the web. Ronald Gertson asked if SAWS was planning to work with local government or citizens groups in areas without groundwater conservation districts to get consensus about what is appropriate water development in those areas. Phil said that SAWS has met with groundwater districts in the area and would maintain the same types of rules and standards in areas not covered by groundwater districts. Ronald recommended meeting with some group in the absence of a groundwater district. Bill Jones asked what the size of the off channel reservoirs was projected to be. Phil said they would be 50,000 AF.

10) Presentation and discussion on freshwater inflows

Cindy Loeffler with TPWD presented. It was asked where the water released into the bay was measured for the SAWS/LCRA water sharing plan. Cindy said it was measured at the Bay City gauge. It was asked if more water had to be released upstream to achieve the inflow targets. Cindy said that some of the water is stored water that the LCRA has committed to release, but most of it is water that enters the river below the reservoirs. It was asked what bays and estuaries inflow needs were being studied or revised. Cindy said that TPWD is beginning a study for Galveston Bay. Rick Gangluff asked how the studies differentiate between the years with high inflows like

those experienced this year. Cindy said that they do not look at the difference too much, but long term the sediments and nutrients delivered by the flood pulses are important to the health of the bay. Rick asked if the oyster population were to decline next year, how would they tell if that decline was due to the high inflows this year or to some other cause. Cindy said they did not yet know, as there were many factors that impact productivity. Haskell Simon asked what years' data the update of the bay and estuary study included. Cindy said that it included the original five year's data, plus data through 2002-2003. Haskell asked how many years were needed to base the determination of critical and target inflows. Cindy said that having a range of conditions was most important. Haskell asked if the LCRA plan would be revised to reflect these findings. Jobaid Kabir said that the LCRA will look at the study for its next water management plan, but this study was too late to make it into the current proposed plan. The data should be integrated into the LCRA plan by mid 2005. Bob Pickens asked that the Min Q and Max H for Matagorda Bay be posted online. Haskell asked if the current LCRA management plan doubled the inflow allocation over the previous plan. Jobaid confirmed that it doubled to 33,000 AF from 16,000 AF.

11) New/Other Business

None.

12) Public Comments

Diane Wassenich, Executive Director of the San Marcos River Foundation, said that there were many people at the Lower Guadalupe Supply Project meetings had concerns about the bay and estuary inflows. Also the one to two foot drop in groundwater levels is based on a modified WAM that has not been made public, and that it shows more water in surface water availability than the state plan shows. She said that while they appreciated the crane and crab studies, the five year period where they are being studied has been very wet, and they need to include dry periods in the study. Finally, she said the SMRF application for water for instream flows has been denied, but has filed a motion for summary disposition in the Canyon Regional water supply permit case.

13) Adjourn

REGION K MEETING

Quorum: Yes

Number of present voting members including designated alternates, representing absent voting members: 19.

Number required for quorum based on current voting membership of 23: 12.

FORMAL ACTIONS TAKEN:

- 1) Approved minutes as amended from May 12, 2004.

ADDITIONAL DECISIONS MADE:

- 1) Assigned Bob Pickens, Ron Fieseler, Rick Gangluff, Ronald Gertson, Haskell Simon, Stanley Reinhard, Paul Tybor, Jobaid Kabir and Teresa Lutes to the water modeling subcommittee.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR FUTURE ACTION:

- 1) None.

1) Call to Order – John Burke

2) Welcome and Introductions

3) Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes

Teresa Lutes summarized the attendance report, noting that there were no members in violation of the attendance

policies.

4) Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes for the May 12th Meeting

Stanley Reinhard moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ronald Gertson seconded. The motion passed.

b. Financial/Budget Report

Teresa Lutes passed out the quarterly report. Jobaid Kabir said that \$317,779 has been paid to the consultants so far, leaving a balance of \$455,790 on the contract.

5) Committee Reports

(a) Environmental Flows

Jennifer Walker said the committee had not met, but worked via email on environmental policy statements and have been working on updating the environmental policy section of the plan.

(b) Groundwater Management Plan Review

Ron Fieseler said that there were no plans to review. The committee did complete its groundwater policy recommendations, which are ready for review.

(c) Legislative

Ronald Gertson said they needed draft policy statements in time for the next meeting. The legislative committee will screen the policies before bringing them to the whole group. The next committee meeting will be on the same day as the next group meeting.

(d) Liaison Reports

Jennifer Walker said that the Region G meeting was uneventful.

(e) Public Information

Julia Marsden said that she will meet with Jennifer Walker and Robena Jackson via email to discuss that impact of the changes at TC&B.

(f) Unique Stream Segments

None.

6) Update on consultant status and on the determination of areas currently and preliminarily identified with water supply shortages over the 50-year water planning period

Mark Lowry introduced himself as the new project manager for TC&B. He said that they have budget of \$900,000 for all projects, as well as a budget of \$150,000 for projects to be covered by supplemental funding. The problem is that although that funding has been awarded, it will not be received until after the draft plan has been submitted. They are seeking reassurances from the TWDB that the money will be paid if the projects are completed. The greatest danger is that they exhaust the \$900,000 budget before all the deliverables are completed. David Meesey said the funding is not available because it is dependent on a future appropriation from the 2006 budget. The Legislature knows that the TWDB will ask for the funding, and the TWDB wants enough to honor their commitments. They will not know if the money will be budgeted until the end of the next legislative session, but the funding needs begin this fall. The TWDB is contemplating having a conference call of the regional group chairs to figure out how to handle the problem.

Rebeka Lien passed out handouts on GAM models and draft letters to WUGs that are missing information. She asked that the group give her comments on both.

Bob Pickens asked how the Gulf Coast GAMS will be integrated. Rebeka said that it was outlined in the memo she passed out, but she welcomes any input. Haskell Simon asked who gets the mail out to the WUGs. Rebeka said it went to those WUGs that TC&B did not have complete information on. Haskell asked if it would be helpful for members to contact the WUGs in their areas that needed to supply information, and Rebeka said they

would appreciate that. Rick Gangluff asked what version of the WAM was being used. Rebeka said it is the currently approved version, from 2003. Jobaid said that TCEQ approved a new version about 2 to 3 months ago. Rick asked if the group should wait for a more final version to avoid having to make revisions. Jobaid said that they have to carry on with the work and they cannot wait for revisions that may or may not be forthcoming. Jennifer Walker asked who was working on the WAM. Rebeka said Mike Reedy, Jamie Burke, and Alan Gabriel were working on it. Ronald Gertson asked how late they could get the Gulf Coast GAM and still incorporate its results into their work. Mark Lowry said the latest would be October or November or 2004, since they have to have supply and demand numbers completed by January. Ronald asked if, in the absence of the Gulf Coast GAM, they would set availability numbers equal to use. Mark said that he thinks the Gulf Coast GAM is close enough to completion that they will be able to use it for the availability numbers. Jobaid said that if the Region K plan uses numbers from the GAM, it must also agree with the numbers in neighboring groups' plans. Haskell asked if there were a conflict between GAM models, which numbers would be used. David Meeseey said that all counties that are over the aquifer are covered in both GAMs, and the groups are able to use whichever model is best. Of the two, the northern model is probably better, as it solves one of the boundary problems. Haskell asked who would do the technical comparison. David said it would be done by the consultant. Haskell asked if it would be appropriate to assign a liaison between the groundwater committee and TC&B. Mark said it would be. John Burke said they could establish it as a modeling committee, and named Bob Pickens as the chair. Ron Fieseler, Rick Gangluff, Ronald Gertson, Haskell Simon, Stanley Reinhard, Paul Tybor, Jobaid Kabir and Teresa Lutes asked to be on the committee.

7) Update on HB 1437 relating to the powers of the Lower Colorado River Authority to provide water services in Williamson County

Jobaid Kabir said that the regional plan is silent on HB 1437. The bill requires the LCRA to develop water so there is no net loss to the basin. Williamson County needs the water as early as 2005. There will be 3 public meetings, one upstream, one downstream, and one in Williamson County. There will also be a series of advisory committee meetings. At the August public meeting, the LCRA will present its analysis and give a definition of no net loss. The Brazos River Authority will be the water provider, and they have said that they will need 15,000 AF by 2020. The dates of the public meetings will be posted on www.hb1437.com.

8) New/Other Business
None.

9) Calendar
September 8, 2004, McKinney Roughs – Regular Meeting [Cancelled]
October 13, 2004 McKinney Roughs – Regular Meeting

10) Agenda for next meeting
Agenda items for next meeting include:

- (a) Update on consultant status and on the determination of areas currently and preliminarily identified with water supply shortages over the 50-year water planning period
- (b) Update on House Bill 1437 Relating to the powers of the Lower Colorado River Authority to provide water services in Williamson County

11) Public Comments
None

Meeting minutes prepared by Dan Strub for Teresa Lutes, Secretary, Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (9/28/04). These minutes of the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group July 20, 2004 regular and joint Region K and L meetings were approved in a motion passed at the November 10, 2004 Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group meeting.

Signature on File _____ 11/10/2004
TERESA LUTES, SECRETARY DATE

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group