

LOWER COLORADO REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2003 REGULAR MEETING
McKINNEY ROUGHS, BASTROP, TEXAS

These are the minutes approved by motion at December 10, 2003 LCRWPG meeting.

Members Signing In:

Jim Barho, Environment
John Burke, Water Utilities
Sandy Dannhardt, alternate for Rick Gangluff
Ron Fieseler, Environment
Ronald Gertson, Small Business
Gerard Hajovsky, Small Business
Dale Henry, Other
Barbara Johnson, Industries
Dennis Jones, Municipalities
Jobaid Kabir, River Authorities
Chris King, Counties
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Julia Marsden, Public
Bob Pickens, Other
Stanley Reinhard, Water Districts
Billy Roeder, Counties
Cole Rowland, Recreation
Haskell Simon, Agriculture
Bill Stewart, Agriculture
James Sultemeier, Counties
Paul Tybor, Water Districts
Jennifer Walker, Environment

David Bradsby, TPWD, Non-Voting Member
David Meeseey, TWDB, Non-Voting Member
Joe McCarley, Texas Department of Agriculture, Non-Voting Member

Voting Members Absent:

Stovy Bowlin, Recreation
Rick Gangluff, Electric Generating Utilities
Bill Neve, Counties

Consultants/Support

Dan Strub, City of Austin Water Conservation	Bill Couch, TC&B
Cynthia Braendle	Connie Townsend, TC&B

Visitors/Others:

Ann Mesrobian, Lost Pines GCD	Joe Cooper, Lost Pines GCD
Gordon Davies, Austin Business Journal	Ken Kramer, Sierra Club
Stefan Schuster, Freese & Nichols	Laura Brock, League of Women Voters
Allan Stander, DB Stephans	Jennifer Benaman, QEA
J Mark Jordan, LCRA	Reem Zonn, TCB

Quorum: Yes

Number of present voting members including designated alternates, representing absent voting members: 22.
Number required for quorum based on current voting membership of 24: 13.

FORMAL ACTIONS TAKEN:

- 1) Approved minutes as amended from July 30, 2003.
- 2) Approved motion to accept the irrigation demand projections as revised.
- 3) Approved motion to accept the livestock demand projections.
- 4) Approved motion to accept the mining demand projections.
- 5) Approved motion to accept the steam electric demand projections with the proposed City of Austin revisions.
- 6) Approved motion to accept the municipal demand projections as revised.
- 7) Approved motion to consider conservation as a demand management strategy.
- 8) Approved motion all water demand projections as revised and to submit them to the TWDB.

ADDITIONAL DECISIONS MADE:

- 1) None.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR FUTURE ACTION:

- 1) Members whose terms are expiring must submit a letter to the Executive Committee if they wish to serve another term by September 30.

MEETING MINUTES:

1) Call to Order – John Burke

2) Welcome and Introductions

John Burke welcomed Gordon Davis of the Austin Business Journal and Joe Cooper and Ann Mesrobian with the Lost Pines GCD.

3) Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes

Teresa Lutes passed out the attendance report.

4) Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Minutes for the July 30th Meeting

Ronald Gertson moved to accept the minutes as amended. Julia Marsden seconded. The motion passed.

b. Financial/Budget Report

Jobaid Kabir said that, on behalf of the planning group, the LCRA received \$182,299, has spent \$131,137, and earned \$3,038 interest, leaving a balance of \$54,200.

5) Discuss and take action to adopt Water Demands projections

Ronald Gertson said that the water demand group had come up with demands that are considerably higher than those adopted in the last round. Since they believed that those numbers were not politically achievable, they used the set of TWDB numbers closest to what they had. Haskell Simon said that there had been consensus numbers developed for Wharton County, but he did not see them included in the new projections. Bill Couch said that those numbers were considerably higher than what was going to be politically acceptable and that after talking with the TWDB, those numbers were adjusted downwards with the understanding that they would be investigated more fully over the next five years. Haskell asked if there was a provision for giving the numbers conditional acceptance with the option of changing them in the next review period. John Burke said that these numbers would be the basis for this planning cycle. Haskell said that he wanted to have his concerns on record that turfgrass numbers are not being fully represented.

Teresa Lutes said that she had been working with the TWDB, TC&B, and the LCRA on Austin service area population projections and steam electric water demands for the Fayetteville power plant. They came up with projections for the Travis County other demands that are a little lower than they were for the last round of

planning. The projections are lower than the City of Austin projections but higher than the TWDB projections. Jennifer Walker asked if the TWDB increased the population projections. David Meesey said that they are under discussion, and that it wants the group's input. He said that Dan Hardin could live with some of the numbers, but the TWDB gave Travis County the leftovers of the region's population to balance out the other Counties' demands. The TWDB staff could support the numbers but they have to be brought before the board.

Bill Couch gave a presentation on the irrigation demand projections. Jobaid Kabir asked what the difference between the last round and the new projections for the three agricultural counties. Bill said that it is about 13,000 AF. Chris King asked why the Wharton County historical average was used instead of the TWDB projections. Ronald Gertson said that the TWDB's numbers were very close, and that the reduction from the numbers in the last plan was due to some of the acreage in Wharton County that should have been in Region P was improperly assigned last round and was corrected for this round. Chris said that eastern Wharton County has prolific turfgrass farming and he would like to be on record that turfgrass should be addressed. John Burke asked how long it would take to get an estimate of the turfgrass water demands. Ronald said that there is no good source for turfgrass numbers, but they did include an estimate that is their best guess. The problem is that the turfgrass growers are reluctant to share their numbers. Billy Roeder asked if turfgrass is taxed different from other farmland, and he was told it is not.

Haskell Simon said that the TWDB is open to accepting revisions to the demand numbers, and that he appreciates it. David Meesey said that the projections used 2000 as a base year, but it looks like those numbers may be low in estimating actual demands, so they recognize that the numbers may need some revisions.

Haskell Simon moved to accept the irrigation demand numbers as revised. Ronald Gertson seconded. The motion passed.

Bill Couch presented the livestock demand projections. Chris King moved to accept the livestock demand numbers. Bob Pickens seconded. The motion passed.

Bill Couch presented the mining demand projections. Jim Barho said that if a permit is granted for gravel mining in Burnet County it would significantly impact both surface and groundwater demands. Julia Marsden moved to accept the mining demand projections. Stanley Reinhart seconded. The motion passed.

Bill Couch presented the steam electric demand projections. He said that they are significantly higher than they were in the first planning round, and somewhat higher than the TWDB projections, but that they are based on better information than those projections. The projections for Fayette County are slightly less than the TWDB projections. Teresa Lutes distributed a handout that shows the new numbers, and said that the LCRA did not include increased demand from the City of Austin. The new projections are the same as the TWDB projection for 2060, but are based on actual use in 2000 and are higher than TWDB projections in between. Ronald Gertson asked if the numbers would require a plant capacity increase, and was told they would. Jobaid Kabir confirmed that the LCRA was in agreement with the new numbers, which result in an increase in demand of 18,000 AF.

Bill Couch said that the revisions to Matagorda County match the STNP demands. Sandy Dannhardt said that the numbers are based on actual current use, with extra generating capacity after 2030. Bill said that the steam electric demands in Travis County are significantly higher because of the new Sand Hill generating plant completed in 2001. In total, the Region K demands are approximately 15% higher than the TWDB projected at the start of the period, but are less than TWDB projections by 2060. Ronald Gertson said that he would expect the demand growth to follow population growth, but the jump between 2020 and 2030 is not reflective of population growth. Jim Barho said that if the City of Austin expands its service area, it will result in duplication of demand projections. Teresa Lutes said those entities that would come into Austin's service area are accounted for. David Meesey said that there is not a linear correlation between power supplies and population, and that there will be jumps where they do not match.

Teresa Lutes moved to accept the steam electric demands with the proposed City of Austin revisions. Julia Marsden seconded. The motion passed.

Bill Couch presented municipal water demands. Jennifer Walker asked why the City of Austin has a lower per capita reduction due to the plumbing code. Teresa Lutes said that they looked at ways to harmonize the TWDB's and Austin's projections, and in light of Austin's aggressive toilet replacement program that has been in place for 10 years, it was a good way to resolve the differences. Billy Roeder asked if Austin's projected population growth was due to annexation or to population growth within the current borders. Teresa said that it was due to population growth, although she believes that using the service area population figures would be more accurate. Billy asked if Austin has plumbing code jurisdiction in the service area. Teresa said it does within the ETJ. Bill said that Austin's aggressive conservation program has already gotten much of the low hanging fruit. Haskell Simon asked why there was a growth in manufacturing demands of 400%. Teresa said that it is part of the city's overall growth. Haskell asked if the TWDB projection would show that increase. David Meesey said that their numbers would probably be close, although TWDB projections have lagged in that sector in the past. Haskell asked if the TWDB is comfortable with the projected increase. David said they would consider it. Haskell asked if they could make the same projection for Matagorda County based on the growth there in the last two years. David said he would be more comfortable with a ten year trend than a two year trend. Bob Pickens asked if Austin's reuse water would be used to meet manufacturing demands. Teresa said Austin would like to sue reuse water for manufacturing. Ronald Gertson pointed out that reuse is a demand strategy.

Barbara Johnson moved to accept the municipal demand projections as revised. Teresa Lutes seconded. The motion passed.

Bill Couch spoke on the proposed response to the Sierra Club's letter on water conservation and in-stream demands. The group agreed that conservation expectations can be met. Last planning cycle, the group had argued that conservation be made a strategy so that those entities that implemented conservation programs got credit for it. Jobaid Kabir asked what is the total demand for all sectors. Bill said that he did not have that number. Ronald Gertson said that meeting in-stream demands could make it difficult for the Region to share water with Region L, but it is better to be realistic about what the true demands are. Billy Roeder asked when the group would have the actual demand numbers. Bill said that there is about a two year lag between demands and reporting.

Jennifer Walker said that Region H sent a letter to the TWDB on how to address concerns about how to account for conservation. Bill Couch said that he expects the water conservation task force to have recommendations on how to address the problem. Ken Kramer said that he understands the definition of a water demand strategy is actions taken by the state or local utilities to provide water. With that in mind, how will the TWDB factor in the impact of a federal standard on demands? David Meesey said he hopes it will be in the next planning cycle, embedded in the demand projections. It is possible to propose a conservation strategy to capture some of the federal standard after 2010.

Jennifer Walker moved to consider conservation as a demand management strategy. Jim Barho seconded. The motion passed.

Jim Barho moved to approve all water demand projections as revised and to submit them to the TWDB. James Sultemeier seconded. The motion passed.

Julia Marsden asked that the minutes include the revised demand tables, and that they cite the concerns about the impacts of turfgrass in Matagorda and Wharton Counties, the City of Austin request compromise, the concerns about the impacts of the pending mining permit in Burnet County, and the concerns about water conservation brought up by the Sierra Club. Bill Couch asked if he should include a paragraph in the report to the TWDB on these concerns. He was told that he should.

6) Committee Reports

(a) Liaison Reports

Ron Fieseler said that in Region L, there are two GAMs of portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer that are in conflict. There is a large difference in projected availability, and the Gonzales Groundwater District has chosen to use the larger set of numbers. The TWDB has told them that they can use either set. Haskell Simon

said that GAMs do not provide all answers, and this is an example where they can cause problems for planning groups. Region L may be setting a precedent on how to handle such a situation.

John Burke said that the ALCOA mine demand will be greater than recharge for a long time, and it could conflict with the planning group's ban on groundwater mining. Ron Fieseler said that Region L is keeping in mind Region K's environmental flows request.

David Meesey said that Region G has turned in their demand projections, and their changes from the TWDB's projections are mostly offset within the region.

Teresa Lutes said that the group needed a liaison to Region G. Jennifer Walker volunteered to serve as liaison. Ron Fieseler and Stanley Reinhard attends Region F meetings, Paul Tybor attends Region J meetings, David Meesey attends Region P meetings, Connie Townsend tracks Region H, Cole Rowland gets meeting information on Region N, but does not attend.

(b) Public Information

Bill Couch said that the web page is ready to be launched. Jobaid Kabir said that the LCRA web master was working with TC&B to resolve the last issues.

7) Discuss and take action on appointing successors for terms of office and/or current members reapplying

John Burke said that those members whose terms expire at the end of 2003 need to submit their name to the Executive Committee in writing by the end of September if they wish to re-apply. He noted that he wrote a letter to Stovy Bowlin about his attendance, but has not received a response. David Meesey said that the bylaws say that memberships expire January 1. John said that is true, but members serve until their successors take office. The group can meet December 10 to determine membership openings. Teresa Lutes said those members whose terms expire have been notified, and the December meeting would determine the openings for publication.

8) Discuss and take action on revising and updating the environmental water demands within this planning cycle

Jennifer Walker passed out a chart from the TCEQ on Matagorda Bay inflows. She said that about half of the time the river flows are below the critical inflows into the bay, and about ¼ of the time they are above target. She said that Region K has to ensure that enough water is available to meet the critical inflows. The LCRA's numbers are problematic and the Matagorda Bay inflow study will not be ready until December 2004.

John Burke asked if the group needed to establish an environmental flows committee. The group agreed it did. Jennifer Walker volunteered to chair the committee, and Teresa Lutes, Julia Marsden, Ron Fieseler, David Bradsby, Bob Pickens, Barbara Johnson, Jim Barho, Jobaid Kabir, and Haskell Simon agreed to serve on the committee. Bill Couch asked what the committee's responsibilities would be. Julia Marsden suggested that the committee meet and discuss what it would produce. David Bradsby said that the water management plan has been submitted to the TCEQ for approval. John said that the group would not initiate its own study, but instead should be making recommendations. David Meesey said that the group needs to ensure that the committee's recommendations are recorded in the correct place.

9) New/Other Business

Jim Barho said that the TCEQ would have a hearing on the Capital Aggregates mining permit application on September 24 in Room 201, Building E of the TCEQ complex in Austin. Also he passed along an announcement of a Army Corps of Engineers study to be completed in early 2004 on Lakes Travis and Buchanan.

Jennifer Walker announced that the Sierra Club was sponsoring a water conference in New Braunfels on October 11.

John Burke said that Region L sent a letter asking if any members were aware of demands in their region that they did not know about to please let them know.

10) Public Comments

None.

11) Agenda for next meeting

Agenda items for next meeting include:

- (a) Brush control
- (b) Expiration of membership terms
- (c) Planning process overview

12) Adjourn

The group would like to thank Aqua Water Supply for providing lunch.

Near-Term Meeting Schedule

Next Meeting:

10 AM, December 10, Fredericksburg – Regular Meeting

Meeting minutes prepared by Dan Strub for Teresa Lutes, Secretary, Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (11/26/03). These minutes of the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group September 10, 2003 meeting were approved in a motion passed at the December 10, 2003 Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group meeting.

<u>Signature on File</u>	<u>12/10/2003</u>
TERESA LUTES, SECRETARY	DATE
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group	