

**Minutes**  
**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting**  
**October 11, 2017**  
**LCRA Dalchau Service Center**  
**3505 Montopolis Drive**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Members Signing In:**

Daniel Berglund, Small Business  
Jim Brasher, GMA 15  
John Burke, Water Utilities  
John Dupnik, GMA 10  
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9  
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities  
Karen Haschke, Public Interest  
Barbara Johnson, Industries  
Donna Klaeger, Counties  
Jason Ludwig, Electric Gen. Utilities  
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities  
Ann McElroy, Environmental  
David Lindsay, Recreation, Alternate

Mike Reagor, Municipalities  
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business  
Paul Sliva, Agriculture  
James Sultemeier, Counties  
Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8, Alternate  
Byron Theodosis, Counties  
Paul Tybor, GMA 7  
David Van Dresar, Water Districts  
Jennifer Walker, Environmental  
David Wheelock, River Authorities  
Russ Robertson, Non-Voting TDA  
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD  
Lann Bookout, Non-voting, TWDB

**Voting Members Absent:**

Doug Powell, Alternate Attended  
Billy Roeder, Agriculture

GMA 8 Member, Alternate Attended  
Jim Totten, GMA 12

**Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:**

Christianne Castleberry, Water Utilities  
Alternate  
Jaime Burke, AECOM, Reg. K consultant  
Jeff Fox, COA, Municipalities, Alternate  
Helen Gerlach, Austin Water  
Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Austin Water  
Tommy Koch

Jo Karr Tedder, CTWC  
David Villarreal, TDA  
Stefan Schuster, SWCA  
Charlie Flatten, Environmental, Alternate  
Linda Raschke, Counties, Alternate  
Neil Hudgins, Coastal Bend GCD  
Ken Cunningham, STP Nuclear Op. Co.  
Christiane Alepuz, CAPCOG  
Micah Grau, City of Buda

**Quorum:**

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 23

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 25: 13

### **Formal Actions Taken:**

1. Meeting minutes from the July 12, 2017 regular meeting were approved as presented.

### **Regular Meeting:**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at about 10:03 am.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chairman John Burke welcomed all to the meeting.
3. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda item #8** – None
4. **Attendance Report** – Teresa Lutes called attention to the attendance report that was included in the members' packets.
5. **Consent Agenda:**
  - a. Approval of Minutes from the July 12, 2017 regular meeting – A motion to approve minutes from the regular July 12, 2017 meeting as presented was approved.
  - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported the Consultant budget is now authorized for \$418,201, with \$63,427 having been spent and a remaining balance of \$354,774. Mr. Wheelock also reported that the grant account balance is currently \$83,144 and the Members account has a balance of \$3,568.

### **6. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)**

- a. Update on Region K water planning and schedules – Lann Bookout gave an update on regional water planning activities. The Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corporation (WSC) minor amendment was approved by the TWDB and will be added to the 2017 State Water Plan (SWP). Open Meetings Act training must be completed by all members of the RWPG by the end of November. New rules from TWDB rulemaking process will be published by approximately Dec. 2017/Jan. 2018, at which point the official comment period will open. However, if people have comments they would like to submit now, they can email Temple McKinnon with TWDB.

Regarding schedules, the updated water user group (WUG) list is due to TWDB in November. Population and water demand revision requests are due to the board January 12, 2018, but the sooner they can be submitted, the better. The next phase of the process will be water supply analysis. Some things to consider as that process is started are that new rules require identification of potentially feasible projects in a public meeting, a list of major water providers will need to be identified, and that hydrologic variance requests need to be submitted if the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) is using any modeling variances or changing anything from the standard required water supply analysis; those requests need to be completed and approved before the Group can move forward with analysis (approval may take up to 60 days).

Barbara Johnson asked if members who have not completed the Open Meetings Training were aware that they still need to complete it, and asked what the consequences were for failing to complete the training. Jeff Fox

responded that the members who still need to take the training have all been notified, and John Burke said that if the training is not completed by the deadline, the person can no longer be a member of the RWPG. Lann mentioned that there is an Open Meetings Act book that can answer many questions members have about the new rule.

Ms. Johnson also asked if TWDB had discussed declaring the recent drought a new drought of record (DOR), or if that was up to the RWPG. Mr. Bookout responded that decisions of that nature would be made by the planning group, and that other regions have done so. Ms. Johnson followed up by asking if a declaration of a new DOR would trigger an adjustment of the firm yield of the Highland Lakes system; Mr. Bookout replied that a new DOR would require the modeling to be adjusted to incorporate that, which would be a hydrologic methods variance which the RWPG would have to submit to TWDB. Teresa Lutes suggested holding a Water Modeling committee meeting to provide additional time to delve into these aspects further, and it was decided that one should be held soon.

John Dupnik then asked Mr. Bookout if TWDB would be providing the RWPG with any more detail about the new rules put in place by the legislature, such as S.B.1511, which requires identification of whether or not water supply strategies were implemented and evaluation of infeasible projects. Mr. Bookout mentioned that TWDB is just finishing up their guidance documents on the Open Meetings Act, but if any guidance documents on the other new rules are produced, the RWPG members would receive an email.

7. **Consultant Status Report** – Jamie Burke with AECOM gave the status report. Ms. Burke began by informing the RWPG that all tasks are at least partially funded now, so AECOM can begin work on all aspects of the project. Since the last planning meeting, AECOM has been focused on population and demand projections; they have been keeping track of revision requests and prepared materials for the Population and Water Demand Committee meeting. In addition to their work on the projections, AECOM submitted the AquaTexas-Rivercrest sub-Water User Group (WUG) request to TWDB. Jaime informed the group that the Sweetwater Collective Reporting Unit (CRU), which was discussed at the last meeting, now has a public water system ID and more documentation. AECOM also presented a Region K status update to the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) Exploratory Water Committee. Additionally, AECOM asked West Travis County Public Utility Agency (PUA) whether they would be interested in being considered for inclusion in the regional plan process as a wholesale water provider, to which they responded yes. AECOM also had a conference call with TWDB and reported that Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corporation's (WSC's) minor amendment request was approved by TWDB.

AECOM's upcoming tasks will include additional work with Population and Water Demand Committee to finalize any revision requests for the RWPG to consider for approval, work on hydrologic analyses, and identifying potentially feasible water supply strategy projects.

8. **Population and Water Demand Committee Report** – Jaime Burke of AECOM stated that the goal for this item is to go over all the requested revisions and Population and

Water Demand Committee recommendations, but not necessarily vote on items during this meeting unless the RWPG felt it would be appropriate at this time. Any revision requests must be considered by the RWPG at the January 10th Region K meeting in order for them to be submitted to TWDB before the deadline. So, there is another opportunity at the January 10, 2018 meeting for the RWPG to vote on all of the items to be considered then. Ms. Burke invited all members to share their thoughts on the requested revisions by sending an email or participating in the Committee meetings.

- a. Summary of committee meeting held September 14, 2017 – Lauri Gillam gave a summary of the Population and Water Demand Committee meeting that was held last month. Eight members were in attendance, and there were representatives from LCRA, TWDB, and Texas Department of Agriculture present. She thanked David Wheelock and Daniel Berglund for their work on preparing a new irrigation demand methodology for review and consideration, and stated that the Committee would be meeting again in mid-to-late October to continue working on the draft projections. Jaime added that the TWDB staff present were able to answer many of the Committee’s questions, and that the Committee was able to come to a consensus on several items to bring forward to the RWPG.
- b. Presentation of Population and Municipal Demand project requested revisions and the Committee’s recommendations for changes to submit to TWDB. RWPG to consider and take action, as needed – Jaime Burke from AECOM presented this information. Thus far, 66 out of 114 WUGs (58%) have provided feedback on the draft population and municipal demand projections. Thirty seven WUGs are not requesting any changes, 4 have changes that affect another region, 6 have made contact but have not provided feedback, and 19 are requesting changes that affect Region K. A packet with the summarized feedback from the WUGs was provided to RWPG members. Jaime then went through the requested changes county-by-county. Bastrop, Blanco, Colorado, Gillespie, Llano, Matagorda, and Mills Counties did not have any requests regarding the draft population and municipal demand projections.

In Burnet County, Granite Shoals, Meadowlakes Municipal Utility District (MUD), and Bertram requested changes resulting in a net decrease in the population of Burnet County. In Fayette County, Fayette County water Control and Improvement District (WCID) Monument Hill requested an increase in population so that projections match water use reports submitted to the Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District. Fayette County WCID Monument Hill also requested a slight increase in 2020 population and an increase in the base water use in gallons per capita per day (GPCD) to reflect 2011 water use. The Population and Water Demand Committee recommended these requests for approval by the RWPG.

In Hays County, the City of Austin, Dripping Springs Water Supply Corporation (WSC), and West Travis PUA all requested changes. The WUGs will be providing additional information before a final recommendation will be made by the Committee. In San Saba County, North San Saba WSC requested a small

increase in population based on the expectation that some second homes will become permanent retirement homes. The Committee is recommending this North San Saba WSC revision request for RWPG consideration even though was a lack of documentation associated with the request, which the TWDB will be aware of in its consideration of the request if the planning group approves submittal of this WSC's request.

In Travis County, 14 WUGS requested changes; all need to provide additional information before the Committee can make a recommendation to the Group. The City of Austin provided a draft revision request document with supporting information for their request. In Wharton County, the City of Wharton requested a significant increase in population. However, the Committee does not recommend requesting revision of Wharton's projections due to the lack of supporting documentation. In Williamson County, the City of Austin and Wells Branch MUD requested changes; AECOM will also coordinate associated Travis County component recommendations, as appropriate, since these two WUGs are located in two counties.

During the presentation of requests by County, Donna Klaeger asked if an increase in mining demand may be appropriate in Burnet County to balance potential decreases in municipal demand. Jaime responded that typically the process does not allow for such balancing across water use categories. Jennifer Walker asked if we can move population from one County to another; Jaime responded that this can be considered as long as the total Region K population projection totals stay the same. Teresa Lutes mentioned a proposed 1.5% increase to the population of Travis County discussed at the Committee meeting and pointed out that it would not meet all the requested revisions for Travis County. Lann Bookout mentioned that all TWDB projections would be updated in the next planning cycle because there would be new census data to work with, and Teresa mentioned that Austin Water is working on their own Integrated Water Resources Plan in parallel with the Region K planning process that also addresses planning for future water supplies.

Next, Jaime presented the new utility-based GPCD numbers. These were different than the ones sent out with the draft projections, which were county-based (as in the last planning cycle). Jaime pointed out that the change from county to utility boundaries produced new GPCD values for several WUGs, and suggested that wherever the GPCD values were different the RWPG consider using the utility-based values. There were several questions about how the new utility-based GPCDs were calculated, so Jaime explained using Horseshoe Bay as an example. There was additional discussion about whether or not to use these new GPCD values and whether or not 2011 was a representative water use year for all WUGs; the group decided to revisit the issue in January when the full set of Population and Water Demand Committee recommendations are planned to be presented.

- c. Presentation of non-Municipal Demand projection requested revisions and the Committee's recommendations for changes to submit to TWDB. RWPG to consider and take action, as needed – Jaime Burke of AECOM first presented

the livestock demands. Ron Fieseler had submitted comments about the livestock demand in Blanco County. TWDB staff and the Committee currently lacks supporting documentation for livestock demand revisions in any county.

The steam-electric demands were presented next. In Llano County, a mistake was made in the original projections so that they were based on consumptive use rather than on diversions from the river; the RWPG will need to submit a request to TWDB to get the values corrected. A request also needs to be submitted to revise Wharton County's steam-electric demands, as one of the Region K facilities there was being counted in Region P. Jennifer Walker asked about the dramatic increase in the Hays County steam-electric demand in 2013; that growth will be discussed in the next Population and Water Demand Committee meeting.

The initial TWDB mining demand projections presented were identical to projections from the 2017 State Water Plan (SWP). The Burnet County Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) submitted comments that the projected demands were reasonable. TWDB staff have acknowledged there were incorrect Water User Survey (WUS) data entries for 2014 and 2015 demands in Matagorda County; the RWPG will need to request a revision to correct that error. Based on discussion, the Committee thinking was that it would be unlikely that there would be increased water use for mining in Bastrop over the next 50 years, so the Region K consulting team indicated that they would work together to develop revised projections for consideration by the RWPG.

The methodology for calculating projected manufacturing demands has changed since the last cycle; the new methodology looks at peak use from the last five years with complete data, applies a growth rate based on Texas Workforce Commission employment projects from 2020 to 2030, and then holds projections constant from 2030 to 2070. Jaime suggested that revision requests to these projected demands might be appropriate, because since the last Region K meeting TWDB has provided a dataset of "potential unaccounted manufacturing water use" which would change the peak manufacturing demand for some WUGs. Additionally, the City of Austin has requested a revision that takes into account their projections of manufacturing growth throughout the planning horizon rather than just between 2020 and 2030. No action was taken; the Population and Water Demand Committee will discuss the matter further when they meet.

Irrigation projections were presented next. At the last Committee meeting, there was discussion about the increasing trend in Travis County irrigation demands; TWDB has since discovered an error in the historical data used for the projections that accounts for the trend. The RWPG would need to request a downward revision of the irrigation demand to correct the error. The Committee also discussed the drastically variable historical surface water use which was used as the basis for the irrigation projections. The Committee came to consensus that the average of 2010-2014 surface water irrigation demands was not representative of a high-use year due to curtailment in years 2012-

2015, which included drought years. At the direction of the Committee, David Wheelock and Daniel Berglund developed proposed revised irrigation projections using a new methodology which looked at the planted acreage, irrigation rates, and canal losses. A packet provided to the members summarized the proposed new methodology and projections. Mr. Berglund cautioned that Region K could see an increase in planted acreage (and therefore higher water use) if proposed rules affecting farm subsidies are put into effect. Ann McElroy asked what water saving conservation measures were considered in this analysis; Mr. Berglund mentioned laser land leveling, new planting tools like no-till drills, and greater accountability due to LCRA metering and surcharging, are examples. David Lindsay complimented Mr. Wheelock and Mr. Berglund on their work and asked for confirmation that these proposed new projections would be taken back to the Committee for discussion. This was affirmed. Donna Klaeger asked if LCRA had a plan to reduce canal losses; David Wheelock said there were no specific plans in place for canal loss reduction because of the expense, but the Gulf Coast irrigation division is using gated structures which will allow better accounting to see where most of the loss occurs. Mr. Berglund pointed out that some of the biggest canal losses occur during rain events and are uncontrollable; David Wheelock mentioned that LCRA has proposed a small balancing reservoir to help mitigate some of those losses. Mr. Wheelock also pointed out that the new projections are based on LCRA irrigation divisions, and still need to be divided into County-level amounts through the Population and Water Demand Committee process.

- d. Identification of remaining potential revisions that the Committee will need to consider before bringing recommendations to the RWPG in January – Jaime mentioned several revisions that will need to be reviewed by the Committee before the January meeting, including the City of Bertram requests in Burnet County, the City of Austin requests, and the other non-municipal demands projections.

9. **Other Committee Reports as needed** – John Burke announced that Barbara Johnson had volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee, and asked four other members to serve on the Committee. Jennifer Walker, Karen Haschke, Jim Brasher, and Ann McElroy volunteered.

10. **Agenda items for next meeting**

- a. Location of next meeting – The location and date of the next regular meeting will be at LCRA's Dalchau Service Center in Austin on January 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Committee Meetings – Population and Water Demand Committee and Water Modeling Committee to meet before full RWPG meeting in January

11. **New / Other Business** – None.

12. **Public Comments** – None.

13. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 pm.