

**Minutes**  
**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting**  
**April 26, 2017**  
**LCRA Dalchau Service Center**  
**3505 Montopolis Drive**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Members Signing In:**

John Burke, Water Utilities  
John Dupnik, GMA 10  
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9  
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities  
Karen Haschke, Public Interest  
Donna Klaeger, Counties  
Jason Ludwig, Electric Gen. Utilities  
Barbara Johnson, Industries  
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities  
Ann McElroy, Environmental  
Doug Powell, Recreation  
Mike Reagor, Municipalities  
Billy Roeder, Agriculture

Robert Ruggiero, Small Business  
Charles Shell, GMA 8  
Paul Sliva, Agriculture  
James Sultemeier, Counties  
Jim Totten, GMA 12  
Byron Theodosios, Counties  
Paul Tybor, GMA 7  
David Van Dresar, Water Districts  
Jennifer Walker, Environmental  
David Wheelock, River Authorities  
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD  
Lann Bookout, Non-voting, TWDB  
Russ Robertson, Non-Voting Alternate, TDA

**Voting Members Absent:**

Daniel Berglund, Small Business  
Jim Brasher, GMA 15

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

Jeff Fox, COA, Municipalities, Alternate  
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utilities  
Alternate  
Jaime Burke, AECOM Region K  
consultant  
Jordan Furnans, LRE Water  
Kimberely Horndeski, Comptrollers Office

Tim Birdsong, TPWD  
David Lindsay, Recreation, Alternate  
Wade Wheatley, GDS Associates  
Phil Cook  
David Villarreal, TDA  
William Alfaro, TWDB

**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 January 11, 2017 regular meeting were approved as presented.
2. Ann McElroy was voted in as a new member to represent the Environmental Interest category.
3. A motion to approve Creedmoor-Maha WSC's request for a minor amendment to the 2016 Approved Region K Plan, and to submit the minor amendment to the Texas Water Development Board was approved.

## **Regular Meeting:**

1. Call to Order – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order.
2. Welcome and Introductions – Chairman John Burke welcomed all to the meeting.
3. Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes called attention to the attendance report that was included in the members' packets.
4. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Approval of Minutes from the January 11, 2017 regular meeting – A motion to approve minutes from the regular January 11, 2017 public meeting as presented was approved.
  - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported the Consultant budget is \$104,356, with \$38,531 having been spent and a remaining balance of \$65,824. David reported that the Grant account balance is currently \$4,856 and is in process of being updated. The Members' account has a balance of \$3,548. David noted that the grant application for this planning cycle has been approved and the contract with the Consultant is in the approval process.
5. Discuss Executive Committee recommendation for nominee to fill the vacancy of Environmental Interest membership left by the resignation of Jim Barho – Two applicants submitted their recommendations and qualifications information: Ann McElroy and Steve Box. Ms. McElroy spoke to the planning group about her position as Jim Barho's alternate and her past experience and qualifications. Mr. Box had a family emergency out of state and Phil Cook spoke on Steve's behalf. Mr. Cook presented Mr. Box's experience and qualifications working as a steward for the environment as the President of Environmental Stewardship. John Burke presented the Executive Committee's recommendation of Ann McElroy to fill the vacancy and opened the floor for nominations. Ann McElroy was voted in as the new member representing Environmental Interests.
6. Texas Water Development Board Update — Lann Bookout gave an update on regional water planning activities, including 30 to 40 legislative items in various stages that could affect water planning. SRF (State Revolving Fund) applications are being reviewed and this Friday is the SWIFT application deadline with about 16 entities being evaluated for possible funding approval by the Texas Water Development Board. Demand projections are being reviewed. Finalized 5<sup>th</sup> cycle planning guidelines incorporating comments on process improvements were discussed. Schedules and planning group grant funding status and notifications were explained. The State Water Plan Interactive Database has been updated with additional data now including all the project information. David Wheelock asked about when we may expect demand data. Mr. Bookout indicated the TWDB expects to have that available this June.

7. Consider vote to adopt Creedmoor-Maha WSC Minor Amendment to the 2016 Approved Region K Plan, and to submit the Minor Amendment as a water supply project to the Texas Water Development Board – Wade Wheatley, consultant for Creedmoor-Maha Water Supply Corporation (WSC), with GDS and Associates addressed the Region K Regional Plan revision request, which the planning group has reviewed. Funding is being sought to address the significant water losses that Creedmoor-Maha WSC has been experiencing in excess of 18% to 20% losses. Most of their water comes from the Edwards Aquifer. They plan is to replace PVC pipe with more resilient HDPE pipe for 6.8 miles of total replacement and new booster pumps. Creedmoor-Maha WSC is requesting the planning group to vote in favor of the minor amendment and to submit the minor amendment to TWDB for their approval. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minor amendment to the 2016 Region K Plan and to submit the minor amendment to the TWDB.
8. Consultant Status Report – Jaime Burke with AECOM gave the consultant report. AECOM has focused on the TWDB's population, municipal, and mining demand projections the past few months. Feedback was received from 30 Water User Groups (WUGs) of 114 or 26% of WUGs. Of the responses 9 WUGs have requested changes that would affect Region K. There was a Population and Demand Committee meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> hosted by AECOM. TWDB finalized methodologies for the irrigation, manufacturing and steam-electric water demand projections. Steam-Electric and Manufacturing demand methodologies changed from the prior method. Municipal and mining demand update requests are to be sent to TWDB by November along with all the municipal and non-municipal demand requests. Jaime said she expects TWDB will have non-municipal demand projections available soon and anticipates presenting them to the planning group at the July 2017 regular meeting. Donna Klaeger asked about the fact that municipal demands were affected during the recent drought years including 2011 and that conservation measures were in effect at that time and asked whether that will be considered by TWDB. Jaime said Region K will plan to review and use the data and, based on input from WUGs and others, will possibly assist in developing justification requests to submit to TWDB if another baseline year demand seems reasonable. Jennifer Walker asked about draft demands used for irrigation and the fact that surface water use for the recent drought years was so low and asked whether the Board will consider that. Refer to the AECOM handout given to planning group members for further details. Lann Bookout noted that methodologies and planning demand data is posted on the TWDB Regional Planning site under 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle data which was also distributed to the planning group.
9. Committee updates as needed:
  - a. Population and Demand Committee update – The committee met on April 12 and reviewed the draft population, municipal and mining demand protection information. Jaime presented detailed information which will likely be brought to the planning group for action at the July 2017 regular meeting. Some water users do not meet the TWDB's requirements for a Water User Group (WUG) and may considered as sub-WUGs with a similar planning approach. Lann Bookout explained the benefit to smaller communities that may not meet requirements to be WUGs but may be considered as sub-WUGs. This may help some smaller communities become eligible to apply for project funding as opposed to being absorbed in the County-Other category. Jaime discussed draft population and demand projection information provided by TWDB and entities for consideration as Wholesale Water Providers. The possibility of planning for climate change risk and climate uncertainties was briefly

discussed. The City of Austin may be able to facilitate Climate Consultant, Dr. Katharine Hayhoe speaking to the planning group at some point (possibly through a remote Skype presentation) on work climate consulting work she is doing for the City of Austin. Refer to the handout given to the planning group for detailed data and WUG responses.

10. Presentation on bio-assessments on the Colorado River upstream of Lake Buchanan – Tim Birdsong with TPWD gave a presentation on bio-assessments taken in the Colorado River upstream of Lake Buchanan. Tim explained the conservation efforts of the department and the many partnerships that benefit both water quality and water quantity. The study focused on biological data upstream of Lake Buchanan for which very little data exists from the past.
11. Presentation on potential federal listing of freshwater mussels as endangered or threatened species – Kimberly Horndeski with the Economic Growth and Endangered Species Management Division of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts gave a presentation on the federal listing status of Central Texas freshwater mussels and the ongoing stakeholder process. Refer to the Region K website for a copy of Kimberly’s presentation.
12. Agenda items for next meeting – to be determined closer to the meeting date
  - 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 July 12, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
13. New / Other Business – None.
14. Public Comments – Jordan Furnans with LRE Water discussed the ongoing research funded by TWDB on subsidence risk statewide being performed by LRE Water and requested if any of the members were aware of any subsidence evidence or features to please let him know. The project is a year-long study.
15. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 pm