

**Minutes**  
**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting**  
**July 12, 2017**  
**LCRA Dalchau Service Center**  
**3505 Montopolis Drive**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Members Signing In:**

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  
Doug Powell, Recreation

Mike Reagor, Municipalities  
Charlie Flatten, Environmental, Alternate  
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business  
Paul Sliva, Agriculture  
Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8, Alternate  
Jim Totten, GMA 12  
Byron Theodosis, Counties  
Paul Tybor, GMA 7  
David Wheelock, River Authorities  
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD  
Lann Bookout, Non-voting, TWDB  
Carol Faulkenberry, Non-Voting Alt., TDA

**Voting Members Absent:**

Billy Roeder, Agriculture  
Jennifer Walker, Environ., Alt. Attended  
David Van Dresar, Water Districts

James Sultemeier, Counties  
Daniel Berglund, Small Business  
Charles Shell, GMA 8, Alternate Attended

**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  
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm  
David Lindsay, Recreation Alternate  
Rebecca Batchelder, LCRA

Jordan Furnans, LRE Water , & EQO  
Dianne Wheeler, Public Interest Alternate  
Tommy Koch  
Greg Perrin  
Martha Herden, City of Blanco  
Jo Karr Tedder, CTWC  
David Villarreal, TDA  
Clifton Ladd, Blanton and Associates  
Kendra Garrett, COA Austin Water

**Quorum:**

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 21

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

### **Formal Actions Taken:**

1. Meeting minutes from the April 26, 2017 regular meeting were approved as presented.
2. Approved motion to include Aqua Texas in Rivercrest as a sub-Water User Group (WUG) in 2021 Region K plan.

### **Regular Meeting:**

1. Call to Order – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at approximately 10:04 am.
2. Welcome and Introductions – Chairman John Burke welcomed all to the meeting.
3. Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items 8, 9, and 10 – None on items 8,9 or 10 - Jordan Furnans spoke to the group about zebra mussels in the Highland Lakes, and how a company called Environmental Quality and Operations (EQO) is working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to help support efforts to limit the spread of zebra mussels. Dr. Furnans offered to speak to any organizations about how EQO can help in efforts combating zebra mussels.
4. Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes called attention to the attendance report that was included in the members' packets.
5. Consent Agenda:
  - Approval of Minutes from the April 26, 2017 regular meeting – A motion to approve minutes from the regular April 26, 2017 public meeting as presented was approved.
  - Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported the Consultant budget is \$104,356, with \$49,836 having been spent and a remaining balance of \$54,520. David reported that the grant account balance is currently \$11,963, and Amendment #1 has been approved by TWDB. It will increase the grant account by \$313,845 for a total grant account balance of \$423,201. The non-grant-funded Region K account, comprised of various basin contributions, has a balance of \$3,557.
6. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Update:
  - Update on TWDB and regional planning activities – Texas Water Development Board Member Kathleen Jackson gave an update on TWDB and regional planning activities and thanked the Region K group for their efforts in this planning cycle. The State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) has commitments of \$4.5 billion so far. Board Member Jackson encouraged the group to continue to be proactive and to consider funding options other than SWIFT, such as the Texas Water Development Fund (DFund), which was the TWDB fund accessed for the Lower Colorado River Authority's (LCRA's) Lane City off-channel reservoir project. Also noted was the increasing trend of using water conservation and reuse as a water supply, citing an uptick in SWIFT funding for new water meters and communities looking to upgrade aging infrastructure. Board Member Jackson indicated that as the planning process moves forward, there should

be a focus on investing in infrastructure, conservation, diversification, and in identifying the benefits associated with those kind of investments.

- 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 to the 2016 Approved Region K Plan is scheduled to appear before the TWDB for consideration on July 20<sup>th</sup>, and if approved an amendment will be made to the 2017 State Water Plan (SWP).

All sub-Water User Groups (sub-WUGs) proposed for the 2021 Region K Plan are due to TWDB by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The planning group would need to approve any proposed sub-WUGs requests before sending the requests to TWDB. All comments on the WUG list are due back by November. The planning group will review and approve water use projections by January 12, 2018 (although the projections can be amended after that date), and the group's Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) is due March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

7. Discussion of any bills passed in the 85<sup>th</sup> Session that affect regional water planning – Lann Bookout gave an update on several water-related bills that passed in the most recent legislative session, including

- S.B. 347 (Sen. Watson, effective September 1, 2017), which states that all regional planning committee and subcommittee meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act and will therefore have to post an agenda.
- S.B. 1511 (Sen. Perry, effective September 1, 2017) includes additional requirements for projects given high priority for SWIFT funding. These requirements include an assessment of projects that were or were not implemented, added a non-voting member from the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to the Regional Planning Group, holding certain meetings at a location in the planning area that is readily accessible to the public, amending regional water plans (RWPs) to exclude projects that have become “infeasible” and consider replacing them with feasible strategies, and allowing Regional Water Planning Groups (RWPGs) to implement simplified planning every other planning cycle.
- H.B. 2215 (Rep. Price, effective immediately) synchronizes the schedule of the State Water Plan and Groundwater Conservation District decisions on determining desired future conditions.

Mr. Bookout asked the group to send any comments or concerns regarding these new bills to him for compilation and review by TWDB. Regarding S.B. 347, which makes all subcommittee meetings public, Barbara Johnson suggested that any new rules for public comment be set ahead of time. John Dupnik asked if H.B. 2215 required assessment and replacement of infeasible strategies in the planning cycle, and if TWDB would provide guidance. Mr. Bookout asked Mr. Dupnik to send an email with these concerns so it could be compiled with other concerns and comments for review by the TWDB.

8. Consultant Status Report – Jamie Burke with AECOM gave the status report. AECOM is 60% of the way through the municipal demands review task, 20% through non-municipal demands review task, and 20% through the public participation task. Since the last meeting, AECOM has followed up with WUGs that didn't submit responses by the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to collect feedback on projected population and municipal demands. AECOM has also coordinated with TWDB on potential additional WUGs and questions from WUGs about population and demand projections, and has begun to review the historical population, demands, and GPCD data TWDB sent on June 30<sup>th</sup>. AECOM received draft non-municipal demands projections on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and presented those projections later in the meeting. Important upcoming dates include September 1<sup>st</sup>: requests for sub-WUGs due; January 12, 2018: deadline for projection revision requests (pushed back from November); late 2017: will be amending contract to work on subsequent tasks; September 2018: technical memorandum due; March 2020: IPP due. Refer to the AECOM handout given to planning group members for further details.
9. Update on Draft Population and Demand Projections. Take Action as Needed – Jamie Burke from AECOM presented the update on draft population and demand projections. So far, 54% of the WUGs have provided feedback on the draft projections and 15 of those Water User Groups (WUGs) are requesting changes that could affect Region K. The addition of two collective reporting units (CRUs) and one sub-WUG for the 2021 regional water plan development process was discussed.

Jamie presented TWDB population projections for the Rough Hollow CRU and the Sweetwater CRU (both located in Travis County). When creating the projections for Sweetwater CRU, TWDB used conservation plan data because Sweetwater CRU has no Public Water System (PWS) ID and therefore reports no water use data. Mike Reagor pointed out that the Sweetwater CRU had a much higher GPCD than Rough Hollow CRU, and wanted to know if they have a plan for lowering that usage number. David Wheelock said they have a conservation plan in place.

John Dupnik expressed concern about including the CRUs in the plan if the planning group would then be obligated to plan projects for their high water use. Jamie responded that the CRUs would be included in the County-other category if not recognized, which would make their use appear lower. If included in the plan as CRUs, the higher use of those systems could be identified and demand management strategies planned. Jamie noted that the CRUs met the CRU definition outlined by TWDB.

Jamie then presented population and demand projections for Aqua Texas in Rivercrest, which was being considered for inclusion as a sub-WUG. Donna Klaeger asked whether Aqua Texas in Rivercrest requested to be a sub-WUG and Jamie explained that AECOM reached out to Aqua Texas since they met sub-WUG requirements. Jamie noted that there is already some information about population and demand available for Aqua Texas in Rivercrest, so projections should not be difficult to generate. After some discussion about whether it made sense to include small systems like Aqua Texas in Rivercrest as a sub-WUGs and how including another sub-WUG could affect the population allocation, Ron Fiesler made a motion

to include Aqua Texas in Rivercrest as a sub-WUG. David Wheelock seconded, and the motion was approved.

The planning group opted to take more time to consider CRU inclusion and to discuss it further at the next planning meeting. Jamie reiterated that revision requests to municipal projections are due to TWDB by January 12, 2018; Teresa Lutes stated that the City of Austin had begun preliminary review and plans on seeking a revision request to increase the population projections.

10. Presentation of Draft Non-Municipal Demand Projection – Jamie Burke from AECOM gave a presentation of the draft non-municipal demand projections from TWDB. There were no action items for this agenda item. Jamie presented projections for irrigation, manufacturing, steam-electric, livestock, and mining water use. Regarding the irrigation projections, Donna Klaeger asked how TWDB chose the five-year interval used, because the irrigation values in the 2010-2014 period are anomalous due to the drought. After discussion, the group concluded that the methodology is a five-year average of the most recent five years for which verified data is available, and while this method may take into account anomalous years, it is a state-wide methodology and revision requests to TWDB are allowed.

The plan will be for the Population and Water Demand Committee to meet to work through the process of identifying potential revision requests for any of the TWDB draft projections. The Committee will plan to bring potential revision requests to the full planning group for consideration of approval for submittal to TWDB. Any members of the planning group can come to committee meetings. When looking at the steam-electric demands, David Wheelock noted that TWDB methodology had been changed to project for peak demand rather than average demand, and that there is a new LCRA facility in Llano that will require a steam-electric revision request.

11. Agenda items for next meeting:

- Location of next meeting – The location and date of the next regular meeting will be at LCRA's Dalchau Service Center in Austin on October 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

12. New / Other Business – None.

13. Public Comments – None.

14. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:09 am.