

Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting
January 10, 2018
LCRA Dalchau Service Center
3505 Montopolis Drive
Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m.

Members Signing In:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business
John Burke, Water Utilities
John Dupnik, GMA 10
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities
Dianne Wheeler, Public Interest, Alternate
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities
Barbara Johnson, Industries
Donna Klaeger, Counties
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Ann McElroy, Environmental
David Lindsay, Recreation, Alternate

Mike Reagor, Municipalities
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8, Alternate
Jim Totten, GMA 12
Byron Theodosios, 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:

Jim Brasher, GMA 15
Karen Haschke, Alternate Attended
Doug Powell, Alternate Attended
Billy Roeder, Agriculture

GMA 8 Member, Alternate Attended
Paul Sliva, Agriculture
James Sultemeier, Counties

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Jeff Fox, COA, Municipalities, Alternate
Jordan Furnans, LRE Water LLC
Ken Cunningham, STP Nuclear Op. Co.
Alicia Smiley, AECOM
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting
Jo Karr Tedder, CTWC
Heather Cooke, COA-Austin Water
Walter Couger, TNRI-ACC
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm
Kodi Sawin, Sawin Group

Matt Nelson, TWDB
Temple McKinnon, TWDB
Helen Gerlach, COA-Austin Water
Stefan Schuster, HDH
Linda Raschke, Counties, Alternate
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utility Alt.
Charlie Flatten, Environmental, Alternate
David Dehal
David Villarreal, TDA
Vicky Kennedy, Travis County

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 October 11, 2017 regular meeting were approved as amended.
2. Population and water demand revision request was approved for consultant to submit to TWDB.
3. Additional upward revision request from the City of Austin approved to submit to TWDB.
4. Hydrologic variance requests approved for submittal to TWDB.

Regular Meeting:

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at about 10:09 am.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chairman John Burke welcomed all to the meeting.
3. **Discuss term expiration for several member representatives and take action as needed** – Several members' terms are expiring soon. John Burke stated that members whose terms have expired and would like to serve another term should notify him by email and in writing, and the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) will vote on the matter at the next meeting.
4. **Report on Nominating Committee Recommendations** – Barbara Johnson provided a brief summary of the nominating committee meetings, stating that the committee worked to nominate people from all areas of the basin representing a broad range of interests. The committee produced a slate of officers for the Executive Committee, as follows: Chairman: John Burke (representing Water Utilities); Vice Chair: David Wheelock (representing River Authorities); Secretary: Teresa Lutes (representing Municipalities). The three at-large seats are David Van Dresar (representing Groundwater Districts), Mike Reagor (representing Small Municipalities), and Paul Sliva (representing Agriculture). John Burke then asked the Group if there were any other nominations. Barbara Johnson made a motion to accept the composition of the Executive Committee as described, and the motion was seconded and passed.
5. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items #10-17** – Jordan Furnans made a comment related to water modeling done by the RWPG. He stated that he has performed studies on modeling sedimentation and environmental flows, and both their effects on the firm water available in the WAM are minimal compared to modeling interruptible water. He encouraged the Group to keep in mind the impact of modeling interruptible water on the firm water available.
6. **Attendance Report** – Teresa Lutes called attention to the attendance report that was included in the members' packets.
7. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the October 11, 2017 regular meeting – David Wheelock asked to add a clarification about irrigation at the bottom of page 6/top of page 7. The change was made, and a motion to approve minutes from the regular October 11, 2017 meeting as amended was approved.
 - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported the Consultant budget is now authorized for \$418,201, with \$97,546 having been spent and a remaining

balance of \$320,655. David also reported that the grant account balance is currently \$57,130 and the Members account has a balance of \$3,564.

8. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

- a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules – Lann Bookout said that the rulemaking process at TWDB has opened up and the comment period closes at the end of January. Revision requests for the population and water demand projections are due January 12, 2018. TWDB will consider those requests in April. Lann also stated that there will be a contract amendment in March that the group needs to consider for approval, so it should be added to the agenda. In the near future, the RWPG will also need to choose a process for identifying potentially infeasible projects to comply with the new TWDB rules.

9. **Consultant Status Report** – Jaime Burke from AECOM presented the consultant status report. Since the last meeting, AECOM worked with the Population and Water Demand Committee to present final the population and water demand revision requests to the Group for consideration. Pending Group approval, AECOM plans to submit the requests to TWDB before the January 12th deadline. AECOM has also worked with the Water Modeling Committee and prepared hydrologic variance requests to submit to TWDB pending Group approval. In addition to the submittal of revision and variance requests to TWDB, upcoming effort for AECOM includes updating water availability and supply numbers for Water User Groups (WUGs), working with the Water Management Strategies Committee to identify any needed changes in process and discuss a method for determining potentially feasible projects, beginning data entry to TWDB's DB22 database, and preparing relevant chapter text updates.

10. Population and Water Demand Committee Report –

- a. Summary of committee meetings held October 31 and December 7, 2017 – At the October committee meeting, the committee discussed municipal revisions, irrigation demands, steam-electric demands, manufacturing demands, mining demands, and livestock demands. The committee made change suggestions for all demand categories except Livestock Demands (no changes), and there was significant discussion of the irrigation demand projections.

At the December 7th committee meeting, the group finalized all revision recommendations to bring to the RWPG for today's meeting. A large portion of the discussion was about determining irrigation demand projections.

During the presentation at the December 7th committee meeting summary, John Dupnik asked about the use of a 5.25-ft/acre limit for irrigation that was discussed at the meeting. David Wheelock explained that although the 5.25-ft/acre is an important number from the adjudication, it was not what he and Daniel Berglund had developed as a recommendation, and explained that they used actual reported irrigation use from recent years to develop their recommended values. Donna Klaeger asked if the 5.25-ft/acre was being used by irrigators currently as a guideline for water use. David Wheelock and Daniel Berglund explained that the actual water use changes every year, but the goal

is to reach an average use of 5.25-ft/acre. Ms. Klaeger followed up by asking if the 5.25-ft/acre value would be used as a water management strategy; Lauri Gillam responded that it had been discussed at the Population and Water Demand Committee meeting and they determined that the 5.25-ft/acre is appropriate for water management strategy analysis. Some additional brief discussion of irrigation demands followed.

- b. Approval by Population and Water Demand Committee of Committee meeting minutes from December 7, 2017 – A motion was approved to table the approval of the minutes from the December 7, 2017 Committee meeting until the next RWPG meeting due to the submission of additional edits to the minutes that had not been completely reviewed.
- c. Presentation of Committee recommendations for population and water demand revisions for RWPG consideration – Jaime Burke of AECOM presented the recommendations for population and water demand revisions to the RWPG. The revision requests are separated into two memorandums, one for municipal and one for non-municipal. A packet with the summarized feedback from the WUGs was provided to RWPG members. Jaime began by going through the recommended population and GPCD changes county-by-county. Gillespie County and Mills County had no proposed population or GPCD revisions.

In Bastrop and Blanco counties, the proposed revision was to switch the GPCD from the city-based GPCD to the utility boundary-based GPCD. No population revisions were recommended for those counties.

In Burnet County, the Committee proposed a population decrease for Granite Shoals and Meadowlakes Municipal Utility District (MUD) based on requested changes. To balance the decrease in population, Burnet County-Other population was increased. The revised GPCD was proposed for the City of Burnet, Cottonwood Shores, and Horseshoe Bay. Additionally, the WUG name for Chisolm Trail SUD was recommended to be changed to Georgetown. Donna Klaegar asked if representatives from Horseshoe Bay had been contacted regarding the proposed GPCD revision; Jaime responded that they had green-lighted the revision.

In Colorado County, no population revisions were proposed, but it was recommended that the RWPG request use of the revised utility-based GPCD.

In Fayette County, a population and GPCD revision for Fayette County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) Monument Hill was recommended. The proposal is to increase 2020 population and increase base water use in gallons per capita per day (GPCD) to reflect 2011 water use. The Fayette County-Other population was decreased to balance the population increase. A recommendation was also made to use the revised GPCD values for Fayette County-Other, Fayette Water Supply Corporation WSC, and La Grange.

In Hays County, population revisions are proposed for the City of Austin, Dripping Springs WSC and West Travis Public Utility Agency (PUA), and Hays County-Other all requested changes. City of Austin and Dripping Springs WSC would increase their population, while Hays County-Other and West Travis

PUA populations would decrease. A recommendation to use revised GPCDs is also proposed for Austin and West Travis County PUA.

In Llano County, no population revisions are proposed, but revised GPCDs are recommended for Horseshoe Bay and the City of Llano. Mike Reagor suggested using a higher GPCD than the one recommended based on how early in the year Llano imposed drought restrictions. Similarly, in Matagorda County, no population revisions are recommended but use of the revised GPCD is proposed for Markham MUD and Palacios. In San Saba County, there are also no population revision recommendations, but there is a recommendation to use the revised GPCD for Richland SUD.

In Travis County, the Committee recommends requesting an amount equal to 1.5% of the overall Region K population be added to the total Travis County population. Increases in population are recommended for Austin, Leander, Oak Shores Water System, Travis County WCID 17, Travis County WCID Point Venture, Wells Branch MUD, and West Travis County PUA. Decreases in population are recommended for Lakeway MUD, Manville WSC, Pflugerville, and Sunset Valley. Travis County-Other was used to balance the various requests. A GPCD revision is recommended for Austin, Barton Creek West WSC, Barton Creek WSC, Cottonwood Creek MUD, Hurst Creek MUD, Jonestown WSC, Lakeway MUD, Shady Hollow MUD, Sunset Valley, Travis County MUD 10, Travis County MUD 2, and Travis County MUD 4. The Committee also recommends including Aqua Texas-Rivercrest as a sub-WUG to Travis County-Other. Austin is planning on submitting a separate request asking TWDB to increase the overall population of Region K.

In Wharton County, no population revisions were recommended; a revision to Wharton County-Other is recommended for consistency with Region P.

In Williamson County, a population increase for Austin and population decrease for Williamson County-Other is recommended. GPCD revisions are recommended for Austin and Wells Branch MUD.

Jaime then went on to discuss non-municipal demands. There were several minor revisions recommended for mining and steam-electric demands. Manufacturing demands for Bastrop, Fayette, Gillespie, Hays, Travis, and Williamson are recommended to for an upward adjustment to reflect potentially unaccounted for manufacturing water use. Travis County is recommended for an additional upward revision based on City of Austin requested increases.

Irrigation demands for Travis County are recommended for revision to correct data error in historical water use. Revised irrigation demands in Colorado, Matagorda, and Wharton Counties are based on historical usage data and incorporate a 2.69% decrease in total demand each decade.

- d. Presentation of minor additional base GPCD revisions that were received after the Committee last met (December 7, 2017), for RWPG consideration – An adjustment to Leander’s GPCD, Matagorda County WCID 6’s GPCD, and Sunrise Beach Village’s GPCD was presented for consideration by the RWPG for inclusion in requested revisions to TWDB (see Agenda Item #11, below).

11. **Discuss and take action to approve population, municipal demand, and non-municipal demand projection revisions to TWDB draft projections, and to authorize consultant to submit revision request to TWDB. Consider authorizing consultant to continue any needed discussions with TWDB regarding the revisions, on behalf of the RWPG.** – Lauri Gillam made a motion to adopt the proposed revisions as edited and revised; the motion was seconded and approved. Lauri also made a motion to allow the consultant to make minor changes and submit the Region K revision requests on behalf of the RWPG; the motion was seconded and approved.
12. **COA Upward Revision Request – Discuss and take action on COA request to incorporate COA forecast for additional population growth for recommendation from the Region K planning group for the COA to submit to TWDB.** – Teresa Lutes from the City of Austin (COA) presented Austin’s upward revision request. COA projects significantly higher population growth out to 2070 than TWDB does. The proposal is for the RWPG to consider approval of the COA submitting independently a revision request to TWDB for a population increase to the overall Region K population. After discussion, the motion made by Teresa to submit a separate COA upward population revision request made, seconded, and was approved.
13. **Water Modeling Committee Report –**
 - a. Summary of Committee meeting held December 13, 2017 – The Water Modeling Committee met for the first time this planning cycle at the December 13th meeting. At the meeting, the Committee discussed the purpose of the committee, reviewed TWDB guidelines, reviewed key features and assumptions included in the water availability model (WAM) used in the last cycle, identified WAM assumptions that should be updated this cycle, and discussed planning timeline. The Committee decided to hold another Water Modeling Committee meeting immediately before the Region K meeting on January 10th to watch a presentation on the WAM (an overview of the WAM) and make final recommendations to bring to the RWPG.
 - b. Informational presentation on surface water modeling and Region K Cutoff Model – Joe Trungale presented several slides on water availability modeling and how the WAM works. Jaime Burke of AECOM then presented on the Region K cutoff model, and explained how it works and why it is used. Both Joe and Jaime answered questions from the group.
 - c. Presentation of Committee recommendations for updates to the assumptions incorporated into the Region K Cutoff Model for 2021 Plan development and the associated hydrologic variance request to TWDB, for RWPG consideration – The updated hydrologic variance request to TWDB recommended by the Water Modeling Committee was presented to the group.
14. **Discuss and take action to approve updates to the assumptions incorporated into the Region K Cutoff Model for 2021 Plan development and the associated hydrologic variance request to TWDB, and authorize consultant to submit hydrologic variance request to TWDB. Consider authorizing consultant to**

continue any needed discussions with TWDB regarding the request, on behalf of the RWPG – Teresa Lutes made a motion to approve the Water Modeling Committee recommendation of submitting to TWDB the draft variance request letter and the attachment containing the table of variances presented. The motion was seconded and approved. Teresa also made a motion to authorize the consultant to submit the variance requests to TWDB on the RWPG’s behalf. This motion was also seconded and approved.

15. Discussion of water suppliers, other than LCRA, in Region K that are not included as Water User Groups, but should potentially be included in the 2021 Region K Water Plan as Wholesale Water Providers only. Take action, as needed. – Jaime Burke gave an overview on the topic. Currently, LCRA is the only wholesale provider in the basin that is not also a Water User Group (WUG). TWDB is asking for the RWPG to identify any other wholesale suppliers in the basin who are not WUGs for inclusion in the 2021 plan. After discussion, the group agreed to have AECOM collect more data and ask for more guidance from TWDB before taking action.

16. Other Committee Reports as needed – None

17.

- a. Discuss and take action on requesting written opinion from TWDB or the Texas Attorney General on Regional Planning Group members attending committee meetings by conference call. – The RWPG approved Anne McElroy and John Burke composing a letter to send to the Texas Attorney General requesting an opinion on RWPG members attending committee meetings by conference call.
- b. Discuss and take action on videotaping committee meetings. – The RWPG determined that videotaping committee meetings is allowed, but that Region K does not currently have money in the budget for that service.

18. 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 April 11, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Committee Meetings – A Water Modeling Committee meeting will be scheduled for some time in February.

19. New / Other Business – None.

20. Public Comments – None.

21. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:26 pm.