

Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting
July 11, 2018
LCRA Dalchau Service Center
3505 Montopolis Drive
Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m.

Members Signing In:

John Burke, Water Utilities
Jim Brasher, GMA 15
Robin Gary, GMA 10, Alternate
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Karen Haschke, Public
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities
Barbara Johnson, Industries
Donna Klaeger, Counties
Ann McElroy, Environmental
Doug Powell, Recreation
Mike Reagor, Municipalities

Helen Gerlach, Municipalities, Alternate
Paul Babb, GMA 8, Alternate
Paul Sliva, Agriculture
James Sultemeier, Counties
Paul Tybor, GMA 7
Jim Totten, GMA 12
Byron Theodosis, Counties
David Van Dresar, Water Districts
David Wheelock, River Authorities
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD
Lann Bookout, Non-voting, TWDB

Voting Members Absent:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business
Jennifer Walker, Environmental
Teresa Lutes, Munic., Alternate Attended
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business

Lauri Gillam, Municipalities
Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8, Alternate Attended
David Caldwell, GMA 10, Alternate Attended

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Jordan Furnans, LRE Water LLC
Alicia Smiley, AECOM
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm
David Lindsay, Recreation, Alternate
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utility Alt.
Paul King, Rancher
Joe Trungale, Consultant
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting PLLC
Diane Wheeler, Alternate
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda
Prachi Patel, Austin Water

James Kowis, Consultant
Troy Wenzel, TCESD #8
Charles Olfers, County Comm. Gillespie Co
Kylie Beard, LCRA
Danielle Noor, Sunset Commission
Mikayla Garrison, Sunset Commission
Erick Fajardo, Sunset Commission
Rusty Ray, TSSWCB
James Babb
Christiane Alepuz, CAPCOG
Jaime Burke, AECOM

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 22

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

Formal Actions Taken:

1. Minutes from April 11, 2018 regular meeting were approved, as amended.
2. Charles Olfers, Gillespie County, elected as voting member for Agricultural Interest category.
3. Initial surface water availability modeling results, as presented, were approved for inclusion in the Technical Memo to be submitted to TWDB in September 2018.
4. LCRA, Austin, and West Travis County Public Utilities Agency approved to be submitted as major water providers in Region K.

Regular Meeting:

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at about 10:29 am.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chairman John Burke welcomed all to the meeting.
3. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items #5-13** – Troy Wenzel, Assistant Fire Chief at Pedernales Fire Department, Travis County, communicated his concern that their fire department relies on water from the Highland Lakes and that the lakes levels are falling. Low levels in the lakes mean their pumps cannot access water to fight fires. He would like the Region K group to take this into consideration in their decisions throughout the process.
4. **Attendance Report** – Attendance report information was included in the members' packets for review.
5. **Discuss and take action as necessary to fill voting member vacancy for Agricultural Interest category** – Chairman Burke led the discussion. Both Paul King and Charles Olfers were under consideration to fill the voting member vacancy for the Agricultural Interest category. The Executive Committee recommended Charles Olfers for approval. Discussion included concerns about being able to equally represent all the counties in Region K if Paul King was chosen as the voting member. Paul Tybor motioned to approve Charles Olfers as the voting member to fill the vacancy for Agricultural Interest category. The motion was seconded by James Sultemeier and approved by the group.
6. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the April 11, 2018 regular meeting – Barbara Johnson noted several edits to make to the minutes. Robin Gary noted an edit on the location and date of the next meeting. A motion was made and approved to adopt the minutes from the regular April 11, 2018 meeting as amended.
 - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported the total consultant budget was being revised to \$723,046 for the study period. So far the consultant has spent \$197,468 and there is remaining balance of \$ 525,577. Account balance for paying the consultant, which is reimbursed by the TWDB, is \$44,747. The members account has a balance of \$ 3,004.
7. **Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)**
 - a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules – Lann Bookout reminded the group that TWDB continues to hold financial assistance workshops. These are posted on their webpage on the financial assistance tab. It was noted that we are about halfway through the planning cycle. Technical memos are due to TWDB in September.
8. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Water Modeling Committee** – Mike Reagor explained that the water availability model being run by the consultant uses new evaporation rates provided by TCEQ.

Additionally, the model uses a multi-use pattern for downstream water demands, as in the last planning cycle.

Later in the meeting there is going to be a presentation on the surface water availability modeling results recommended by the Water Modeling Committee to include in a Technical Memo due to TWDB in September. At its July 11th committee meeting, the Water Modeling Committee voted to recommend the modeling results to the group for the full groups' consideration for approval for this Technical Memo.

Jaime Burke, from AECOM, provided additional information on the Water Modeling Committee meeting that was held on June 27th. In this committee meeting, the initial modeling results were reviewed, there was discussion of the different options for determining the new drought of record period (e.g. full-to-full, full-to-empty, etc.), and consultants were asked to perform additional analysis on using a multi-use demand pattern for certain downstream water rights rather than an industrial use pattern.

9. **Consultant Status Report** – Jaime Burke, from AECOM, presented overall consultant progress in the planning process. Progress has been made on the chapter one text, water supplies and water availability numbers, water needs determination, identification of feasible water management strategies, and assessment of the new drought of record period. Ann McElroy requested more detail on various aspects of the progress report. Jaime Burke acknowledged this request.

Jaime provided information on water management strategy survey results and next steps for identifying feasible water management strategies. For the upcoming technical memo, the consultant will update water supply numbers, finish database entry, complete the draft technical memo, post the technical memo for public comment, and design the scope of work for evaluating water management strategies. Ann McElroy asked for clarification on the posting and due dates for the technical memo; Jaime Burke clarified that the meeting to approve the technical memo would be August 29th, the technical memo would be posted on August 22nd, and the regular meeting notice would be posted on August 15th. After the regular meeting on August 29th, the public will have 14 days to make comments, all of which need to be submitted to TWDB. The technical memo is due to TWDB on September 10th.

10. **Discuss and take action on initial surface water modeling results** – Joe Trungale, from Trungale Engineering & Science, presented initial surface water availability modeling results. Since the last regular meeting, two changes were made to the model: the evaporation and precipitation inputs were updated to the most recent dataset and a multi-use pattern was used for all downstream irrigation demands except for Garwood (where an irrigation water use pattern was used). The multi-use pattern was used for all downstream irrigation demands except for Garwood during the last planning cycle.

Modeling assumptions that are the same as presented at the last regular meeting but differ from the last planning cycle are: hydrology was updated through 2016, the Arbuckle off-channel reservoir has been added to the model, sedimentation rates have been updated, the Gulf Coast water right was split into two, routine water rights updates from TCEQ's WAM were made, a new City of Austin monthly demand pattern was used, and there was an update to the balancing of Lakes Travis and Buchanan in the model. The modeling results show that the new critical period for drought in the basin is October 2007-December 2016.

Jaime Burke requested that the group consider approval of the initial surface water availability numbers for use in the technical memo, which will be used in TWDB's database. Ms. Burke reiterated that the group would only be approving initial numbers and that there will be opportunities for discussion and changes of the numbers, if necessary. Ron Fieseler motioned to approve the presented initial surface water availability numbers for use in the technical

memo, which will be used in TWDB's database, Paul Tybor seconded, and the group approved the motion.

11. **Discussion of water supply/ potentially feasible strategies survey responses** – Jaime Burke, from AECOM, explained that information on identified potentially feasible strategies is to be included as part of the technical memo to be submitted to TWDB in September. The Region K Potentially Feasible Strategies Survey was sent out to municipal Water User Groups (WUGs) to gather information for this purpose, including requesting feedback on existing water supplies and potentially feasible strategies. For WUGs included in the last plan, the survey included information on supplies and strategies from the 2016 plan was included as a starting point. The survey also included space to provide planned strategies that the WUGs would like to include in the 2021 plan. There was a 65% response rate. Of the unresponsive WUGs, there were 13 new WUGs. For most of the unresponsive WUGs, the consultant can work to find information on strategy options, and for the others additional outreach will be undertaken.

Several WUGs share sources with entities in other regional planning groups and need to coordinate regionally. Donna Klaeger asked if there was a deadline to respond to the survey; Jaime Burke responded that there is no official deadline, but it would be helpful to know all strategies to be evaluated by the end of the year to inform the scope of work. Next steps include listing the strategies in the technical memo and working with the Water Management Strategies Committee to add strategies, as needed. Robin Gary requested the survey results be presented in map form; Jaime Burke agreed.

12. **Discuss and take action on Region K Major Water Providers** – Jaime Burke, from AECOM, explained that a major water provider in this planning cycle is defined as a WUG or wholesale water provider that is of significance to the region's water supply as determined by the water planning group. A list of Region K major water providers should be submitted at the same time as the technical memo. The group discussed which entities would be considered as major water providers for Region K. David Van Dresar made a motion to approve LCRA, Austin, and West Travis County Public Utilities Agency as the major water providers for Region K. The motion was seconded by Ron Fieseler and approved by the group.

13. **Discuss Technical Memorandum** –

- a. **Data to be included** – Jaime Burke, from AECOM, explained that the following items need to be included in the technical memorandum: reports generated by TWDB related to population, demand projections, source water availability, existing water supplies, identified needs and surpluses, water balances for the sources, and comparison of these data to the 2016 water plan. The consultant team will add supply and water availability data into the TWDB database, TWDB has already entered population and demand information, and information for inclusion in the reports is generated based on the supply and demand data. The consultant will need to include documentation of the process for identifying water management strategies by using a template provided by TWDB. Information regarding the surface water availability models (WAMs) and groundwater availability models (GAMs) used in the process will also be included.
- b. **Posting /comment period for technical memo** – Submittal of the technical memo will need to be considered for approval at a regular planning group meeting. The agenda for the regular planning group meeting will need to be posted 14 days before the day of the meeting and it is recommended that the technical memo be available for review one week prior to meeting date. Public comments are accepted for 14 days following the meeting. The technical memo is due on September 10th. Public comments received after September 10th but within the 14 days following the meeting are to be submitted separately. August 29th is the scheduled meeting date for planning group consideration of the technical memo approval.

c. **Other items** – None.

14. Agenda items for next meeting –

- a. David Wheelock to present information on sedimentation rates
- b. Richard Hoffpauir to make presentation on climate change modeling in the City of Austin's Water Forward integrated water resource plan effort as he did in a recent Water Modeling Committee meeting.
- c. Donna Klaeger, Bylaws Committee Chair, to convene a Bylaws Committee meeting on August 29th prior to the regular group meeting.

15. New/ Other Business – None

16. Public Comments – None.

17. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:57 am.