

**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group
Water Management Strategies Committee Meeting
AECOM, Treaty Oak Conference Room
October 15, 2018**

1. Lauri Gillam called meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

2. Attendees (18)

Committee Members:

Lauri Gillam – Region K Water Management Strategies Committee Chair

Teresa Lutes – Region K, Municipalities Rep

David Wheelock –Region K, River Authority Rep

Jennifer Walker – Region K, Environmental Rep

David Bradsby – Region K, TPWD Rep

Barbara Johnson – Region K, Industries Rep

David Lindsay – Region K, Recreation Rep (Alternate)

Dianne Wheeler – Region K, Public Rep (Alternate)

Additional Attendees:

Ann McElroy – Region K, Environmental Rep

Daniel Berglund – Region K, Small Business Rep

Jaime Burke – AECOM

Alicia Smiley – AECOM

Lann Bookout – TWDB

John Q. Barnard IV – TWDB

Rebecca Batchelder – LCRA

Stacey Pandey – LCRA

Helen Gerlach – Austin Water

Christianne Castleberry – Castleberry Engineering / Region K Water Utilities Rep (Alternate)

3. Public Comments

a. None.

4. Minutes Approval

a. Draft of April 5, 2018

i. David Wheelock proposed to add Lann Bookout to attendee list.

b. David Wheelock motioned to approve the minutes. Lauri Gillam seconded. Committee passed.

5. Status of Region K Strategy Identification/Evaluation Process
 - a. Goal of Meeting: To identify which water management strategies (WMS) from 2016 and which new WMS to include to Scope of Work for 2021 evaluation. TWDB has allocated \$319,178 in budget for the 2021 evaluation.
 - i. RWPG has already submitted partial scope of work (drought management, conservation, expanded use of local groundwater, City of Austin (COA) return flows). Scope of work remaining budget: \$232,178
 - b. Jennifer Walker asked for clarification on the strategies process.
 - i. RWPG is required to prepare a scope of work for each strategy evaluation they want to perform. This scope of work must be presented for public input and RWPG approval before submitting to TWDB for their approval. Once the scope is approved, strategy evaluation can begin. The committee will then begin looking at qualitative and quantitative analysis for individual WUGs for the applicable strategies. The analysis allows for additional determination of whether a strategy is feasible and should be recommended in the 2021 Plan. Having a goal to have the strategies evaluated by September 2019 will aid in completing the draft plan before the March 2020 deadline.

6. Additional Water Management Strategies for Task 5A Scope of Work
 - a. 2016 Planning Cycle Strategies
 - i. 2016 Plan General (apply to multiple WUGs) Strategies
 1. **Reuse.** Reuse is to remain in one scoping category, but all types of reuse will be listed in the scope: centralized direct non-potable; decentralized direct non-potable; direct potable; indirect. David Lindsay requested that when the consultant evaluates individual reuse strategies, they are to identify location of discharge and body of water. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG for inclusion in scope.
 2. **Development of New Groundwater.** David Wheelock noted that a potential updated MAG for the Carrizo-Wilcox may want to be considered when update is complete. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG for inclusion in scope.
 3. **Aquifer Storage and Recovery.** David Lindsay suggested conducting feasibility studies for aquifers to identify their ability to qualify for ASR. Lann Bookout responded that in the current process of scoping, ASR is a proposed strategy that may or may not be created into a project; feasibility studies are conducted after projects are funded and set into motion. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG but also separate out 2016 Plan ASR projects into individual scoping items. A separate item for potential new ASR strategies will also be scoped.
 4. **Brackish Groundwater Desalination.** There are currently no known Region K potentially feasible strategies other than LCRA and Austin. Committee agreed to recommend inclusion in scope to RWPG.
 5. **Groundwater Importation.** David Lindsay asked if other Regions were looking at Region K water. The general consensus was that the committee didn't know

specifically, but there is not much groundwater to share. Committee agreed to recommend 2016 Plan strategies to RWPG as separate projects: Groundwater Importation – Carrizo-Wilcox to LCRA System; Groundwater Importation – Hays County Pipeline, Groundwater Importation – HCPUA Pipeline. No new groundwater importation strategies are recommended for inclusion in the scope.

6. **New LCRA Contracts.** Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to scope as two strategies: New LCRA Contracts and New LCRA Contracts Requiring Infrastructure.
 7. **LCRA Contract Amendments.** Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to scope as two strategies: LCRA Contract Amendments and LCRA Contract Amendments Requiring Infrastructure.
 8. **Water Purchase Strategy.** Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to scope as four strategies: New Water Purchase Strategy, New Water Purchase Strategy Requiring Infrastructure, Water Purchase Amendments, and Water Purchase Amendments Requiring Infrastructure. These strategies would be water purchased from any entity other than LCRA.
 9. **Amendment to Existing Water Rights/Permits.** COA requested to be included in SOW. Committee agreed to recommend inclusion in scope to RWPG.
 10. **Downstream Return Flows.** Committee agreed to recommend inclusion in scope to RWPG.
 11. **East Lake Buchanan Project.** Consultant is to contact Burnet County Commissioner or Judge to verify interest in project. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in scope if interest is expressed.
 12. **Buena Vista Regional Project.** Survey responses from Bertram and Burnet both indicated that they were not interested in the project as part of the 2021 RWP. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to scope as a limited update.
 13. **Marble Falls Regional Project.** Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in scope.
 14. **Brush Management.** David Lindsay asked if the scope could be broadened to include watershed management since the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board oversees both programs. Up to 200 acre-feet/year of water can be impounded by ranchers without a permit, which is becoming a concern for downstream inflows as large ranches subdivide into smaller properties. Barbara Johnson suggested including discussion of stock ponds and downstream inflows into Chapter 8 (Legislative Recommendations) instead of adding it to the SOW. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to scope brush management as a limited update.
- ii. 2016 Plan General Strategies that were not Recommended or Alternative
1. **In-Channel Dams in Lower Basin.** Committee agreed not to recommend evaluation of project in 2021 SOW.

2. **Reduced Lake Evaporation.** Committee agreed to recommend inclusion in SOW to RWPG, though it is agreed to be low in importance.
 3. **Surface Water Infrastructure Expansion.** Jaime Burke suggested name change to “Water Supply Infrastructure Development or Expansion” in order to be more inclusive. Committee agreed to recommend inclusion in SOW to RWPG.
- iii. 2016 Plan Recommended Entity-Specific Strategies – LCRA
1. **LCRA New Off-Channel Reservoir(s).** Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW as three strategies: LCRA – Mid-Basin Off-Channel Reservoir; LCRA – Prairie Site Off-Channel Reservoir; LCRA – Excess Flows Off-Channel Reservoir.
 2. **Amendments to LCRA WMP.** Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.
- iv. 2016 Plan Recommended Entity-Specific Strategies – Matagorda County Steam-Electric
1. **STPNOC Alternate Canal Delivery.** Jason Ludwig requested project remain in SOW. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG.
 2. **STPNOC Brackish Surface Water Blending.** Jason Ludwig requested project remain in SOW. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG.
- v. 2016 Plan Recommended Entity-Specific Strategies – City of Austin
1. **Longhorn Dam Operations Improvements.** Teresa Lutes is to check with COA if there are additional requested improvements. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG for inclusion in SOW if interest is expressed.
 2. **City of Austin Conservation.** COA requested that conservation include lot-scale blackwater reuse, greywater reuse, rainwater harvesting, stormwater harvesting, and AC condensate reuse, among other conservation measures. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.
 3. **City of Austin Direct Reuse.** COA requested that the scope separate out Centralized Direct Non-Potable Reuse and Decentralized Direct Non-Potable Reuse. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.
 4. **Capture Local Inflows to Ladybird Lake.** Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.
 5. **Lake Austin Operations.** Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.
 6. **Rainwater Harvesting.** COA requested name change to “Community-Scale Stormwater Harvesting.” Scope for stormwater harvesting would be expanded as compared to the 2016 Plan scope for rainwater harvesting. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.
- vi. 2016 Plan Alternative Entity-Specific Strategies – LCRA
1. **Supplement Bay and Estuary Inflows with Brackish Groundwater Thereby Replacing Demands on LCRA Highland Lake Firm Yield.** David Wheelock requested strategy remain in SOW. Jennifer Walker expressed concerns over the use of brackish water to replace fresh water. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.

2. **Baylor Creek Reservoir.** David Wheelock requested strategy remain in SOW because the permit still exists, although there are no current plans to build the reservoir. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW as a limited update.
 3. **City of Leander Return Flows.** David Wheelock requested name change to “Import Return Flows from Williamson County.” Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.
 4. **Enhanced Recharge and Conjunctive Use.** David Wheelock requested strategy remain in SOW. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.
- vii. 2016 Plan Entity-Specific Strategies that were not Recommended or Alternative
1. **City of Goldthwaite Channel Dam.** Committee agreed not to recommend evaluation of project in 2021 SOW.
 2. **Move SAR WWTP Discharge Above Austin Gage.** Committee agreed not to recommend evaluation of project in 2021 SOW.
 3. **City of Wharton – Water Supply Strategy.** City requested project be included for this planning cycle. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG to include in SOW.
 4. **HB 1437.** In the 2016 Plan, HB 1437 was determined to be more of a funding mechanism rather than a strategy. While it will be associated with funding mechanisms for Irrigation Conservation projects, the committee agreed not to recommend evaluation of this as a strategy in 2021 SOW.
- b. Agenda items 6.b., 6.c., 6.d., and 6e. (New Requested Strategies for this Cycle, Issues to Address, Other Strategy Suggestions, and Budget Allocation) are to be considered at next WMS meeting.

7. Action Taken

- a. Lauri Gillam moved to approve strategies to recommend as listed above. Jennifer Walker seconded. Committee passed.

8. New / Other Business

- a. The next RWPG meeting will be October 24, 2018.
- b. The next WMS meeting will be November 30, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the AECOM office (9400 Amberglen Blvd, Building E).

9. Lauri Gillam adjourned at 4:06 p.m.