

**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group  
Water Management Strategies Meeting  
AECOM, Treaty Oak Conference Room  
November 30, 2018**

1. Lauri Gillam called meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Attendees (18)

Committee Members:

Lauri Gillam – Region K Water Management Strategies Committee Chair

Barbara Johnson – Region K, Industries Rep

Daniel Berglund – Region K, Small Business Rep

David Wheelock –Region K, River Authority Rep

Doug Powell – Region K, Recreation Rep

Karen Haschke – Region K, Public Rep

Teresa Lutes – Region K, Municipalities Rep

Additional Attendees:

Ann McElroy – Region K, Environmental Rep

David Bradsby – Region K, TPWD Rep

Mike Reagor – Region K, Small Municipalities Rep

Jaime Burke – AECOM

Alicia Smiley – AECOM

Lann Bookout – TWDB

Stacey Pandey – LCRA

Adam Conner – Freese and Nichols

Blake Neffendorf – City of Buda

Cindy Smiley – Smiley Law Firm

Scott Edmonson – City of Llano, Region K Small Municipalities Rep (Alternate)

3. Public Comments

a. None.

4. Minutes Approval

a. Draft of October 15, 2018

i. 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 new water management strategies (WMS) to add 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 with 48 strategies. Scope of work remaining budget: \$46,178.
  
6. Additional Water Management Strategies for 5A Scope of Work
  - a. 2021 Planning Cycle Strategies
    - i. New 2021 Planning Cycle Strategies
      1. **Direct Potable Reuse.** Strategy requested by Buda and West Travis County PUA. Buda is conducting an effluent characterization study and hopes to integrate it by 2026 – confirmed by Blake Neffendorf. West Travis County PUA is looking at DPR through Reverse Osmosis treatment. These requests will be considered when evaluating reuse.
      2. **Off-Channel Reservoir.** Strategy requested by City of Austin and Bertram. Bertram is coordinating with TCEQ to determine whether quarry reservoir is sourced by surface water or groundwater. Committee agreed to recommend two separate strategies to RWPG for inclusion in scope.
      3. **Emergency Transfers.** Strategy requested by Hays, Travis County WCID 17, and West Travis County PUA. Hays is looking for emergency transfers from City of Austin and/or City of Buda. Travis County WCID 17 has agreements with Lakeway MUD, Hurst Creek MUD, West Travis County PUA, and the City of Austin. West Travis County PUA requesting an emergency interconnect agreement with City of Austin. Last cycle, emergency interconnects were included under Drought Response (Chapter 7). Committee agreed to consider subject for Chapter 7.
      4. **Oceanwater Desalination.** Strategy requested by LCRA. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG for inclusion in scope.
      5. **Dredging.** Strategy requested by Llano for local reservoir. Per Mike Reagor, City of Llano previously dredged approximately 273 acre-feet of storage. With recent flooding, all the sediment has re-settled. To increase capacity, Llano also adds a wooden flashboard system along the reservoir; this may require additional engineering to update the system. Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG for inclusion in scope as Reservoir Capacity Expansion, rather than Dredging.
      6. **Infrastructure Construction.** Strategy requested by Lago Vista, Travis County WCID 17, and Wharton. Lago Vista is looking to expand its wastewater treatment to 1.5 MGD and upgrade to produce Type 1 water. Travis County WCID 17 is looking to install irrigation fields in Serena Hills DA as well as storage tanks with pump stations. Wharton is looking at a new treatment plant. These requests will be considered under already scoped strategies, potentially reuse and/or water supply infrastructure development or expansion.
      7. **Pipeline.** Strategy requested by Fredericksburg, West Travis County PUA, and Windermere Utility. Fredericksburg is looking to construct a new pipeline from well field to treatment facility. This request will be considered when evaluating groundwater expansion. West Travis County PUA is looking to build a second raw water line with a raw water pump station expansion. This request will be

considered when evaluating LCRA contract amendment requiring infrastructure, or water supply infrastructure development or expansion. Windermere Utility is requesting the Blue Water/EPCOR 130 interconnect. This request will be considered when evaluating new water purchase strategy requiring infrastructure.

ii. Public Input Items

1. **Irrigation.** Incorporate innovative water management strategies such as drip irrigation and use of brackish groundwater. Request by Central Texas Water Coalition.
  - a. Lann Bookout said that Region K could recommend the TWDB irrigation conservation best management practices, but it would not be eligible for funding without a detailed breakdown.
  - b. Doug Powell explained that from some viewpoints, it is perceived that the agriculture community does not implement conservation because there are not standards set by any entity, and there is no concrete reporting of what conservation measures irrigators take. Powell requested that in a future RWPG meeting, Daniel Berglund present a short update of what conservation measures are taken in the rice farming community.
  - c. David Wheelock will work with Doug Powell, Daniel Berglund, and Barbara Johnson to evaluate how to approach this request, and whether it should potentially be an additional strategy to scope or added to the evaluation of an already scoped task.
2. **City of Wharton – Water Supply Strategy.** Reevaluate strategy for 2021 plan. Request by City of Wharton. Strategy is already included in previously submitted 5A scope of work.
3. **Decentralized Systems.** Consider evaluating decentralized systems that capture, use and reuse water in place. Request by Hill Country Alliance. Strategy is already included in reuse and conservation and will be considered during evaluation.
4. **LCRA Enhanced Recharge.** Include more detailed discussion on feasibility and legality. Request by Central Texas Water Coalition. Strategy is already included in previously submitted 5A scope of work.
5. **Dredging.** Dredge the Highland Lakes to increase capacity. Request by Joe Don Dockery and Donna Klaeger. Difficulties of dredging – particularly the costs associated with hauling sand – were discussed. There’s no long-term availability created. To keep at constant capacity, Lakes Buchanan and Travis would need 750 AF of dredging per year, which is equivalent to 121,000 trucks or 500 trucks per working day. Committee agreed to not recommend to RWPG for inclusion in scope because it is not feasible nor is it sustainable.
6. **Rainwater Harvesting.** Committee agreed to recommend to RWPG for inclusion in scope for WUGs other than Austin.
7. Public input comment for committee to consider – Request by Hill Country Alliance: Each WUG should consider alternative supplies such as reuse and rainwater in addition to water conservation before adopting large infrastructure projects to import water long distances.
8. Public input comment for committee to consider – Concern about the Hays County Pipeline from Barbara Hopson, Wimberley resident: According to the

State Plan, Wimberley will not need additional water until 2040 at the earliest, although the Drippings Springs area needs additional water immediately because the City of Drippings Springs continues to approve plats for enormous subdivisions for which there is insufficient water available.

b. Issues to Address

i. WUGs with Water Need in 2020

1. The strategies used to meet 2020 needs this cycle are particularly important because strategies and projects given a 2020 decade during this planning cycle should be limited to those projects that can be constructed and delivering water within no more than 12 months from the statutory adoption deadline (January 5, 2022) of the state water plan.
2. There are WUGs with needs in 2020 after application of drought management and conservation. AECOM will reach out to these WUGs in order to coordinate strategies to meet needs.
  - a. AECOM will review the Region K Cutoff Model with respect to the City of Llano water rights and reservoir yield.
3. Presentation of Lower Basin Irrigation strategies from the 2016 Plan, to determine if any additional types of strategies should be scoped for evaluation. None were suggested at this time.

c. Other Strategy Suggestions

- i. In this cycle, Region K has coordinated with municipal WUGs to determine supplies and strategies. Jaime Burke recommended reaching out to agriculture, particularly those in the rice farming community, in order to coordinate feasible strategies for Irrigation. Daniel Berglund recommended attending the Western Rice Belt Convention in January at El Campo Civic Center. AECOM will follow up with Daniel Berglund.
- ii. Materials provided by Dave Lindsay related to encouragement of strategies to protect the inflows to the river, such as brush removal and the State working with landowners on exempt reservoirs, and irrigation conservation measures were handed out as part of the meeting, but the committee did not have time to address this issue. Discussion will be held at the next committee meeting.

d. Budget Allocation

- i. Teresa Lutes recommends leaving about \$25,000 unallocated. Committee generally agreed, if feasible with strategies identified today.

7. Action Taken

- a. Barbara Johnson moved to approve strategies to recommend as listed above. Doug Powell seconded. Committee passed.

8. Open Discussion

- a. None.

9. New / Other Business

- a. The next RWPG meeting will be January 9, 2019 at 10 a.m. at the Dalchau Service Center.
- b. The next WMS meeting will be after the RWPG meeting (date/time/location TBD).

10. Lauri Gillam adjourned at 3:39 p.m.