

Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting
April 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
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities
Karen Haschke, Public
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities
Barbara Johnson, Industries
Donna Klaeger, Counties
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Ann McElroy, Environmental
Doug Powell, Recreation
Mike Reagor, Municipalities

Billy Roeder, Agriculture
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8, Alternate
Paul Sliva, Agriculture
James Sultemeier, 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:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business
John Dupnik, GMA 10
Jim Totten, GMA 12

Byron Theodosis, Counties
GMA 8 Member, Alternate Attended

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Jeff Fox, COA, Municipalities, Alternate
Jordan Furnans, LRE Water LLC
Alicia Smiley, AECOM
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm
David Lindsay, Recreation, Alternate
Karen Bondy, River Authorities, Alternate
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utility Alt.
Vicky Kennedy, Travis County

Elizabeth McCoy, TWDB
Helen Gerlach, COA-Austin Water
Linda Raschke, Counties, Alternate
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda
Charlie Flatten, Environmental, Alternate
Andy Hines
Rebecca Batchelder, LCRA

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. Three voting member representative's terms were approved for renewal: Lauri Gillam, David Wheelock, and Mike Reagor. The terms were renewed for five years (from 2018 to 2023).
2. Meeting minutes from the January 10, 2018 regular meeting approved as amended.
3. LCRA was approved to execute a TWDB contract amendment to add funding to the RWPG budget.
4. Minutes from the December 7, 2018 Population and Water Demand Committee meeting were approved as amended.
5. RWPG approved inclusion of Arbuckle Reservoir (currently under construction) in the Region K Cutoff Model as an existing supply.
6. Regional Water Planning Group approved a process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies for this cycle, as outlined in the meeting.

Regular Meeting:

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at about 10:02 am.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chairman John Burke welcomed all to the meeting.
3. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items #8-20** – None.
4. **Attendance Report** – Attendance report information was included in the members' packets for review.
5. **Discuss and take action on renewal of voting member representative's terms** – Chairman Burke led the discussion explaining that voting members Lauri Gillam, David Wheelock, and Mike Reagor have expiring terms and each would like to renew their term. Teresa Lutes motioned to approve renewal of the voting members' terms. The terms will be renewed for five years (from 2018 to 2023). The motion was seconded and approved by the group.
6. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the January 10, 2018 regular meeting – Barbara Johnson noted several minor edits to make to the minutes. A motion to approve minutes from the regular January 10, 2018 meeting as amended was approved.
 - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported the Consultant budget is now authorized for \$418,201, with \$133,446 having been spent and a remaining balance of \$284,755. David also reported that the grant account balance is currently \$49,716 and the Members account has a balance of \$3,123.
7. **Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)**
 - a. TWDB Comments – TWDB Director Brooke Paup provided comments to the Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) representing the Texas Water Development Board.
 - b. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules – Lann Bookout said that the new rule changes (i.e. new rules on open meetings, public

information, and simplified planning) for Regional Water Planning are effective today. Funding has become available to TWDB to allocate to the Region K contract, so more funding is planned to be added to the existing contract with no other changes. TWDB has reviewed and approved Region K's hydrologic variance request. A required Technical Memorandum is due to TWDB in September 2018.

8. **Discuss Open Meetings Issues and Committee Meetings** – As previously discussed, on Region K's behalf, Chairman Burke sent a letter to the Attorney General asking for an opinion on some specifics on how to best address questions that had arisen about the Open Meetings Act in the context of regional water planning group and committee meetings. The Attorney General responded and directed Region K to submit a request for an opinion through a governmental body, for example, LCRA, as the planning group's administrative body. After additional discussion, the RWPG decided not to further pursue seeking an AG option at this time and to continue not allowing participation in planning group and committee meeting via conference call based on information provided by TWDB.
9. **Discuss and Take Action on Committee Assignments** – Chairman Burke led the RWPG in a discussion of Committee roles and membership. The committee list updated in the meeting is as follows:

<p><u>Executive Committee</u> John Burke – Chairman David Wheelock – Vice Chair Teresa Lutes – Secretary David Van Dresar – At Large Mike Reagor – At Large Paul Sliva – At Large</p>	<p><u>Nominating Committee</u> Ann McElroy – Chair Jennifer Walker Karen Haschke Jim Brasher Barbara Johnson</p>
<p><u>Legislation & Policy Committee</u> Barbara Johnson-Chair Donna Klaeger Jim Brasher Teresa Lutes John Burke David Van Dresar Jennifer Walker David Wheelock Lauri Gillam</p>	<p><u>Drought Committee</u> David Wheelock – Chair Barbara Johnson Donna Klaeger Lauri Gillam Teresa Lutes Mike Reagor Jennifer Walker Karen Haschke Doug Powell David Van Dresar</p>

<p><u>Water Management Strategies</u></p> <p>Lauri Gillam - Chair Donna Klaeger John Burke Teresa Lutes David Van Dresar Doug Powell Barbara Johnson Jennifer Walker Karen Haschke David Wheelock Ann McElroy Mike Reagor NV- David Bradsby NV - Lann Bookout</p>	<p><u>Water Modeling Committee</u></p> <p>Teresa Lutes-Chair Mike Reagor Jim Brasher David Wheelock John Burke Jason Ludwig Ron Fieseler Jennifer Walker Ann McElroy Doug Powell / David Lindsay NV - David Bradsby NV - Lann Bookout</p>
<p><u>Population and Water Demand Committee</u></p> <p>Lauri Gillam -Chair Donna Klaeger Barbara Johnson Teresa Lutes John Burke David Van Dresar Jennifer Walker David Wheelock NV - Lann Bookout</p>	<p><u>Public Involvement and Participation Committee</u></p> <p>Karen Haschke - Chair Teresa Lutes NV - Lann Bookout</p> <p><u>By-Laws Committee</u></p> <p>Donna Klaeger - Chair Doug Powell Barbara Johnson Robert Ruggiero Teresa Lutes Paul Tybor</p>

10. **Discuss and take action on whether or not to request LCRA or TWDB to request on Region K's behalf a written request from the Attorney General's Office regarding the issue of committee or subcommittee meetings of the RPG being attended by conferences call** – Chairman Burke stated that the RWPG had covered this in the discussion for agenda item #8; there was no action taken for LCRA or TWDB to submit a request to the Attorney General.
11. **Discussion item on process for determination of a new drought of record** – Jaime Burke from AECOM presented information on how the regional water planning process addresses a possible new drought of record. It is expected that modeling preformed for Region K supply availability analysis will show that the approximately 2008-2016 drought was worse than the prior drought of record from the 1950's and become the new critical period for water availability determination. Jaime

recommended that interested parties read Chapter 7 from the 2016 Lower Colorado RWPG Water Plan for more related information.

12. **Discuss and take action on approval by the RWPG for the political subdivision (LCRA) to execute a TWDB contract amendment** – Motion was made for LCRA to be approved to execute a TWDB contract amendment to add money to the RWPG budget. Motion was seconded and approved by the planning group.
13. **Consultant Status Report** – Jaime Burke from AECOM presented the consultant status report. Since the last meeting, AECOM has been finishing up the Population and Water Demand items and has been making updates to the appropriate chapters to reflect the new projections. AECOM has also begun work on gathering existing water supply and potential water management strategies information by sending surveys to Water User Groups (WUGs). AECOM also assisted with Water Modeling and Water Management Strategies Committee meetings since the last RWPG meeting. AECOM coordinated with TWDB regarding Region K’s hydrologic variance request and will begin water availability modeling. Other upcoming work includes updating existing water supply availability amounts, beginning TWDB database entry of Region K numbers, determination of water needs, identification of potentially feasible water management strategies, and updating chapter texts for the report as able.
14. **Population and Water Demand Committee** – Lauri Gillam stated that the population and water demand projection process is nearly complete.
 - a. Approval by Population and Water Demand Committee of Committee meeting minutes from December 7, 2017 – Teresa Lutes requested minor edits to the minutes from the December 7, 2017 Committee meeting. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was seconded and approved.

15. Water Modeling Committee –

- a. Summary of Committee meetings held January 10, and April 5, 2018 – Teresa Lutes provided a brief summary of the two Water Modeling Committee meetings. The January 10th meeting was held immediately before a full RWPG meeting. At that Committee meeting, the members approved minutes from the December 13, 2018 Committee meeting, viewed an informational presentation about surface water modeling and the Region K cut-off model, and voted to recommend the TWDB hydrologic variance request to the full RWPG for consideration for approval.

At the April 5, 2018 Committee meeting, the group approved the January 10, 2018 meeting minutes, got an update on the status of the hydrologic variance request submitted to TWDB, discussed the Region K cut-off model, and reviewed an update on groundwater availability.

- b. Request RWPG take action to approve recommendation from Water Modeling Committee to include the Arbuckle Reservoir in the Region K Cutoff Model as an existing supply – A motion to include LCRA’s Arbuckle Reservoir in the Region K Cutoff Model as an existing supply was seconded and approved. The Arbuckle Reservoir (formerly referred to as the Lane City Reservoir project) is a new off-channel reservoir project nearing completion in Wharton County

16. Water Management Strategies Committee –

- a. Summary of Committee meeting held April 5, 2018 – Lauri Gillam presented a summary of the April 5, 2018 Water Management Strategies Committee meeting. At the meeting, members reviewed the purpose and role of the Committee, received some background information on water management strategies in regional planning, reviewed outreach to WUGs for data, reviewed the last cycle's process and recommended for approval at today's meeting, and reviewed public comments from the last planning cycle.

17. Present Region K process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies for comment by planning group – Jaime Burke from AECOM presented the process used in the last planning cycle for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies. The RWPG discussed the process and possible adjustments that could be made for this planning cycle.

18. Take public comments on the Region K process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies – Jordan Furnans from LRE Water made a comment that the Region K group should take land subsidence into account when considering groundwater water management strategies related to groundwater pumping, as he recently provided TWDB with a report on the relationship of groundwater pumping and subsidence.

Written comment provided by Jordan Furnans: To inform group of TWDB Subsidence Study Results and Availability of report/information.

19. RWPG to consider planning group and public comments to revise process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies, as needed, and take action to approve process – A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the RWPG to approve the process discussed for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies for this cycle.

20. Other Committee Reports as needed – None

21. 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 July 11, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Further regular RWPG meetings will be held August 29, 2018 and October 10, 2018.
- b. Committee Meetings – A Water Modeling Committee meeting will be scheduled for some time in late June, before the next RWPG meeting.

22. New / Other Business – None.

23. Public Comments – None.

24. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:18 pm.