

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting**  
**August 29, 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  
Scott Edmonson, Municipalities Alternate  
Robin Gary, GMA 10, Alternate  
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities  
Karen Haschke, Public  
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities  
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities  
Barbara Johnson, Industries  
Charles Olfers, Agriculture

Robert Ruggiero, Small Business  
James Sultemeier, Counties  
Jim Totten, GMA 12  
Byron Theodosis, Counties  
David Wheelock, River Authorities  
Jennifer Walker, Environmental  
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD  
Lann Bookout, Non-voting, TWDB  
Doug Powell, Recreation

**Voting Members Absent:**

Daniel Berglund, Small Business  
Paul Tybor, GMA 7  
Mike Reagor, Municipalities, Alternate Attended  
Paul Sliva, Agriculture  
Ron Fiesler, GMA 9

Donna Klaeger, Counties  
Ann McElroy, Environmental  
Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8  
David Caldwell, GMA 10, Alternate Attended  
David Van Dresar, Water Districts

**Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:**

Jordan Furnans, LRE Water LLC  
Alicia Smiley, AECOM  
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm  
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utility Alt.  
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting PLLC  
Sarah Hoes, Austin Water  
Rebecca Batchelder, LCRA  
David Villarrial, TDA

James Kowis, Consultant  
Christiane Alepuz, CAPCOG  
Jaime Burke, AECOM  
Laurence Brown, Jr., TSSWCB  
David Lindsay, Recreation Alternate

**Quorum:**

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 17

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

### **Formal Actions Taken:**

1. Minutes from July 11, 2018 regular meeting were approved as presented.
2. The group approved a motion that Region K will not pursue a simplified planning option this planning cycle.
3. The group approved a motion to:
  - Approve the Region K Technical Memorandum with the three edits noted by the planning group to be made by the Technical Consultant, and
  - Authorize submittal of the Region K Technical Memorandum to the TWDB by September 10, 2018.
4. The group approved a motion to authorize the Technical Consultant to submit public comments by September 12, 2018 to TWDB.
5. The group approved motions to:
  - Approve the Task 5A Partial Scope of work with edit as discussed,
  - Authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for a Notice-to-Proceed with partial Scope of Work for Task 5A and execute the subsequent contract amendments, and
  - Authorize the Technical Consultant to make minor edits to the partial Scope of Work based on comments received from TWDB.

### **Regular Meeting:**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chairman John Burke welcomed all to the meeting.
3. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items #7-16** – None.
4. **Attendance Report** – Attendance report information was included in the members' packets for review.
5. **Consent Agenda:**
  - a. Approval of Minutes from the July 11, 2018 regular meeting – Motion to approve the minutes from the regular July 11, 2018 meeting as presented was approved.
  - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported the total consultant budget was being revised to \$723,046 for the study period. So far, \$238,971 has been spent on consulting services and there is remaining balance of \$ 484,075. The account balance for paying the consultant, which is reimbursed by the TWDB, is \$44,815. The members account has a balance of \$ 3,009.
6. **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 under the financial assistance tab. Mr. Bookout noted that the planning cycle is about halfway through, and that the group is on track. Technical memos are due to TWDB in September. The Water for Texas conference will be held in January.

## 7. Committee Reports

- a. **Bylaws Committee** – None.
- b. **Other committee reports, as needed** – None.

8. **Consultant Status Report** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, made a presentation on the overall consultant progress on the planning process. Recent efforts have focused on water availability and supply, water needs, work on the technical memorandum, drought response, and work on preparation of a draft partial scope of work for Task 5A (evaluation of water management strategies for Regional Water Planning Group consideration).

## 9. Consultant presentation of draft Region K Technical Memorandum – AECOM

- a. Discussion of draft Region K Technical Memorandum – Jaime Burke, AECOM, explained that the Technical Memorandum is the first deliverable due to TWDB for this planning cycle. Jaime explained what needs to be included in the Technical Memorandum and went over methodologies for groundwater and surface water. Ms. Burke highlighted that the process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies is documented in the draft Technical Memorandum. After discussion of the draft Technical Memorandum, three relatively minor-scale edits were noted from the planning group discussion.
- b. Discussion of simplified planning option with respect to Region K. Take action as needed. – Information was presented regarding a simplified planning approach option that planning groups can take if there are no significant changes to a number of key water planning parameters within a region. It was discussed that in Region K there have been some significant changes since last planning cycle on a number of the key parameters. Jennifer Walker motioned that Region K not pursue simplified planning this cycle. David Wheelock seconded. The planning group unanimously voted to approve this motion. Thus far, no regions have chosen the simplified planning process.

10. **Receive oral and written public comments on the draft Technical Memorandum (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker). Written comments may be submitted through September 12, 2018, to Mr. John Burke, Region K Chairman, by mail: c/o LCRA (Administrative Agent), P.O. Box 220, Austin TX 78767; or by email administrative@regionk.org** – No public comments were provided at the meeting.

## 11. Take action regarding the draft Region K Technical Memorandum

- a. Consider approval to authorize the Technical Consultant to address the Planning Group changes to the draft Region K Technical Memorandum.
- b. Consider approval to authorize the Technical Consultant to submit the Region K Technical Memorandum to TWDB by September 10, 2018.

Teresa Lutes made a motion to: a) approve the Region K Technical Memorandum with the three edits noted by the planning group to be made by the Technical Consultant, and b) authorize submittal of the Region K Technical Memorandum to the TWDB by September 10, 2018. Karen Haschke seconded this motion and the planning group approved.

- c. Consider approval to authorize the Technical Consultant to submit public comments that are received by September 12, 2018, to TWDB.

James Sultemeier made a motion to authorize the Technical Consultant to submit public comments by September 12, 2018 to TWDB. David Wheelock seconded the

motion and the planning group approved the motion.

12. **Discuss and consider draft Task 5A Partial Scope of Work for evaluation water management strategies** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, presented a brief summary on the Water Management Strategies Evaluation task. Ms. Burke presented a partial scope of work for four strategies: drought management, basic and advanced water conservation strategies, expand use of local groundwater, and City of Austin return flows. The Regional Water Planning Group discussed the various strategies and suggested edits to the wording of the scope of work. Jennifer Walker asked about the current timeline and schedule. Jamie Burke noted that it can take up to 60 days for TWDB to approve the scope of work but will probably be complete in early 2019. David Wheelock requested a minor text change regarding peak modeled available groundwater factors. David Wheelock also suggested that it would be good for the Water Management Strategies Committee to plan to meet soon. Jennifer Walker asked about the process for other strategies to be evaluated with the budget remaining after the tasks in the draft Scope of work are complete. Jamie noted that there were about 40 strategies in the last plan survey so there will likely be quite a number of additional strategies to add to the scope of work for water management strategy evaluation.
13. **Receive public comments on draft Task 5A Partial Scope of Work for evaluation of water management strategies** – None.
14. **Consider and take action on approval of the Task 5A Partial Scope of work and authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for a Notice-to-Proceed with partial Scope of Work for Task 5A and execute the subsequent contract amendments. Consider and take action on authorizing Technical Consultant to make minor edits to the partial Scope of Work based on comments received from TWDB.** –

After discussion (see item #12, above), the planning group approved the following motions:

- Approve the Task 5A Partial Scope of work with edit as discussed,
  - Authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for a Notice-to-Proceed with partial Scope of Work for Task 5A and execute the subsequent contract amendments,
  - Authorize the Technical Consultant to make minor edits to the partial Scope of Work based on comments received from TWDB.
15. **Presentation on hydrographic survey of lakes Travis and Buchanan and resulting sedimentation estimates** – David Wheelock, LCRA, gave a brief introduction on the hydrographic survey of lakes Travis and Buchanan. Nathan Leber, TWDB, gave a presentation on the process, data, and deliverables associated with the hydrographic surveys and sedimentation estimates. David Wheelock then discussed the various factors that may affect sedimentation at the lakes.  
  
Jordan Furnans provided comments on the apparent increase in volume of the lakes compared to past surveys, the time required to perform the surveys, sedimentation's effects on water availability, and suggested that TWDB should allow a competitive bidding process for conducting hydrographic surveys.
  16. **Presentation on City of Austin analysis of basin-wide hydrologic conditions incorporating impacts of climate change projections and identification of drought conditions worse than the Drought of Record for planning purposes.** – Richard Hoffpauir, consulting hydrologist, provided a presentation on the City of Austin's water availability model (WAM) climate-change and drought worse than the drought of record analysis. Teresa Lutes, Austin Water, invited discussion of how climate change could be

included as part of the Region K process. Concern was expressed about maintaining consistency with TWDB approved methods and other potential uncertainties. Based on the discussion, the group may look at the possibly adding a policy recommendation about planning for climate change and droughts worse than the drought of record in the policy chapter of the plan. This possibility can be discussed in future at the Policy Committee for consideration by the Policy Committee and full group.

**17. Update and discussion on current very low inflows into the Highland Lakes to include but not limited to:**

- a. Update from LCRA – David Wheelock, LCRA, discussed that the Highland Lakes inflows from January-July 2018 are the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst on record. However, Mr. Wheelock noted that the lakes are still in relatively good shape. Mr. Wheelock added that LCRA is in the process of updating their Water Management Plan.
- b. Update on upcoming TWDB Study of watershed to better understand low inflows – Lann Bookout, TWDB, updated the group on the status of a follow-up report to the study titled “Evaluation of Rainfall/Runoff Patterns in the Colorado River Basin”. That study showed that over time the rainfall-runoff relationship has decreased. A request for qualifications (RFQ) for an update to the study has been released and the new study is anticipated to be finished sometime in 2019.
- c. Discussion on potential impacts/ramifications – David Lindsay, Recreation Alternate, discussed how eight of the lowest annual inflows in period of record have been recorded in the last twelve years. Mr. Lindsay stated his concerns regarding planning using only historical data. Jim Brasher voiced his support for investigating potential factors that may be affecting stream flows, but cautioned against the risk of misinterpreting the cause of low streamflow when it occurs during droughts. Jennifer Walker added that the “Evaluation of Rainfall/Runoff Patterns in the Colorado River Basin” report did not make strong conclusions, but recommended a follow-up study.

**18. Agenda Items for next meeting**

- a. Location and date of next meeting – October 24<sup>th</sup> Regional Water Planning Group meeting. Plan is to have a Water Management Strategies Committee meeting sometime before then.
- b. Other committee meetings – None.

**19. New / Other Business (time permitting) – None.**

**20. Agenda items for next meeting** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, mentioned that possible agenda items for the next meeting may include water management strategies or upcoming chapters.

**21. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm.