

**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group
Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting
LCRA Dalchau Service Center
October 9, 2019**

1. Lauri Gillam called meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
2. Attendees (13)
 - Lauri Gillam – Region K, Small Municipalities Rep, Legislation Policy Committee Chair
 - David Van Dresar – Region K, Water Districts Rep
 - Doug Powell – Recreation Rep
 - Jennifer Walker – Region K, Environmental Rep
 - Jim Brasher – Region K, GMA 15
 - Teresa Lutes – Region K, Municipalities Rep
 - David Lindsay – Region K, Recreation Rep (Alternate)
 - Christianne Castleberry – Region K, Water Utilities Rep (Alternate)
 - Jaime Burke – AECOM
 - Alicia Smiley – AECOM
 - Lann Bookout – TWDB
 - Rebecca Batchelder – LCRA
 - Helen Gerlach – Austin Water
3. Public Comments
 - a. None.
4. Minutes Approval
 - a. Draft of August 29, 2019
 - i. David Van Dresar motioned to approve the minutes. Teresa Lutes seconded. Committee passed.
5. 2021 Draft Policy Recommendations
 - a. Management of Surface Water Resources: Inter-Basin Transfers and Model Linking
 - i. LCRA provided minor language changes to policy.
 - ii. *“For permits related to inter-basin transfers, the economic and public welfare interests in the basin of origin must be considered, and special provisions to ensure protection of these interests may be warranted.”*
 1. Teresa Lutes suggested changing “may be warranted” to “are imperative” to be more proactive in considering economic and public welfare. Rebecca Batchelder responded that the consideration of interests is imperative, but special provisions are not always warranted. *If* an impact is identified, it is imperative that an action will be taken. Rebecca Batchelder will revise language.

- iii. David Lindsay suggested the RWPB bring the nine-point policy to other planning groups. Jennifer Walker said that in previous cycles, the RWPB has shared policy recommendations with Regions L and H, but she acknowledged the difficulty of coordination, as the committee members would have to take it upon themselves to share the information and timing would have to align.
- b. Inflows to Highland Lakes
 - i. David Lindsay provided policy updates, focusing on recent periods of low inflows and a request for a new hydrologic study of the watershed providing inflows to the Highland Lakes.
 - ii. Background Information
 - 1. Jim Brasher commented that linking the updated background information and the study request is misleading. The established issue with inflows to the Highland Lakes is the percentage of inflows relative to rainfall is changing. Committee recommended a reworking of background information to make it more pertinent to the policy statement. Teresa Lutes requested keeping discussion of drought-of-record (DOR) because the DOR worsens low inflows.
 - iii. Policy Statement
 - 1. The TWDB study "Evaluation of Rainfall-Runoff Trends in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Phase Two)" recommended further study; include the recommendation in the policy statement.
 - 2. Rebecca Batchelder commented that the level of the scope of the new recommended study may be too detailed compared to other policies. Issues with previous studies are not for lack of scoping, but the difficulty of and time commitment required for data collection and analysis. Committee suggested making the scope less detailed, deleting items #1a-1e and #2a-2c. David Van Dresar will revise item #3.
 - iv. *"The purpose of these recommended studies is to further quantify the impacts of land use/land cover, surface water-groundwater interaction, and small impoundments on inflows to the Highland Lakes, and to determine if regulations are needed to limit streamflow depletion due to land use/land cover changes, small impoundments and groundwater pumping."*
 - 1. Rebecca Batchelder said the scope of the original study did not study regulations since the only entity that can regulate groundwater are Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs). Lauri Gillam suggested removing the reference to regulations to read the following:
 - 2. *"The purpose of these recommended studies is to further quantify and understand the impacts of land use/land cover, surface water-groundwater interaction, and small impoundments on inflows to the Highland Lakes."*

6. New / Other Business

- a. Rebecca Batchelder requested all future policy updates include track changes. Lauri Gillam seconded.
- 7. Schedule Next Meeting
 - a. Another committee meeting is expected to be scheduled before the November RWPG meeting. Jaime Burke will send out a Doodle poll to committee.
- 8. Public Comments
 - a. None.
- 9. Lauri Gillam adjourned at 9:51 a.m.