

Meeting Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting
October 9, 2019

LCRA Dalchau Service Center
3505 Montopolis Drive Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m.

Members Signing In:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business
Jim Brasher, GMA 15
Christianne Castleberry, Alternate for Water Utilities
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities
Karen Haschke, Public Interest
Terry Bray, Alternate for Industries
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Ann McElroy, Environmental
Charles Olfers, Agriculture
Doug Powell, Recreation
Mike Reagor, Municipalities
Alicia Reinmund- Martinez, GMA 10

Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Mitchel Sodek, GMA 8
James Sultemeier, Counties
Byron Theodosios, Counties
Jim Totten, GMA 12
Paul Tybor, GMA 7
David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Jennifer Walker, Environmental
David Wheelock, River Authorities
Lann Bookout, Non-Voting, TWDB
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD
Larry McManus, Non-Voting, TDA
Rusty Ray, Non-Voting, TSSWCB

Voting Members Absent:

John Burke, Water Utilities, Alternate
Attended
Jim Luther, Counties

Barbara Johnson, Industries, Alternate
Attended
Paul Sliva, Agriculture

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Rebecca Batchelder, LCRA
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda
Christiane Alepuz, CAPCOG
Patricia Lopez, TWDB
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting

David Lindsay, Alternate for Recreation
Monica Masters, LCRA
Katie Snipes, SWCA
David Villerral, TDA
Teal Harrison, NWF
Leah Martinson, TAGD

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 23

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

Formal Actions Taken:

1. The minutes from the July 10, 2019 Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) meeting were approved as amended.
2. The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) approved a motion to define “Significant Needs” for water in the planning process as non-agricultural needs over 10,000 acre-feet per year.
3. The LCRWPG approved a motion to amend the Task 5A Scope of Work for evaluating water management strategies to include additional scope of work items and budget reallocations; and to authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for the amendment and to execute the subsequent contract amendment.

Regular Meeting:

1. **Call to Order** – Vice Chairman David Wheelock called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chairman David Wheelock welcomed all to the meeting. Brooke Paup, Texas Water Development Board Member, was in attendance and addressed the group. Board Member Paup thanked the planning group for its service.
3. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items numbers 6 through 11** – None.
4. **Attendance Report** – Teresa Lutes presented attendance report information, which was included in the members’ packets for review.
5. **Approval of Minutes from the July 10, 2019 regular meeting** – A motion to approve the minutes as amended from the regular July 10, 2019 meeting was approved by the group.

Note: As discussed at the July 10, 2019 Region K meeting, LCRA will plan to provide a written financial report for review, as opposed to having a standing agenda item for a verbal financial report. The plan will be to send the report out as part of the meeting packet in the future.

6. **Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) –**
 - a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules – Lann Bookout, TWDB liaison to Region K, provided an update on water planning activities and schedules. Region K requested that TWDB develop a socioeconomic impact analysis. That analysis will be complete later this year. TWDB staff can be available to give a presentation of the analysis if the RWPG requests one. Relating to new legislation from the most recent legislative cycle, TWDB is planning to request that draft rules be published in November, which will start the public comment process.
7. **Committee Reports – Committee Chairs**
 - a. Water Management Strategies Committee: Jaime Burke, AECOM, provided an update on the Water Management Strategies (WMS) Committee. The WMS Committee met several times since the last full RWPG meeting, with the first Committee meeting on August 8th. At that meeting, the Committee discussed water management strategy modeling options, and draft water management strategy evaluations that were ready for Committee review. Additionally, there was an update and further discussion for the draft Expand Use of Local Groundwater, the draft Development of New Groundwater Supplies, and the draft Irrigation Conservation water management strategy evaluations.

The WMS Committee met again on September 16th and discussed a request for strategies from Goldthwaite, reviewed changes to draft strategies based on committee comments, and had a presentation and discussion of draft water management strategy evaluations ready for review. These included Expand Use of Local Groundwater, Develop New Groundwater, Ocean Desalination, Direct Reuse, and Downstream Return Flows. There was also an update and discussion on Irrigation Conservation, several LCRA strategies, and Contracts and purchase strategies.

The committee met on October 3rd to review changes of the draft strategies based on committee comments. The Committee also had presentation and discussion of draft water management strategy evaluations ready for committee review, including Direct Portable Reuse, Non-Municipal Conservation, Irrigation Drought Management, Hays County Groundwater Importation, Brush Management, and Wharton Water Supply. The Committee also discussed the definition of “Significant Needs” for water and a potential amendment to Task 5A Scope of Work.

- b. Legislative and Policy Committee: The Legislative and Policy Committee met on August 29th to review legislative policy recommendations from the 2016 plan. Mostly from committee member volunteers, the Committee identified which Committee members would be responsible for reviewing the recommended policy sections and providing updates for committee review.

Another meeting was held on October 9th, where the Committee met to begin discussion of the proposed edits. This discussion included edits to: management of surface water resources: inter-basin transfers and model linking, groundwater, the coordination of planning cycles for determination of desired future conditions by Groundwater Conservation Districts and generation of the regional water plan by RWPGs, and inflows to the Highland Lakes.

- c. Other committee reports, as needed.

It was noted that the Nominating Committee will need to soon meet to prepare for the election in January 2020 of Executive Committee members for the year.

8. **Consultant Status Report – AECOM**

- a. Progress to date: Jaime Burke, AECOM, gave an update on the consultant progress to date. Since the last RPWG meeting, AECOM has been working to incorporate draft report comments from the Water Modeling Committee into Draft Chapter 3. For Water Management Strategies, all scoped strategies now have draft water management strategy evaluations that either ready-for-review or in-progress. Additionally, AECOM worked with Goldthwaite on a requested strategy, developed a strategy version of the Water Availability Model, and help three WMS Committee meetings. Consultant progress to date also includes incorporating Drought Preparedness Council recommendations and preparing a request for information to send to project sponsors to fill out the TWDB Implementation Survey.

- b. Upcoming effort: Upcoming consultant efforts include finishing draft WMSs and facilitating the RWPG reviewing and making an initial decision on Recommended vs. Alternative vs. Considered strategies for the 2021 Plan at the November meeting. The Chapter 3 comments need to be addressed, and the Chapter 4 and 7 drafts need to be finished and sent out for review. The Implementation Survey from TWDB also needs to be sent to the Water User Groups and Wholesale Water Providers.
9. **Discussion of draft 2021 Plan chapters out for review and comments received – AECOM**
Jaime Burke, AECOM, informed the group that draft Chapter 2, Population and Water Demands, is out for review and the comments received from LCRA and Dave Lindsay were discussed at the July RWPG meeting. No additional comments on Chapter 2 have been received. Chapter 1, Regional Water Planning Area Description, is out for RWPG review. Dave Lindsay is working on a draft update to Appendix 1B that will be provided for review when ready. Chapter 3, Water Availability and Supplies, has been sent to the Water Modeling Committee for review and AECOM is currently working to address the comments received, at which point they will send out the chapter for RWPG review.
10. **Presentation and discussion of draft water management strategies ready for RWPG review, and update on any remaining working draft water management strategies – AECOM.** Jaime Burke, AECOM, presented on draft water management strategies ready for RWPG review. These strategies were reviewed by the WMS Committee and recommended for review by the planning group. No action is requested for these WMSs at this meeting, the strategies will be presented and discussed at this point. The municipal drought management strategy, Burnet County Regional projects, some Austin strategies, and STPNOC strategies were previously presented at the July meeting. The strategies presented today for discussion are shown below. More detail on each strategy can be found in the consultant presentation.
- BS/EACD Edwards/Middle Trinity ASR
 - BS/EACD Saline Edwards ASR
 - Municipal Conservation
 - Rainwater Harvesting
 - Downstream Return Flows
 - Oceanwater Desalination
 - Expand Use of Local Groundwater
 - Development of New Groundwater Supplies
 - Direct Reuse
 - Direct Portable Reuse
- a. Include discussion of Region K’s definition of “significant needs”, as pertains to the new HB807 requirement “if a RWPA has significant identified water needs, provides a specific assessment of the potential for aquifer storage and recovery projects to meet those needs” (TWC §16.053(e)(10)). Take action as needed: Jaime Burke, AECOM, explained that the RWPG needs to define a threshold for “significant needs”. Jennifer Walker made a motion to define “significant needs” for water in the planning process as non-agricultural needs over 10,000 acre-feet per year. Jim Brasher seconded, and the RWPG approved the motion.

11. Potential Task 5A Scope of Work Amendment for evaluation of water management strategies. – AECOM

Discuss and consider potential additional scope of work item(s) and budget allocations for amending the Task 5A Scope of Work for evaluation of water management strategies: Jaime Burke, AECOM, explained to the RWPG that they were considering possible needed additional strategy scope of work items to be added but determined that none are needed at this point. The RPWG previously discussed the possible need for requesting additional funding from allocated money for the reuse strategy. After the Austin Conservation strategy scope and budget were submitted to TWDB for approval, TWDB needed AECOM to pull Austin Blackwater and Greywater Reuse and Onsite Rainwater and Stormwater Harvesting out as separate strategies. No additional budget was allocated at the time, but a request to increase the budget for all three items to accommodate this change was made. Due to additional WUGs for the reuse strategies, coordination with WUGs, and individualized strategy details, AECOM is requesting that the budget for the reuse strategy increase from \$14,000 to \$28,000.

- a. Receive public comments on amending the Task 5A Scope of work for evaluating water management strategies for potential additional scope of work item(s) and budget reallocations: None.
- b. Consider and take action on amending the Task 5A Scope of work for evaluating water management strategies for potential additional scope of work item(s) and budget reallocations; and authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for the amendment and to execute the subsequent contract amendment: Daniel Bergland motioned to approve the amendment as requested, Mike Reagor seconded, and the RWPG approved the motion.

12. Agenda items for next meeting –

- a. Location and date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on November 13, 2019 at the LCRA Dalchau Service Center. After November, the full RWPG meeting dates will be January 15, 2020 at the LCRA Dalchau Service Center, February 5 and February 18, 2020 at the LCRA Redbud Center.
- b. Other committee meetings: Doodle polls will be sent to determine the best dates for upcoming committee meetings.

13. New / Other business (time permitting) – None.

14. Public Comments – None.

15. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned by Vice Chairman David Wheelock at 1:37pm.