

**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group
Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting
AECOM, Treaty Oak Conference Room
December 11, 2019**

1. Lauri Gillam called meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
2. Attendees (9)
 - Lauri Gillam – Region K, Small Municipalities Rep, Legislation and Policy Committee Chair
 - Jim Brasher – Region K, GMA 15
 - Teresa Lutes – Region K, Municipalities Rep
 - David Lindsay – Region K, Recreation Rep (Alternate)
 - Rebecca Batchelder – Region K, River Authorities Rep (Alternate)
 - Jaime Burke – AECOM
 - Alicia Smiley – AECOM
 - Helen Gerlach – Austin Water
 - Cindy Smiley – Smiley Law Firm
3. Public Comments
 - a. None.
4. Minutes Approval
 - a. Draft of November 1, 2019
 - i. Jim Brasher motioned to approve the minutes. David Lindsay seconded. Committee passed.
5. 2021 Draft Policy Recommendations
 - a. Inflows to Highland Lakes (8.1.10)
 - i. David Lindsay provided policy write-up requesting a hydrologic study of the watershed providing inflows to the Highland Lakes. Rebecca Batchelder edited policy based on previous committee comments.
 - ii. The referenced TWDB project #1800012283 “Evaluation of Rainfall-Runoff Trends in the Upper Colorado River Basin (Phase Two)” was identified as a draft as of November 2019. Rebecca Batchelder will confirm the project’s status as either draft or finalized.
 - iii. Jaime Burke requested that the contents of the “Policy Statement” and “Actions Needed” be switched to better match the layout of all policy recommendations. Burke will complete.
 - iv. *“The Highland Lakes rely on inflows from contributing watershed to maintain regional water supply. Inflows to the highland lakes are produced when precipitation occurs in contributing watersheds...”*

1. Teresa Lutes recommended changing to read, *"The Highland Lakes rely on inflows from contributing watershed **in maintaining** regional water supply. Inflows to the **Highland Lakes** are produced when precipitation occurs in contributing watersheds..."*
 - v. Teresa Lutes asked why temperature gauge results from the TWDB project #1800012283 were deleted from policy recommendation. Rebecca Batchelder responded that the discussion of temperature was included in the report as a potential contributing factor to reduced inflows, but it was not referenced in the report's conclusion.
 - vi. Teresa Lutes requested changing *"...updates of naturalized flow data..."* to *"...updates of **historical** naturalized flow data..."*
 - vii. Committee approved policy with the abovementioned changes to be presented to the RWPG.
- b. Management of Surface Water Resources: Inter-Basin Transfers and Model Linking (8.1.1)
- i. Rebecca Batchelder provided minor language changes to policy and edited policy based on previous committee comments.
 - ii. Teresa Lutes requested adding, *"For permits related to inter-basin transfers, **among other considerations**, economic and public welfare interests..."* Lutes also requested changing *"significant"* impacts to *"unacceptable"* impacts.
 - iii. Rebecca Batchelder suggested Jim Brasher add reference linking groundwater and surface water modeling to Groundwater policy recommendation (8.1.4).
 - iv. Jim Brasher commented that while existing laws are geared towards surface water, groundwater impacts should be considered. Brasher will add language introducing groundwater in the background section.
 - v. *"The ongoing study by the Texas Water Development Board to better understand the groundwater-surface water interaction through a pilot study is an excellent example of an important step in developing some of the additional science needed to develop such linkages."*
 1. Cindy Smiley requested Rebecca Batchelder identify the study referenced.
 - vi. Abovementioned changes will be incorporated and presented at next committee meeting.
- c. Municipal/Industrial Conservation (8.1.7)
- i. Austin provided minor language changes and comments to policy.
 - ii. Austin will update information on TWDB Report 362 and water loss audits based on developments since the last RWP cycle.
 - iii. Committee approved policy with the abovementioned changes to be presented to the RWPG.
- d. Reuse (8.1.8)
- i. Austin provided minor language changes to policy.
 - ii. Committee approved policy to be presented to the RWPG.

- e. Recommended Improvements to the Regional Planning Process (8.1.12)
 - i. Lauri Gillam provided a write-up recommending a modification to the Texas Open Meetings Act requirements, allowing committee members to call into meetings via conference call.
 - ii. *“Allowing participation by committee members through conference calling during the committee meetings would facilitate the ability of members representing all various constituencies and areas in the water planning group to contribute their insights to the recommendations presented to the entire water planning group.”*
 - 1. Jim Brasher said the recommendation needs to reference the benefit to RWPG members from remote or outlying areas.
 - 2. Rebecca Batchelder requested the policy clarify that recommendation is only associated with committee meetings, not RWPG meetings.
 - iii. Rebecca Batchelder suggested making the recommendations stronger.
 - iv. Abovementioned changes will be incorporated and presented at next committee meeting.
- f. Radionuclides in the Hickory and Marble Falls Aquifers (8.1.13)
 - i. Policy reviewed by Jaime Burke. Previous versions of policy referenced Region F’s ongoing and pervasive concerns with radionuclides. Burke provided information from Region F expounding the issue.
 - ii. Jim Brasher recommended that in future planning cycles, radionuclides should be part of a larger water quality policy recommendation. Committee expressed concern for water quality in the future, especially as reuse becomes more prevalent. Committee discussed asking for funding to further incorporate water quality discussions throughout the plan.
 - iii. Cindy Smiley recommended committee add Burnet County to discussion on radionuclides.
 - iv. Jaime Burke will provide abovementioned changes to be incorporated and presented at next committee meeting.
- g. Planning for Droughts Worse than the Drought of Record (New)
 - i. Teresa Lutes provided new policy which recommends acting to address potential droughts worse than the drought of record in the development of water supply resiliency.
 - ii. Jim Brasher commented that the recommendation of planning for droughts worse than the drought of record (DWDR) should be referenced in Chapter 7.
 - iii. Committee discussed how this recommendation would affect RWPGs next cycle. For example, if an additional baseline for DWDR were created alongside the existing DOR baseline, RWPGs would require funding for the additional work.
 - iv. Teresa Lutes will further refine policy and present at next committee meeting.

6. New / Other Business

- a. Committee members should return edited policies to Jaime Burke by January 3, 2020 for presentation at the January 15, 2020 RWPG meeting.
- 7. Schedule Next Meeting
 - a. Another committee meeting is expected to be scheduled for after the January 15, 2020 RWPG meeting. Jaime Burke will send out a Doodle poll to committee.
- 8. Public Comments
 - a. None.
- 9. Lauri Gillam adjourned at 12:03 p.m.