

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting**  
**January 9, 2019**  
**LCRA Dalchau Service**  
**Center 3505 Montopolis**  
**Drive Austin, Texas**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Members Signing In:**

Paul Babb, GMA 9, Alternate for Ron Fiesler  
Daniel Berglund, Small Business  
Jim Brasher, GMA 15  
John Burke, Water Utilities  
Joe Don Dockery, Burnet County (elected)  
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities  
Karen Haschke, Public  
Barbara Johnson, Industries  
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities  
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities  
Ann McElroy, Environmental  
Charles Olfers, Agriculture  
Doug Powell, Recreation  
Mike Reagor, Municipalities  
Alicia Reinmund Martinez, GMA10

Robert Ruggiero, Small Business  
Paul Silva, Agriculture  
Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8  
James Slutemeier, Counties  
Byron Theodosis, Counties  
Jim Totten, GMA 12  
Paul Tybor, GMA 7  
David Van Dresar, Water Districts  
Jennifer Walker, Environmental  
David Wheelock, River Authorities  
Lann Bookout, TWDB, Non-Voting Member  
David Bradsby, TPWD, Non-Voting Member  
Larry McManus, TDA, Non-Voting Member  
Lawrence Brown, Jr., TSSWCB, Alternate for  
Rusty Ray, Non-Voting Member

**Voting Members Absent:**

Ron Fieseler, GMA 9, alternate attended

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

Linda Raschke, Counties Alternate  
Emil Ray Uecker, Counties Alternate  
Jim Barho, Burnet County  
Con Mims, Region L  
David Lindsey, Recreational Alternate  
Charlie Flatten, HCA  
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utilities Alternate  
Patrick J. Lopez, TWDB  
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda

**Quorum:**

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 25

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

**Formal Actions Taken:**

1. The LCRWPG approved a motion to re-appoint John Burke, Doug Powell, Robert Ruggiero, Paul Tybor, and David Van Dresar to the LCRWPG as voting members for another 5-year term.
2. The LCRWPG approved election of Joe Don Dockery as the new voting member for the Counties interest category.
3. The LCRWPG voted to approve John Burke (Chair), David Wheelock (Vice Chair), Teresa Lutes (Secretary), Daniel Berglund (Member-At-Large), James Sultemeier (Member-At-Large), and Paul Tybor (Member-At-Large) as the Region K Executive Committee.
4. The minutes from the October 24, 2018 regular Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group meeting were approved as presented.
5. The minutes from the November 30, 2018 Nominating Committee meeting were approved by members of that Committee.
6. The LCRWPG approved motions to: 1) approve the third Task 5A Partial Scope of Work, as edited, 2) authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for a Notice-to-Proceed with the third partial Scope of Work for Task 5A, 3) execute the subsequent contract amendments, and, 4) to authorize the Technical Consultant to make minor edits to the third partial Scope of Work based on comments received from TWDB.
7. The LCRWPG approved a motion to request that TWDB conduct a socioeconomic impact analysis of not meeting identified water needs for Region K for inclusion in the 2021 Region K Water Plan.

**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. **Discuss term expiration** – John Burke explained which members had a term expiration approaching. All members who were nearing a term expiration (John Burke, Doug Powell, Robert Ruggiero, Paul Tybor, and David Van Dresar) expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) for another term. The LCRWPG approved a motion re-appointing these members for another 5-year term.
4. **Discuss and take action on vacant counties position from Burnet County-** After discussion, the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group approved a motion to elect Joe Don Dockery as the new voting member for the Counties interest position. This is a replacement in the position previously held by Donna Kleager who stepped down from the planning group in 2018.
5. **Discuss voting member county representation for Hays and Mills Counties** – John Burke led a discussion on voting member county representation for Hays and Mills Counties. Teresa Lutes commented that the LCRWPG already had members representing these counties within the Region K area. It was noted that portions of the Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) represented in Region K cover parts of Hays and Mills Counties. It was discussed to provide information and to reiterate that all are welcome to the planning group's various meetings and interested individuals can reach out to members on the planning group who represent those areas. There was no action taken.
6. **Report on Nominating Committee Recommendations** – Ann McElroy

- a. Discuss and take action on election of Executive Committee and Officers – Anne McElroy provided an update on the Nominating Committee meeting, noting that nominating Executive Committee members was challenging since, among other constraints, no two members of the Executive Committee can represent the same interest category. The LCRWPG voted to approve John Burke (Chair), David Wheelock (Vice Chair), Teresa Lutes (Secretary), Daniel Berglund (Member-At-Large), James Sultemeier (Member-At-Large), and Paul Tybor (Member-At-Large) as the Region K Executive Committee.
7. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items numbers 10 through 18 (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)** – None.
8. **Attendance Report** – Teresa Lutes presented attendance report information, which was included in the members' packets for review.
9. **Consent Agenda:**
  - a. Approval of Minutes from the October 24, 2018 regular meeting – A motion was made by David Wheelock to approve the minutes from the regular October 24, 2018 meeting as presented. The motion seconded by David Van Dresar and the minutes were approved.
  - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported the total consultant budget was being revised to \$723,046 for the study period. So far, \$316,046 has been spent on consulting services and there is a remaining balance of \$ 407,000. The account balance for paying the consultant, which is reimbursed by TWDB, is \$102,154. The members account currently has a balance of \$ 2,974.
10. **Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)**
  - a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules – Lann Bookout reminded the group that TWDB will be holding a financial assistance conference in February, with details posted on the TWDB webpage under the financial assistance tab. Additionally, the Water for Texas Conference will be held on January 23-25, 2019 in Austin at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center on the University of Texas campus and will cover topics such as floods, conservation, and innovative water strategies, among other things.
11. **Committee Reports – Committee Chairs**
  - a. Nominating Committee – approval of minutes from the November 30, 2018 Committee meeting – The Nominating Committee prepared a recommended slate of candidates for the Region K Executive Committee. Minutes were approved by the members of the Nominating Committee.
  - b. Water Management Strategies (WMS) Committee – The WMS Committee met on November 30<sup>th</sup> and held discussions of water management strategies that are being newly requested this cycle, though some fell under already scoped items. The WMS Committee worked through the lists strategy by strategy as to whether or not to recommend that the LCRWPG include the strategy in the scope of work for the strategy evaluation for this cycle. There was also further discussion of Water User Groups (WUGs) with water needs in the 2020 decade. According to TWDB guidance, strategies recommended to meet these needs should be limited to projects that can be constructed and online by January 2023.

The WMS Committee also began discussion of strategies to meet irrigation needs and if any additional strategies (that were not already included in the scope) should be

considered. The WMS Committee recommended a draft of the third partial amended Task 5A partial scope of work that will be presented for discussion and consideration during this meeting. New potentially feasible water management strategies that were identified that had not been specifically discussed at a Region K meeting this cycle include:

- Reservoir Capacity Expansion (for Llano and possibly others)
- Rainwater Harvesting (for WUG's other than City of Austin)

David Wheelock is working to update information on irrigation areas including water use and water use efficiency information. Mr. Wheelock is currently working to draft a memo with this updated information and plans to submit it to Lauri Gillam, WMS Committee Chair, who will distribute the memo to WMS Committee for review.

c. Other committee reports, as needed – None.

12. **Consultant Status Report** – Alicia Smiley, AECOM, made a presentation on the overall consultant progress on the planning process. Joe Don Dockery posed a question related to the population projection information being incorporated into the planning process. John Burke noted that this is an item that should be added to the next meeting's agenda (in April). The consultant report included an overview of recent activities on number of tasks being worked on since the last planning group meeting (see presentation materials for additional information). Upcoming efforts include continuing to update draft Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 7 for the 2021 Plan to prepare them soon for LCRWPG review and starting evaluations of water management strategies including working with the Water Management Strategies Committee.
13. **Discuss and consider updates to non-Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) availability methodologies. Take action as needed.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, presented on updates to non-Modeled Available Groundwater availabilities. Modeled Available Groundwater volumes are used for the majority of the groundwater sources in the region. However, several groundwater sources do not have MAG volumes because the GMA's identified the sources as non-relevant for joint planning purposes. At the last Region K meeting, the LCRWPG discussed some potential methodology updates for the Marble Falls Aquifer in San Saba County and the Hickory Aquifer in Llano County. There was discussion about what non-relevant aquifers are and how they could be used in the planning process. Jaime indicated that there would be more information in the future since TWDB is planning to provide the numbers for these non-relevant aquifers towards the end of January. No action was taken.
14. **Discuss and consider third draft Task 5A Partial Scope of Work for evaluation of water management strategies** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, presented the third draft Task 5A Partial Scope of Work. The LCRWPG is required to prepare a scope of work for each strategy evaluation they want performed. This scope of work must be presented for public input and LCRWPG approval before submitting to TWDB for approval. The LCRWPG does not have to submit the entire scope of work at once; it can be submitted in pieces. The LCRWPG has already submitted two partial scopes of work of work for 48 strategies, thus far. It is recommended by TWDB to leave a portion of the budget unallocated in case an unexpected strategy needs to be evaluated later in the process. Anne McElroy asked how much of the Region K budget will remain unallocated to follow this recommendation. Jaime answered that it is not a requirement, but the WMS Committee made a recommendation that about \$20,000 remain unallocated for this purpose.

TWDB must approve the scope of work and issue a notice-to-proceed before work on the task is allowed to begin. Five new strategies were added to the Scope of Work for consideration by the LCRWPG:

- City of Austin Off-Channel Reservoir: New strategy evaluation of an off-channel reservoir for the City of Austin, incorporating strategy information from the City of Austin’s Water Forward Plan.
- Bertram Off-Channel Reservoir (OCR): New strategy evaluation of an off-channel reservoir for the City of Bertram. The reservoir site is an old, unused quarry which has water supplied by a spring. Treatment and transport of water to an existing ground storage tank will be included in the evaluation.
- Oceanwater Desalination: New strategy evaluation requested for consideration by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), for LCRA and potentially other WUGs in Region K. Strategy evaluation will include description of treatment for removing dissolved solids from ocean water (Gulf of Mexico), and transmission to potential end users.
- Reservoir Capacity Expansion: New strategy evaluation to expand the existing surface water capacity of the Llano Reservoir and potentially other reservoirs to increase storage capacity to provide supplies during time of drought.
- Rainwater Harvesting: Update to rainwater harvesting strategy from last cycle; will evaluate potential for WUGs other than City of Austin (which includes rainwater harvesting in a separate strategy from last planning round). Will consider for new developments at community scale.

There is an additional \$26,000 budgeted for total to date of \$299,000. Approximately \$20,000 remains unallocated. Jaime requested input from the LCRWPG and the public on the partial scope. Mitchell Sodek asked about the Bertram OCR, and after discussion it was decided that the strategy would be removed from this partial scope of work so AECOM would have time to speak to Bertram and get more information about the strategy.

15. **Receive public comments on third draft Task 5A Partial Scope of Work for evaluation of water management strategies.** – None.
16. **Consider and take action on approval of the third Task 5A Partial Scope of Work and authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for a Notice-to-Proceed with the third 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 third partial Scope of Work based on comments received from TWDB.** – After discussion during Agenda item #14, the RWPG approved motions to: 1) approve the third Task 5A Partial Scope of Work, as edited, 2) authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for a Notice-to-Proceed with the third partial Scope of Work for Task 5A, 3) execute the subsequent contract amendments, and 4) to authorize the Technical Consultant to make minor edits to the third partial Scope of Work based on comments received from TWDB.
17. **Discuss and consider taking action on designation of Ecologically Significant Stream Segments.** – Charlie Flatten, Con Mims, and Jim Barho gave a presentation on ecologically significant stream segments. They discussed Region L’s experience with recommending ecologically significant streams. The presentation included material describing how Region L created a recommendation packet that went to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). After TPWD provided information, Region L went forward with a bill to the Legislature to formally designate their recommended stream segments as ecologically unique.

The Region L bill included various applicability conditions. Jim Barho described processes that Region K has conducted in past planning cycles to gather public input in developing Region K's information and recommendations.

It was noted that in past rounds Region K plans recommended that additional clarification from the Legislature was needed to clarify questions related to potential designation of stream segments. Teresa Lutes expressed support for continuing the 2016 plan's recommendations regarding potentially unique stream segments. Mike Reagor noted that stream segments with endangered species protections are already subject to additional regulations. Jennifer Walker and Anne McElroy expressed interest in exploring ways to potentially further the recommendation of unique stream segments. To better understand the existing Region K plan elements related to this topic and have further discussion on this subject, it was decided to convene a Unique Stream Segments Committee meeting with Jennifer Walker as Chair before the April 2019 LCRWPG Meeting.

18. **Discuss and consider action to request TWDB to conduct a socioeconomic analysis of not meeting identified water needs for Region K for inclusion in the 2021 Region K Water Plan.** – Lann Bookout, TWDB, explained that TWDB does a socioeconomic impact analysis of not implementing water management strategies to include in the plan. They have been trying to complete this process earlier in the planning cycle to provide information that could help inform RWPG decisions. The group approved a motion to request that TWDB conduct socioeconomic impact analysis of not meeting identified water needs for Region K for inclusion in the 2021 Region K Water Plan.

David Lindsey asked about TWDB's coordination on the socioeconomic impact analysis. Lann Bookout noted that comments and input can be provided separately or by the group.

19. **Agenda items for next meeting**

It is planned that Daniel Berglund will provide an overview of agricultural conservation at the April meeting. If you have specific questions you want to be addressed, please let Daniel know in advance if possible.

- a. Location and date of next meeting – Next RWPG meeting will be on April 24, 2019.
- b. Other committee meetings – There will be a Water Management Strategies Committee and a Unique Stream Segments Committee meeting prior to the next LCRWPG meeting.

20. **New / Other business (time permitted)** – None.

21. **Public Comments** – None

22. **Adjourn** – The meeting to adjourned at 11:43 am.