

Meeting Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting
April 24, 2019

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

Members Signing In:

John Burke, Water Utilities	Paul Sliva, Agriculture
Jim Brasher, GMA 15	Mitchel Sodek, GMA 8
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9	James Sulzemeier, Counties
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities	Jim Totten, GMA 12
Dianne Wheeler, Public Interest, Alternate	Paul Tybor, GMA 7
Barbara Johnson, Industries	David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities	Jennifer Walker, Environmental
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities	Rebecca Batchelder, River Authorities, Alternate
David Lindsey, Recreation, Alternate	Lann Bookout, Non-Voting, TWDB
Mike Reagor, Municipalities	David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD
Alicia Reinmund- Martinez, GMA 10	Larry McManus, Non-Voting, TDA
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business	

Voting Members Absent:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business
Joe Don Dockery, Counties
Karen Haschke, Public Interest, Alternate Attended
Ann McElroy, Environmental
Charles Olfers, Agriculture
Doug Powell, Recreation, Alternate Attended
Byron Theodosios, Counties
David Wheelock, River Authorities, Alternate Attended

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Laurence Brown, Jr., TSSWCB	Stephanie Moore, DBS&A
Mike Thuss, WRA	Sarah Backhouse, TWDB
Danny Bulovas, BCL	Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda
Christina Castleberry, Water Utilities Alt.	Christiane Alepuz, CAPCOG
Earl Foster, Lakeway MUD	Kevin Smith, TWDB
Monica Masters, LCRA	David Villarrel, TDA
Jordan Furnans, LRE Water	Augusto Villalaw, FNI
Chris Mullins, Save Our Springs Alliance	Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law
Sarah Hoes, Austin Water	Helen Gerlach, Austin Water

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 20

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

Formal Actions Taken:

1. The minutes from the January 9, 2019 Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) meeting were approved as amended.
2. A motion to use updated non-Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) availability methodologies was approved by the group.
3. The RWPG approved a motion to use generally higher percent reductions to estimate savings for the municipal conservation water management strategy.
4. The group approved recommendations from the Unique Stream Segments Committee, as edited, noting that there will be future opportunities for additional stakeholder and public input related to these recommendations.
5. The group approved a motion to keep the same population projections which were approved earlier this cycle.

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 numbers 6 through 13 (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)** – None.
4. **Attendance Report** – Teresa Lutes presented attendance report information, which was included in the members' packets for review.
5. **Consent Agenda** –
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the January 9, 2019 regular meeting: A motion made by Barbara Johnson to approve the minutes as amended from the regular January 9, 2019 meeting was approved by the group.
 - b. Financial/Budget Report: Rebecca Batchelder reported the total consultant budget is \$723,046 for the study period. So far, \$393,128 has been spent on consulting services and there is a remaining balance of \$329,918. The account balance for paying the consultant, which is reimbursed by TWDB, is \$45,436. The members account currently has a balance of \$ 2,949
6. **Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)** –
 - a. Director Kathleen Jackson to provide comments from the TWDB: Director Jackson updated the RWPG on TWDB efforts. SWIFT is funding a variety of projects across the state, including the Luce Bayou project in Houston. TWDB nominated the Wichita Falls Direct Potable Reuse and Indirect Potable Reuse projects for the EPA Pisces award, which they won. Thoughts and ideas are welcome from the Regional Water Planning Groups on how TWDB could better help and serve Texas.
 - b. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules: Lann Bookout provided an update on regional water planning activities and schedules. The Drought Preparedness Council met and approved submitting recommendations to the RWPGs. There are several upcoming deliverables related to DB22 data entry. An updated outline of TWDB's Drought Template is available online. There are

also new educational materials available for regional water planning on the TWDB website. There are several water management strategy evaluation tools available through TWDB, including the uniform costing tool, the conservation planning tool, and the drought management impact estimating tool. RWPG technical memorandums are available on the TWDB website. Several water planning-related bills are being tracked by TWDB in the 86th Texas legislative session, as well as several flood planning and funding bills. David Lindsay asked if there were any bills affecting water permitting going through the legislature, and Lann explained that TWDB is not currently tracking those since they would likely be more directly affecting TCEQ. Lann also described TWDB's new Public Water System Viewer tool, which is available on the web. Barbara Johnson asked if there was an estimated date of completion for the socioeconomic analysis that TWDB is performing, and TWDB indicated that they are anticipating finishing by the end of 2019.

7. Committee Reports – Committee Chairs

- a. Water Management Strategies Committee: Jaime Burke, AECOM, gave an update on the Water Management Strategies Committee meetings. The committee met on both March 4 and April 10, 2019. At the March 4th meeting, the Committee discussed updates to the Bertram reservoir strategy, which will be considered a groundwater strategy until TCEQ makes a decision about its status, as well as beginning discussions about Agricultural Irrigation Conservation, Municipal Conservation, Drought Management, and Expand Local Use of Groundwater water management strategies.

The Committee also met on April 10th to further discuss topics such as Agricultural Irrigation Conservation and Municipal Conservation. Drought management was also a topic of discussion, and the Committee decided to postpone voting on recommendations to the full RWPG until the next Committee meeting. The Committee also discussed expanded local use of groundwater, with the committee to receive a breakdown of the potential strategy with supply allocation. Protection of inflows to the Colorado River were also discussed. The Water Management Strategies Committee chose to refer this strategy to the Policy Committee for more discussion.

Jaime also updated the planning group about Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) peaking factor. After discussion, the planning group agreed to continue discussions on whether or not to request using a MAG peaking factor for this cycle.

- b. Unique Stream Segments Committee: The Committee met on April 11th, 2019 where they discussed several recommendations to make to the RWPG, which are covered in a later agenda item.
- c. Other Committee reports, as needed: None.

8. Consultant Status Report –

- a. Progress to date: Jaime Burke, AECOM, presented slides that illustrated the consultant's progress to date.
- b. Draft Chapter 2 (Population and Water Demands) to RWPG for review: The draft Chapter 2 contains discussion of methodologies used in population and demand projections, identification of Major Water Providers and their commitments, and a discussion of environmental demands, among other things. The draft is available

for review as hard copies or online, and Jaime requested that feedback be provided around the July meeting timeframe.

- c. Water management strategy memos for RWPG members: AECOM submitted the 3rd amended scope of work for Task 5A to TWDB, based on RWPG's approval on January 9th. They prepared memos for several water management strategies, as will be discussed in later agenda items.
 - d. Upcoming effort: AECOM will continue to work on completion of updates to Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 7 for the 2021 plan, and hopes to have drafts to provide to the RWPG soon. They will continue to meet with the Water Management Strategies Committee and hold meetings for the Drought Committee and the Legislative and Policy Committee.
9. **Discuss Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization system (BRACS) study mapping and characterizing brackish groundwater in the Hill Country Trinity Aquifer** – TWDB staff could not attend the meeting, so they will plan to do a presentation at the next RWPG meeting.
10. **Discuss and consider updates to non-Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG) availability methodologies. Take action as needed.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, described how modeled available groundwater (MAG) volumes are used for a majority of the groundwater sources in the region. Several groundwater sources do not have MAG volumes because the GMAs identified the sources as non-relevant for joint planning purposes. At Regions K's October 2018 meeting, some potential methodology updates for the Marble Falls Aquifer in San Saba County and the Hickory Aquifer in Llano County were discussed. TWDB has provided DFC-compatible, non-relevant values for these aquifers plus the Ellenburger-San Saba in Llano County with their informal Tech Memo review comments. Jaime recommended that the RWPG chose to use these availabilities, and after discussion, the group approved a motion to use non-MAG availability methodologies for those aquifers.
11. **Discuss methodology updates from municipal conservation and irrigation conservation water management strategies, as recommended by Water Management Strategies Committee. Consider action as needed.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, outlined the discussion from the March 4, 2019 WMS Committee meeting regarding the municipal water conservation water management strategy. The WMS Committee recommended generally using a higher percent reduction to calculate the municipal conservation savings in this plan as compared to the last plan. After discussion, the RWPG approved a motion to use the generally higher percent reductions to estimate savings for the municipal conservation water management strategy.
- Jaime then described the discussion concerning the Irrigation Conservation water management strategy at recent WMS Committee meetings. Three key tasks were discussed that will help gather additional details to inform the Irrigation Conservation strategy. Additional details will be shared to the committee and RWPG once developed.
12. **Discuss Unique Stream Segments Committee recommendations to RWPG. Consider action as needed.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, went over the terminology and process of designating unique stream segments in a slide presentation. She explained that there are currently no recommended ecologically unique stream segments in Region K, but that per Appendix 8A of 2016 Region K RWP, ten streams in Region K were previously identified for further study in previous planning cycles. The Unique Stream Segments Committee made several recommendations which were presented to the full group. After discussion, edits were incorporated resulting in the recommendations shown below:

- a. Before including in the Region K Water Plan any on-channel reservoir/dam water management strategies located on stream segments identified for further study for potential designation as ecologically unique in Chapter 8, Region K will conduct a higher level of additional screening, as defined by the LCRWPG, to determine potential ecological impacts. (Recommendation is not intended to include existing structures or diversion structures, recharge enhancement weirs, or flood control.)
- b. The 2021 RWP will include a list of studies completed since 2000 relevant to segments listed in Table 8A-1 in the 2016 RWP.
- c. Recommend requesting sufficient funding from TWDB for the 2026 RWP to re-evaluate stream segments based on criteria for potential identification as ecologically unique, using studies listed in Action Item B. Note that even if a re-evaluated stream segment remains on the list of stream segments identified for further study for potential designation as ecologically unique in Chapter 8, or if stream segments are added to this list, the planning group, after weighing all considerations, may or may not choose to recommend the segments for designation as ecologically unique.
- d. Request data from Region J and other relevant planning groups regarding any analysis of unintended consequences or other experiences resulting from unique stream segment designation.
- e. Request a presentation from TWDB staff on 31 TAC §357.43 (b)(2) (see excerpt below) and how it has been implemented in regions with designated unique streams.

(2) For every river and stream segment that has been designated as a unique river or stream segment by the legislature, during a session that ends not less than one year before the required date of submittal of an adopted RWP to the Board, or recommended as a unique river or stream segment in the RWP, the RWPG shall assess the impact of the RWP on these segments. The assessment shall be a quantitative analysis of the impact of the plan on the flows important to the river or stream segment, as determined by the RWPG, comparing current conditions to conditions with implementation of all recommended WMSs. The assessment shall also describe the impact of the plan on the unique features cited in the region's recommendation of that segment.

The group approved recommendations from the Unique Stream Segments Committee, as edited, noting that there will be future opportunities for additional stakeholder and public input related to these recommendations.

13. **Discuss Texas Demographic Center (TDC) 2018 population projections. Consider action as needed.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, presented slides on the TDC population projections. She explained that compared to the 2018 TDC projections, TWDB 2021 Plan projections are currently over-projecting population for Bastrop and Burnet Counties while under-projecting Travis, Hays, and Williamson Counties. Adjusting the population projections was not recommended by AECOM at this point in the planning cycle. Timing of water management strategies in future decades could be informed by this new population information, even if the if the Region K population projections are not changed. After discussion, the group approved a motion to keep the same population projections which were approved earlier this cycle.

14. Agenda items for next meeting –

- a. Location and date of next meeting – The next RWPG meeting will be on July 10, 2019.
- b. Other committee meetings – None.

15. New / Other Business (time permitting) – None.

16. Public Comments- Limit 3 minutes per person – None.

17. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 1:17 pm.