

Meeting Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting
July 10, 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
John Burke, Water Utilities
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities
Karen Haschke, Public Interest
Barbara Johnson, Industries
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Ann McElroy, Environmental
David Lindsay, Alternate for 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
David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Jennifer Walker, Environmental
David Wheelock, River Authorities
Lann Bookout, Non-Voting, TWDB
Rob Barthen, Non-Voting, TDA

Voting Members Absent:

Jim Luther, Counties
Paul Sliva, Agriculture
Charles Olfers, Agriculture

Doug Powell, Recreation, Alternate Attended
Paul Tybor, GMA 7

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Laurence Brown, Jr., TSSWCB
Mark Robinson, TWDB
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda
Stacey Barne, CDM Smith
Christiane Alepuz, CAPCOG
Ron Anderson, LCRA
Adam Conner, FNI
Emi Ray Uecker, Blanco County
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting
Monica Masters, LCRA

Rebecca Batchelder, River Authorities
Danny Bulovas, BCL
Earl Foster, Lakeway MUD
John Mikels, GEOS Consulting
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utilities Alt.
Katie Snyder, B&V
Sarah Eatman, B&V
Pete George, Collier Consulting
Kevin Kluge, TWDB
Lorraine Liu, Austin Water

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 21

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

Formal Actions Taken:

1. The minutes from the April 24, 2019 Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) meeting were approved as amended.
2. The group voted to elect Jim Luther as the Counties interest representative (Burnet County) to replace Joe Don Dockery.
3. The group approved a motion to send nominations for Teresa Lutes and David Wheelock to TWDB as potential Region K representatives for the Interregional Planning Council.
4. The group approved a motion for LCRA to execute an amendment to the contract with TWDB for additional committed funds for consultant services.

Regular Meeting:

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 16** – 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 April 24, 2019 regular meeting:** A motion to approve the minutes as amended from the regular April 24, 2019 meeting was approved by the group.

Note: After discussion, beginning with this meeting, and hence, 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. **Discuss and take action on electing Jim Luther as the Counties interest (Burnet County) to replace Joe Don Dockery** – The group voted to elect Jim Luther as the Counties interest representative to replace Joe Don Dockery.
7. **Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) –**
 - a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules – Lann Bookout provided a legislative update from the 86th Texas Legislature on bills relevant to regional water planning. HB 807 requires TWDB to appoint an interregional planning council (made up of RWPG members) and adds several requirements to the development of regional water plans. HB 721 requires TWDB to conduct studies of aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge projects in the state water plan or identified by interested persons. It also requires TWDB to conduct a statewide survey to identify the relative suitability of various aquifers for use in aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge projects. HB 723 requires TCEQ to develop updated water availability models (WAMs) for several river basins. SB 7 establishes a state and regional flood planning process administered by TWDB.
8. **For discussion and possible action: Nominations for the new Interregional Planning Council required by HB 807.** – Lann Bookout described to the group that HB 807 requires the creation of an interregional planning council. The council is planned to be made up of one representative from each region. Both Teresa Lutes and David Wheelock were nominated as potential representatives on the council from Region K. A motion to forward those individuals' names on to TWDB as Region K representative nominations was approved by the group.

9. **Discuss approving LCRA to execute an amendment to the Contract with TWDB for additional committed funds. Take action as needed.** – David Wheelock explained that the authorized amount and the amount under contract with AECOM do not currently match, so this amendment would match them up. A motion to approve LCRA to execute an amendment to the Contract with TWDB for additional committed funds for consultant services was approved by the RWPG.

10. **Committee Reports – Committee Chairs**

- a. Water Management Strategies Committee: Lauri Gillam, Committee Chair, introduced Jaime Burke, AECOM, to give a presentation on Water Management Strategies Committee activities. There was a Committee meeting held on June 17, 2019, where presentation and discussion of the draft water management strategy evaluations ready for review was done. A discussion of costing assumptions for the Municipal Conservation was also discussed, and the Committee requested a progress status and timeline for water management strategies.
- b. Other committee reports, as needed: None.

11. **Consultant Status Report – AECOM**

- a. Progress to date: Since the last meeting held on April 24, 2019, electronic versions of chapter two and three have now been sent to the RWPG for review. Approximately half of the scoped strategies are in-progress or have completed draft water management strategy evaluations at this point. Trungale Engineering has started developing the strategy version of the Region K Cutoff Model. Jaime posed questions for the group to discuss regarding water availability modeling, including Austin’s Water Forward modeling and how the group should determine environmental impacts. Jennifer Walker requested that a more in-depth discussion on environmental impacts continue at a Water Management Strategies Committee meeting. Further discussion about the difference in modeling assumptions between the Region K and Water Forward models was also suggested for a Water Management Strategies Committee meeting.

The drought response activities since the last meeting have been waiting on drought preparedness council recommendations to be released. Before Chapter 7 can be released, AECOM needs to know the drought management strategies to include, so the Drought Committee may need to meet once. AECOM has also been working on preparing a comparison of the 2016 Plan and 2021 plan elements as part of the draft Chapter 11. Finally, AECOM received the Implementation Survey documentation from TWDB and are preparing an information request to send to project sponsors.

- b. Upcoming effort: Jaime Burke, AECOM, informed the group that upcoming efforts will focus on finishing the draft water management strategies evaluation, including meeting with the Water Management Strategies Committee and Water Modeling Committee, as needed. Jaime said they are aiming to complete draft evaluations for strategies by September/October. The draft for Chapter 4 needs to be sent to RWPG for review, and AECOM is currently receiving comments on Draft Chapter 3 and will send those to the RWPG to review. Additionally, AECOM will be working on the Implementation Survey and meeting with the Legislative and Policy Committee. Lastly, work will be done on the incorporation of the new HB 807 requirements.

12. **Discussion of draft 2021 Plan chapters out for review and comments received.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, gave an update on draft plan chapters out for review. LCRA submitted comments on Draft Chapter 2, including a question on whether a section on the story of Matagorda Bay should be left in the plan. Jennifer Walker suggested that it should be left in the plan. LCRA also suggested being consistent with the name “Austin” versus “City of Austin”; Teresa Lutes suggested that since the Water User Groups are utility-based, the name should be Austin Water. David Wheelock noted the need for there to be coordination with LCRA on David Lindsay’s edits on certain sections.

David Lindsay suggested referring to Brazos River Authority (BRA) and Corpus Christi demands, as relates to HB 1437, in Chapter 2. Corpus Christi is included in Chapter 3 because of their run-of-river (ROR) water right. BRA is listed as an LCRA commitment. David Wheelock agrees with Mr. Lindsay’s suggestion that it should be discussed in text, but noted that it might need to be explained in more detail how HB1437 will be incorporated. David Lindsay also had comments related to HB 807 in Draft Chapter 2.

AECOM would like comments on Draft Chapter 1, which is out for review by the full RWPG, back before the October Region K meeting, if possible. Note that comments can be submitted after the October Region K meeting as well. Comments on Draft Chapter 3, which is out for review by the Water Modeling Committee, are requested by August 16th. Again, comments can still be submitted after this initial comment period.

13. **Presentation and discussion of draft water management strategies ready for RWPG review.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, explained to the group that the strategies discussed in this section have been reviewed by the Water Management Strategies Committee and are ready for review by the full RWPG. No action is requested, just discussion and comments. The group should send Jaime any comments they have, so that they can be shared at the October Region K meeting.

- a. Municipal Drought Management: Jaime provided an overview of the Municipal Drought Management strategy. It is an update to the strategy recommended in the 2016 Plan. Demand reductions for this strategy are calculated from percentages based on GPCD.
- b. Burnet County Regional Projects: Burnet County Regional projects include projects for Buena Vista, East Lake Buchanan, and the Marble Falls System. Rob Ruggerio suggested an edit to include language on the possibility of needing to restore disturbed or disrupted sites.
- c. City of Austin water management strategies: Teresa Lutes gave a presentation to the group outlining the portion of Austin’s water management strategies that are ready for review by the full RWPG. The strategies include Aquifer Storage and Recovery, Off-Channel Reservoir with Evaporation Suppressant, Onsite Rainwater and Stormwater Harvesting, Capture Local Inflows to Lady Bird Lake, Indirect Potable Reuse through Lady Bird Lake, Lake Austin Operations, and Austin Conservation. Discussion, questions, and answers followed the presentation.
- d. South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) (Matagorda Steam-Electric) water management strategies: Jaime Burke, AECOM, described the various STPNOC water management strategies. These included Alternate Canal Delivery and Brackish Surface Water Blending. Jason Ludwig explained that there is no additional cost for blending since it would occur in an existing reservoir.

14. **Update on additional working draft water management strategies.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, gave an update on several strategies that have working drafts but are not ready for full RWPG review yet.
 - a. Municipal Conservation: The Municipal Conservation strategy has been discussed at several Water Management Strategies Committee meetings. Jaime presented cost assumptions for the strategy.
 - b. Reuse: Jaime described the various reuse opportunities, including centralized direct non-potable reuse, decentralized direct non-potable, direct potable, and indirect potable reuse. AECOM is coordinating with Water User Group representatives to include details for each project, and additional funding may need to be allocated to this scope.
 - c. Expand Use of Local Groundwater: This strategy would involve pumping additional groundwater from an aquifer that a Water User Group currently uses as a source, either using existing wells or by drilling new ones.
 - d. Development of New Groundwater Supplies: This strategy would involve drilling new wells to pump groundwater from an aquifer that a Water User Group does not currently use as a source.
 - e. Wharton Water Supply Strategy: Jaime described several strategies for Wharton Water Supply, including converting a groundwater irrigator to surface water, a new groundwater wellfield, Aquifer Storage and Recovery, and a firm supply contract with LCRA.

15. **Presentation on Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS) study mapping and characterizing brackish groundwater in the Hill Country Trinity Aquifer –** Mark Robinson, TWDB presented to the group on the BRACS study being done by TWDB. In his presentation, Mark described what brackish groundwater is and discussed aquifer geology, brackish groundwater zone designation and next steps. The presented slides are available on the Region K website.

16. **Update on the upper Colorado rainfall-runoff study.** – Jordan Furnans, LRE Water, gave an update the group on the results of an upper Colorado rainfall-runoff study. The results are still in draft form and will be reviewed by TWDB before being finalized. This study is a follow-on to one performed by Kirk Kennedy previously. The majority of the study area was upstream, in Region F. Jordan explained that his results showed that there was less rain more often, which, because of the decreased intensity, could be related to decreased runoff. The study also looked at the effects of the proliferation of small ponds and temperature trends, among other things.

17. **Agenda items for next meeting –**
 - a. Location and date of next meeting – The next RWPG meeting will be on October 9, 2019.
 - b. Other committee meetings – None.

18. **New / Other Business** – None.

19. **Public Comments** – None.

20. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned.