

# Region K Public Meeting

February 5, 2020

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group  
(Region K)



February 5, 2020

## Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Receive Public Comments
4. Attendance Report
5. Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2019 meeting
6. TWDB Update
7. Committee Reports – Legislative/Policy, possible others

Agenda Item 7

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 7a. Legislative and Policy Committee Report

#### ▼ Committee meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>

- Committee met to discuss proposed edits:
  - Management of Surface Water Resources: Inter-Basin Transfers and Model Linking (8.1.1)
  - Environmental – Instream Flows and Freshwater Inflows to Bays and Estuaries (8.1.2)
  - Environmental – Sustainable Growth, Including Impacts of Growth (8.1.3)
  - Coordination of Planning Cycles for Determination of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) by GCDs and Generation of the Regional Water Plan by RWPGs (8.1.11)
  - Recommended Improvements to the Regional Planning Process (8.1.12)
  - Radionuclides in the Hickory and Marble Falls Aquifers (8.1.13)
  - Planning for Droughts Worse than the Drought of Record (New)
- All discussed edits were approved to be shared with the RWPG.

Agenda Item 8

# PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE/POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

## 8. Draft Legislative/Policy Recommendations

- ▼ Already presented to RWPG (7): Groundwater (8.1.4), Potential Impacts to Agricultural and Rural Water Supplies (8.1.5), Agricultural Water Conservation (8.1.6), Municipal/Industrial Conservation (8.1.7), Reuse (8.1.8), Brush Management (8.1.9), Inflows to Highland Lakes (8.1.10)
  
- ▼ Management of Surface Water Resources: Inter-Basin Transfers and Model Linking (8.1.1)
  - Policy reviewed and updated by Rebecca Batchelder. Policy supports:
    - State funding for linking groundwater and surface water models by the TWDB during the development of the next generation of Groundwater Availability Models/Water Availability Models (GAMs/WAMs).
    - Basin of origin protection through TCEQ inter-basin transfer water right permits.
    - Coordination between TCEQ and RWPGs to ensure technical review consistency.
    - Study reference discussed later in Chapter edit discussion.
  
- ▼ Environmental – Instream Flows and Freshwater Inflows to Bays and Estuaries (8.1.2)
  - Policy revised by Jennifer Walker with committee input. Policy supports actions to accomplish environmental flow protection through the surface water permitting process.

## 8. Draft Legislative/Policy Recommendations

- ▼ Environmental – Sustainable Growth, Including Impacts of Growth (8.1.3)
  - Policy reviewed by Jennifer Walker. No changes proposed.
- ▼ Coordination of Planning Cycles for Determination of Desired Future Conditions (DFCs) by GCDs and Generation of the Regional Water Plan by RWPGs (8.1.11)
  - Policy reviewed and updated with minor language changes by Jim Brasher.
- ▼ Recommended Improvements to the Regional Planning Process (8.1.12)
  - Lauri Gillam wrote new subsection proposing the State Legislature amend the Texas Water Code to allow committees or subcommittees of a RWPG to include telephone conference call meeting participation. Language reviewed and revised by committee. No other changes proposed.

## 8. Draft Legislative/Policy Recommendations

- ▼ Radionuclides in the Hickory and Marble Falls Aquifers (8.1.13)
  - Policy reviewed and updated with minor language changes by AECOM.
  - Committee discussion included:
    - Reviewing additional information on radionuclides provided by Region F
    - Consideration future water quality concerns, especially as reuse becomes more prevalent. Committee considered asking for funding in future RWP cycles to further incorporate water quality consideration throughout the RWP.
- ▼ Planning for Droughts Worse than the Drought of Record (New)
  - 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. Policy recommends the Legislature appropriate funding to support a study regarding the potential impacts of DWDR events and, if appropriate, recommendations for incorporating DWDR event planning into the State and Regional Water Plans.
- ▼ Action – Consider approving Draft Legislative/Policy Recommendations or approve Draft Legislative/Policy Recommendations as part of Chapter 8/IPP at the Feb. 18 RWPG Meeting.

Agenda Item 9

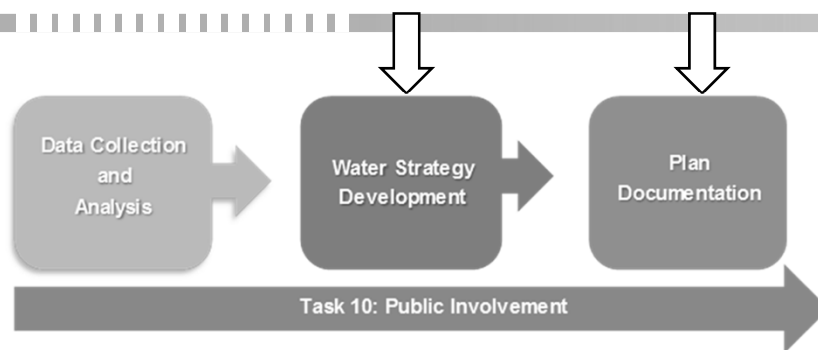
# CONSULTANT STATUS REPORT

Region K

Page 9



## 9. Consultant Status Report



**Task:**

- 2A – Non-population demand
- 2B – Population demand
- 3 – Water supply analysis
- 4A – Water needs

**Task:**

- 4B – Potentially feasible strategies
- 4C – Technical memorandum
- 5A – Evaluation of strategies
- 5B – Conservation recommendations

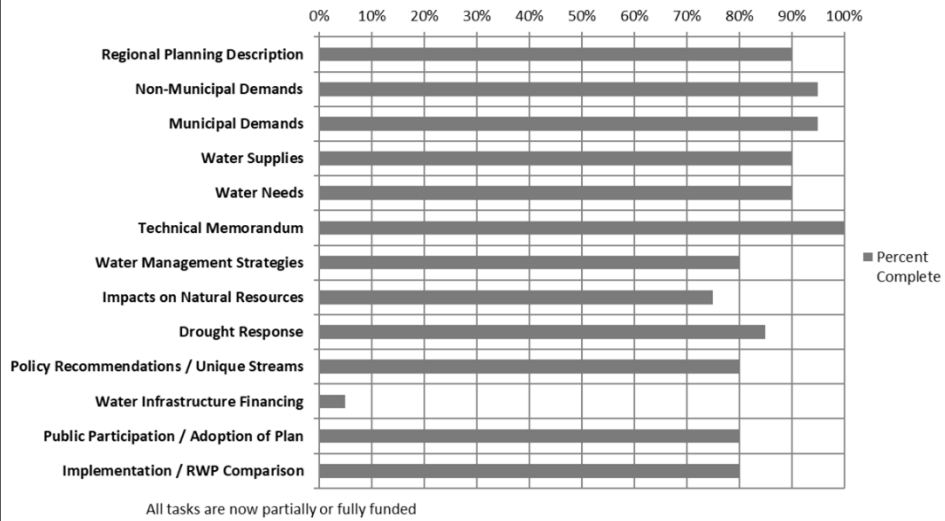
**Task:**

- 1 – Regional description
- 6 – Impacts of strategies
- 7 – Drought response
- 8 – Unique sites and policy recommendations
- 9 – Financing
- 11 – Implementation and comparison
- 12 – Prioritization of projects



## 9. Consultant Status Report

### 2021 Region K Plan Task Percent Complete



## 9. Consultant Status Report

### Effort since last meeting (January 15, 2020)

- ▼ Chapters previously sent out to RWPG: 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9
- ▼ Chapter 5 of 2021 Plan – Water Management Strategies
  - Revised strategies based on previous RWPG discussion
  - Draft ready for RWPG review, minus appendices and table numbering
- ▼ Chapter 8 of 2021 Plan – Unique Stream Segments and Reservoir Site and Legislative/Policy Recommendations
  - Updated all policy recommendations based on committee discussion
  - Sent draft chapter to RWPG 1/31/2020
- ▼ Chapter 11 of 2021 Plan – Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plan
  - Sent draft chapter to RWPG 1/24/2020

## 9. Consultant Status Report Upcoming Efforts

- ▼ Database entry (DB22) of Water Management Strategies.
- ▼ Finish Draft Chapter 6 (Impacts of Regional Water Plan); include cumulative impacts modeling. Send to RWPG for review.
- ▼ Finish Draft Chapter 10 (Public Involvement) and send out to RWPG for review.
  - Have any RWPG members made presentations this cycle to civic or special interest groups?
- ▼ Incorporate received comments into chapters. Develop Executive Summary.
- ▼ Complete IPP deliverables and prepare submittal.

Agenda Item 10

## PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF UPDATES TO WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

## 10. Strategy Updates

### ▼ Groundwater Importation: Hays County Pipeline

- Changing to “Water Importation”, since the source of water for this particular strategy now involves surface water. Added clarification related to GBRA Mid-Basin (Phase 2) project.
- Added cost of water at \$1,492/ac-ft. Increased overall unit cost to \$2,119/ac-ft

### ▼ Austin

- Longhorn Dam Operations Improvements
  - Revised language regarding environmental impacts based on discussion at January Region K meeting

### ▼ Expansion of Groundwater – Ellenburger-San Saba Aquifer

- Removed capital costs for Johnson City. They have additional existing wells that can be brought online to pump additional water as needed. Unlikely to need an additional new well.

## 10. Strategy Updates

### Take action to include this as a recommended WMS for Llano

### ▼ Llano

- Water Purchase
  - Amended to 177 ac-ft/yr for 2020 decade only. Annual costs updated to reflect change.
- Direct Potable Reuse
  - New strategy requested by WUG for use in emergency drought conditions.
  - Llano will need to complete a feasibility analysis, pilot testing, and obtain relevant permits from the TCEQ.
  - Yield = 280 ac-ft/yr, beginning in 2030.
  - Infrastructure needed:
    - 0.25 MGD DPR treatment plant (includes reverse osmosis, microfiltration or ultrafiltration, ultraviolet disinfection, advanced oxidation processes, and pH stabilization)
    - 6-in, 2-mile, above-ground transmission main and associated pumps to deliver treated water from the DPR plant to existing conventional water treatment plant for blending
    - High service pump station expansion at existing wastewater treatment facility, to transmit water from advanced wastewater treatment to water treatment plant
  - Facilities cost = \$7.4 million; Project cost = \$10.4 million; Unit cost = \$3,764/ac-ft
  - As a part of the permitting process through TCEQ, a disposal method for the DPR WWTP treatment residuals will need to be identified.
  - No impacts to agriculture are expected



Agenda Item 11

## **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS MODELING**

Agenda Item 12

## **DISCUSSION OF DRAFT 2021 PLAN CHAPTERS OUT FOR REVIEW AND COMMENTS RECEIVED**

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

### ▼ Edits to Chapter 1 – Regional Water Planning Area Description

- Updating Table 1.1a title and members
- Footnote for Austin Water Forward Plan on page 1-13
- Clarifying information for Figure 1.16
- Increasing legend font size for Figure 1.17 to clearly see colors in Legend
- Removing “Free-flowing” from description of reaches on page 1-35
- Confirming/revising language re: Concho Water Snake on page 1-35
- Updating instream flow study language on page 1-35 with updated language from Chapter 2
- Updating Water Quality reference information on page 1-40
- Updating flood control language re: Highland Lakes on page 1-50
- Revising pages 1-50 through 1-52 based on simplifying discussion of LCRA drought triggers and including suggested LCRA language.

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

### ▼ Edits to Chapter 1 – Regional Water Planning Area Description

- Considering revisions/suggested edits to groundwater discussion on page 1-52 through 1-53
- Including footnote references to local planning reports mentioned on page 1-53
- Additional information and clarification being added to the Water Conservation Plans section (page 1-59/60) and the Water Audits Section (page 1-60/61)
- Minor word edits throughout chapter
- May remove DB22 reports from Chapter 1, as the entire set of reports will be included immediately following the Executive Summary
- Austin comments
  - Adding list of alternates to Table 1.1a instead of including in Table 1.1c
  - Coordinating some comments with LCRA comments
  - Checking some table and figure references
  - Minor word edits

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

### ▼ Edits to Chapters 3 and 4 (Water Supplies and Water Needs)

- After coordination with Region L, reallocating water supplies for Creedmoor-Maha WSC so that only needs remain in Region K
  - Region L won't need to list strategies for Creedmoor-Maha WSC in their plan
  - Minor edits to Chapters 3 and 4, DB22
- Clarifying language in Chapters 3 and 4 that the Pecos Valley Aquifer is not located in Gillespie County
- Discussed clarifications regarding Colorado County steam-electric needs in Chapter 4 at last meeting
- Addressing Rob Ruggiero's comments on DOR and other hydrologic definitions, as well as some minor language edits in Chapter 3.

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

### ▼ Chapter 5 – Identification, Evaluation, and Selection of Water Management Strategies Based on Need

- Discussion of potentially feasible water management strategies and process
- Recommended strategies
  - Return Flows
  - Conservation Section (required subsection of Chapter 5)
  - Major Water Provider strategies
    - LCRA
    - Austin
    - WTCPUA
  - Regional strategies
    - Groundwater (Expand and Develop New)
    - Water Importation
    - ASR
    - Burnet County Regional Projects
    - Rainwater Harvesting
    - Water Purchase
    - Brush Management
    - Drought Management

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

- Recommended strategies (continued)
  - Municipal strategies
    - Conservation
    - Wharton Water Supply
    - Bastrop Regional Project
    - Direct Potable Reuse
    - Direct Reuse (Non-Potable)
  - Irrigation strategies
  - Manufacturing strategies
  - Mining strategies
  - Steam-Electric strategies
- Alternative strategies
  - LCRA
  - Other
- Considered strategies
- Documentation of the identification and evaluation process
- Still working on appendices, DB22, and table numbering in chapter

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

### ▼ Chapter 6 – Impacts of RWP

- Will be out for review soon – need to incorporate updated cumulative modeling results
- Evaluation of the estimated cumulative impacts of the Regional Water Plan (RWP), for example on groundwater levels, spring discharges, bay and estuary inflows, and instream flows.
- Assessment of the impact of the RWP on designated unique river or stream segments by the Legislature.
- Description of the impacts of the RWP regarding:
  - Agricultural Resources;
  - Other Water Resources of the State including other Water Management Strategies and groundwater and surface water interrelationships;
  - Threats to Agricultural and Natural Resources;
  - Third-party social and economic impacts resulting from voluntary redistributions of water including analysis of third-party impacts of moving water from rural and agricultural areas;
  - Major impacts of recommended Water Management Strategies on key parameters of water quality, and;
  - Effects on Navigation.
- Summarization of the identified water needs that remain unmet by the RWP

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

### ▼ Chapter 7 – Drought Response Information, Activities, and Recommendations

- Drought of Record
- Current Drought Preparations and Response
- Existing and Potential Emergency Interconnects
- Emergency Responses to Local Drought Conditions or Loss of Municipal Supply
- Region-Specific Drought Response Recommendations and Model Drought Contingency Plans
  - New Region-Specific Model Drought Contingency Plan for Steam-Electric in Appendix 7B, based on Drought Preparedness Council Recommendations
- Drought Management Water Management Strategies
- Other Drought Recommendations

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

### ▼ Chapter 8 – Additional Recommendations (Including Unique Ecological Stream Segments and Reservoir Sites, Legislative Issues, and Regional Policy Issues)

- Summary of Policy Recommendations
  - Revising language to Section 8.1.1 – Management of Surface Water Resources: Inter-basin Transfers and Model Linking
    - Section 8.1.1.2.2 – Linking Groundwater and Surface Water Models
    - “The ongoing study by Texas Water Development Board is an investigation of surface water-groundwater interaction along the lower Colorado River and is part of efforts to provide additional information to the adaptive management phase of the Senate Bill 3 e-flows process. This pilot study 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.”

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

- ▼ Chapter 10 – Public Involvement Activities - finishing this week to send out for review
  - Overview
  - Planning Group Meetings throughout the region
    - Region K meetings
    - Committee meetings
  - Presentation to civic and special-interest groups
    - May remove for IPP if no member has any to share
    - Any presentations to GCDs on updates to Region K planning?
  - Region K activities
    - Committees
    - Advertising and Media
    - Surveys
    - Public Meetings and Hearing
  - Related Outreach Activities
  - Final Plan will include additional information on public hearing and public/agency comments and responses

## 12. Draft 2021 Plan Chapters out for Review and Comments Received

- ▼ Chapter 11– Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plan
  - Implementation
    - Survey results
  - Comparison to the previous regional water plan
    - Population and Demand Projections
    - Drought of Record and Hydrologic Assumptions
    - Water Availability and Supplies
    - Water Needs
    - Water Management Strategies
  - Per HB 807, still needing to add a paragraph assessing progress of “regionalization”
    - Adding section at end of document

## Agenda

13. Discuss potential dates for public hearing and optional public meetings.
14. Discuss and take action to authorize the political subdivision (LCRA) to prepare and mail out the notices required for public hearings.
15. Agenda items for next meeting
16. New / Other Business
17. Public Comments
18. Adjourn