

Meeting Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting
February 5, 2020
LCRA Redbud Center
3601 Lake Austin Blvd
Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m.

Members Signing In:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business	Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Jim Brasher, GMA 15	Paul Sliva, Agriculture
John Burke, Water Utilities	Mitchel Sodek, GMA 8
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9	Emil Uecker, Alternate for Counties
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities	Byron Theodosios, Counties
Karen Haschke, Public Interest	Paul Tybor, GMA 7
Barbara Johnson, Industries	David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities	Charlie Flatten, Alternate for Environmental
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities	David Wheelock, River Authorities
Jim Luther, Counties	Ron Ellis, Non-Voting, TWDB
Charles Olfers, Agriculture	David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD
Doug Powell, Recreation	Larry McManus, Non-Voting, TDA
Mike Reagor, Municipalities	Lawrence Brown, TSSWCB
Robin Gary, Alternate for GMA 10	

Voting Members Absent:

David Caldwell, GMA 10, Alternate attended
Ann McElroy, Environmental
James Sulzemeier, Counties, Alternate attended
Jim Totten, GMA 12
Jennifer Walker, Environmental, Alternate attended

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Jordan Furnans, LRE Water
Christianne Castleberry, Alternate for Water Utilities
Carol Olewin, Alternate for Public Interest
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law
Jaime Burke, AECOM
Alicia Smiley, AECOM
Sarah Hoes, Austin Water
Helen Gerlach, Austin Water

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 23

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

Formal Actions Taken:

1. The minutes from the January 15, 2020 Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) meeting were approved as presented.
2. The LCRWPG approved the inclusion of a Direct Potable Reuse strategy for the City of Llano as a recommended water management strategy in the plan.
3. The LCRWPG approved not holding two additional public meetings on the IPP this Planning Cycle.
4. The LCRWPG approved a motion to hold the Public Hearing on April 22, 2020 at 10:00 am and authorize LCRA to mail out the notices required for the Public Hearing, and AECOM to distribute the materials electronically to the group and alternates.

Regular Meeting:

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at 10:01 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** – None.
4. **Attendance Report** – The Secretary’s attendance report and budget report from LCRA were included in the members’ packets for review.
5. **Approval of Minutes from the January 15, 2020 regular meeting** – The LCRWPG approved a motion by David Wheelock and seconded by Ron Fieseler to approve the minutes as presented from the regular January 15, 2020 meeting.
6. **Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) –**
 - a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules: Ron Ellis, TWDB, informed the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) that the TWDB is accepting applications for Agricultural Water Conservation Grants through February 19th. It is anticipated that the Board will be considering a rule proposal for an update to the regional water planning rules on February 13th, after which there will be a public comment period. The proposed changes are largely updates from the last legislative session.

TWDB took action on nominations for the Interregional Planning Group, and David Wheelock was the representative chosen from Region K. An email was sent out to RWPG chairs describing the process for identifying conflicts between regions. The planning group has 60 days after submittal of the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) to notify the TWDB about any conflicts with other Regions’ IPPs.
7. **Committee Reports – Committee Chairs**
 - a. Legislative and Policy Committee: Alicia Smiley, AECOM, provided an update on the Legislative and Policy Committee meeting held on January 27, 2020. At that meeting, the Committee met to discuss proposed edits to sections of Chapter 8,

including the sections listed below. All discussed edits were approved to be brought forth to the LCRWPG.

- 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 (8.1.12)
- Planning for Droughts Worse than the Drought of Record (New)

b. Other committee reports, as needed– None.

8. Presentation and discussion of draft legislative/policy recommendations ready for RWPG review. Take action as needed. – Alicia Smiley, AECOM, presented on draft legislative/policy recommendations ready for LCRWPG review. Several policy recommendations had previously been presented to the planning group and weren't discussed at this meeting. The policy recommendations presented at this meeting included: 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); and Planning for Droughts Worse than the Drought of Record (new). Detailed information on each of the strategies discussed can be found in the consultant presentation. Ron Fieseler requested that clarification be made to section 8.1.2.1 about the wording "in sufficient". After some discussion, Jaime Burke indicated that the consultant would plan to look at this wording and suggest an alternate for consideration for inclusion at the next meeting. The plan will be to consider the Chapter 8 legislative/policy recommendations at the February 18th for inclusion in the IPP.

9. Consultant Status Report –

Progress to date: Jaime Burke, AECOM, presented on the consultant's efforts since the last LCRWPG meeting. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9 were previously sent out to RWPG. Chapter 5 of the 2021 Plan, Water Management Strategies, has revised strategies based on previous LCRWPG discussion and is ready for review, minus appendices and table numbering. Chapter 8 of the 2021 Plan, Unique Stream Segments and Reservoir Site and Legislative/Policy Recommendations, is ready for review and has been sent to the planning group. Chapter 11 of 2021 Plan, Implementation and Comparison to the Previous Regional Water Plan, has been sent to RWPG for review.

- a. Upcoming effort: Jaime also outlined AECOM's upcoming efforts, which include database entry (DB22) of water management strategies, completing draft Chapters 6 and 10, incorporating received comments, developing the Executive Summary, and completing the IPP deliverables and submittal.

- 10. Presentation and discussion of any updates to water management strategy evaluations. Take action as needed.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, presented on Water Management Strategies (WMSs) that were updated since the last meeting, including Groundwater Importation: Hays County Pipeline, Austin’s Longhorn Dam Operations Improvements WMS, and Expansion of Groundwater – Ellenburger-San Saba Aquifer.

In addition to those strategies, the Llano Water Purchase WMS was amended to 177 ac-ft/yr for the 2020 decade only. A Direct Portable Reuse WMS was added for the City of Llano Water User Group (WUG), per a request by the WUG for use in emergency drought conditions. The LCRWPG approved a motion to include a new Direct Potable Reuse strategy for the City of Llano as a recommended WMSs in Chapter 5 for the IPP. The motion was made by David Van Dresar and seconded by Terry Bray.

- 11. Presentation and discussion of any updates to cumulative impact modeling. Take action as needed.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, informed the group that they did not have additional model results to present at this meeting. Any updated results will be sent out as part of Draft Chapter 6 and discussed at the February 18th meeting.

- 12. Discussion of draft 2021 Plan chapters out for review and comments received. Take action as needed.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, presented the various comments that have been received on the draft chapters out for review. More detail is included in the slides of the consultant presentation, edits to Draft Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 8 were presented. Jaime also presented on Draft Chapters 5, 6, 7, 10, and 11, which are out for review or will soon be sent out for review.

- 13. Discuss potential dates for public hearing and optional public meetings. Take action as needed.** – David Wheelock, LCRA, and Jaime Burke, AECOM, explained how the public hearing and meeting process works. AECOM is required to submit an IPP to the TWDB by March 3, 2020. Before the plan is finally adopted, Region K is required to have a Public Hearing and a public comment period. To accommodate the timeline, Region K is currently looking at Wednesday, April 22, 2020 at 10 am as the date and time of the Public Hearing, to be held Austin at either LCRA’s Dalchau Service Center or Redbud Center. The IPP needs to be available at least 30 days before the Public Hearing. The planning group must provide notice of the Public Hearing at least 30 days prior to the event. After the Public Hearing, there is a 60-day public comment period where the public can submit written comments on the IPP.

In the past, Region K has held two additional public meetings during the 60-day comment period following the public hearing. The public meetings are optional, and not required by the TWDB. There was discussion of possibly holding public meetings in Burnet and Wharton Counties during in the May timeframe. Teresa Lutes commented on her support of holding additional public meetings but wanted to hear what others think especially those in the upper and lower basin counties. In the past there has not been much public attendance at the additional public meetings. Daniel Berglund pointed out that all the relevant information is available electronically, so an additional public meeting may not be necessary. After discussion, the group generally concurred that additional public meetings did not need to be scheduled at this time. It was discussed that the IPP and information on the comment process should be shared with GMAs and the planning groups members and alternates so that the information can be distributed to interested parties. A motion to not hold two additional public meetings on the IPP this Planning Cycle was approved. The motion was made by Karen Haschke and seconded by Ron Fieseler.

14. Discuss and take action to authorize the political subdivision (LCRA) to prepare and mail out the notices required for public hearings. – Jaime Burke, AECOM, described the notice procedure for the public hearing. LCRA will mail hard copies of the notice to an extensive list of recipients that includes water user groups, water rights holders, and county judges, among others. Additionally, the notice will be posted on the Region K website, with the County Clerk's office, and at a library in each county. The notice includes information on where information related to the IPP and the planning process can be found. No action will be taken at the Public Hearing, thus a quorum of planning group members is not required. The LCRWPG approved a motion to hold the Public Hearing on April 22, 2020 at 10:00 am and authorize LCRA to mail out the notices required for the Public Hearing, and AECOM to distribute the materials electronically to the group and alternates. The motion was made by Terry Bray and seconded by Daniel Berglund. The Public Hearing is planned to be held in Austin at the LCRA Dalchau Service Center with the LCRA Redbud Center as a back-up location.

15. Agenda items for next meeting.

- a. Location and date of next meeting: The next meeting will be held on February 18, 2020 at the LCRA Redbud Center. Please note that this is a Tuesday.

After the February 18th meeting, the following LCRWPG Regular Meeting will need to be held in the July/August/September time-frame after comments on the IPP have been received. Participants should hold the 2nd Wednesday of the month in July, August, and September for a future LCRWPG Regular Meeting. The final regional water plan is due to TWDB in early October 2020.

- b. Other Committee meetings: Committees will likely not need to meet again until July. There may be a need to meet in August or September to go over public comments.

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

17. Public Comments – None.

18. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned by Chairman John Burke at 11:33 a.m.