

**Meeting Minutes  
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting  
July 15, 2020  
10:00 a.m.  
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**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, Recreation

Mike Reagor, Municipalities  
Mitchel Sodek, GMA 8  
James Sulzemeier, Counties  
Byron Theodosis, Counties  
Paul Tybor, GMA 7  
Jennifer Walker, Environmental  
David Wheelock, River Authorities  
Lann Bookout, Non-Voting, TWDB  
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD  
Rusty Ray, Non-Voting, TSSWCB  
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business

**Voting Members Absent:**

David Caldwell, GMA 10  
Jim Luther, Counties  
Charles Olfers, Agriculture  
Paul Sliva, Agriculture  
Jim Totten, GMA 12  
David Van Dresar, Water Districts  
Rob Barthen, Non-Voting, TDA

**Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other (as of start of virtual meeting)\*:**

Adam Connor, Freese and Nichols  
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda  
David Villarreal, TDA  
Gary Newman  
K Rhodes  
Marcus Richardson, Alt. for Small Business  
Monica Masters, LCRA  
M Redman, BSEACD  
Zoomsday Prepper

Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Austin Water  
Micaela Pedrazas, LRE Water  
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting  
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law  
Rebecca Batchelder, LCRA  
Jaime Burke, AECOM  
Alicia Smiley, AECOM  
Sarah Hoes, Austin Water  
Helen Gerlach, Austin Water

\*Consultants/support/visitors/other information was gathered from Zoom for attendees that entered a name.

**Quorum:**

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 18

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

**Formal Actions Taken:**

1. The minutes from the February 5, 2020 Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) meeting were approved as presented.
2. The minutes from the Policy/Legislative Committee meeting on 1/27/2020, the Nominating Committee meetings on 11/13/19 and 11/30/18, the Water Management Strategies Committee meeting on 10/31/19, the Water Modeling Committee meeting on 10/23/19, and the Unique Stream Segments Committee meeting on 4/11/19 were approved as presented.
3. The LCRWPG approved an amendment to the Task 5A Scope of Work, as recommended, for evaluating water management strategies for allocation of remaining Task 5A funds to assist in responding to TWDB Chapter 5 comments; and authorized LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for the amendment and to execute the subsequent contract amendment.

**Regular Meeting:**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance.
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 11 (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)** – Cindy Smiley, of the Central Texas Water Coalition (CTWC), provided public comment. She referenced a new study on Texas drought challenges. She stated that the CTWC comments on the Region K Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) suggest a more conservative approach to planning, and that this new study supports that comment. The link to the study is included here for reference:  
<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2020EF001552>
4. **Attendance Report** – The Secretary’s attendance report was included in the members’ packets for review.
5. **Approval of Minutes from the February 18, 2020 regular meeting** – The LCRWPG approved a motion by Jennifer Walker and seconded by David Wheelock to approve the minutes as presented from the regular February 18, 2020 meeting.
6. **Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) –**
  - a. **Update on regional water planning activities and schedules:** Lann Bookout, TWDB, updated the group on regional water planning activities. TWDB staff has issued comments the IPP for Region K and all regions statewide. Final plans and the prioritization list are due to the Board on October 14, 2020 and must be approved at a regular regional planning group meeting. Comments on the IPP must be included in the final plan. TWDB has adopted flood planning rules and is currently accepting nominations for the Regional Flood Planning Groups. Additionally, the Board is beginning work

on putting together the State Water Plan, though it will not be completed until after the Regional Water Plans are submitted and incorporated. Lann also reminded the group that at the close of this planning cycle, the group will need to select a political subdivision and authorize them to submit an application for financing for the next planning cycle.

## **7. Committee Reports – Committee Chairs**

- a. Committee reports, as needed: None.
- b. Consider approval of draft meeting minutes for the following:
  - The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) approved a motion by David Wheelock and seconded by Jennifer Walker to approve the Policy/Legislative Committee meeting minutes from 1/27/2020 as presented.
  - The LCRWPG approved a motion by Jim Brasher and seconded by Ann McElroy to approve the Nominating Committee meeting minutes from 11/13/19 and 11/30/18 as presented.
  - The LCRWPG approved a motion by Daniel Berglund and seconded by Jennifer Walker to approve the Water Management Strategies Committee meeting minutes from 10/31/19 as presented.
  - The LCRWPG approved a motion by Teresa Lutes and seconded by James Sultemeier to approve the Water Modeling Committee meeting minutes from 10/23/19 as presented.
  - The LCRWPG approved a motion by Jennifer Walker and seconded by Ann McElroy to approve the Unique Stream Segments Committee meeting minutes from 4/11/19 as presented.

## **8. Consultant Status Report – AECOM**

- a. Progress to date: Jaime Burke, AECOM, updated the group on the consultant team's efforts since the last meeting. AECOM has completed database entry of Water Management Strategies and submitted the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) to TWDB on March 3, 2020. AECOM also facilitated the Public Hearing on April 22, 2020. There were no public comments received at the Public Hearing. Written public comments were received after the hearing, during the public comment period.

AECOM also sent out the infrastructure financing report surveys and has received 19 responses to date. AECOM also received the TWDB comments on the IPP and is beginning to address those.

- b. Upcoming effort: Jaime also presented the consultant's upcoming efforts to the LCRWPG. AECOM is working to address and respond to all comments received on the IPP and finalize project prioritization. Plan edits will be brought to the LCRWPG for review at the August meeting, and adoption of the 2021 Region K Plan by the LCRWPG is planned for the September meeting. Once adopted, AECOM plans to submit the final 2021 Regional Water Plan to TWDB in October 2020.

**9. Discussion of comments received on the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). Take action as needed.** – Jaime Burke, AECOM, went over comments that have been received on the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). The comments are presented in detail in the consultant presentation posted on the Region K website. Ann McElroy had a question about how the brush control water management strategy will be addressed, and Jaime responded that additional counties will be mentioned in the write-up and specific acreage for the various counties included in the analysis will be added. Mike Reagor suggested changing the name of the brush control water management strategy to “brush management”, which AECOM said they will change.

**10. Potential Task 5A Budget Amendment for evaluation of water management strategies**

- a. Discuss and consider potential allocation of remaining Task 5A funds to assist in responding to TWDB Chapter 5 comments: Jaime Burke, AECOM, noted that AECOM is working to address comments from TWDB, but some of the comments will require more work to address than initially anticipated. There is some remaining unallocated Task 5A budget, and to address Board comments AECOM is recommending an increase in the budget to address Board comments related to the Austin Blackwater and Greywater Reuse, Austin Onsite Rainwater and Stormwater Harvesting, and Rainwater Harvesting water management strategies. This would be a total budget increase of \$7,178 and would leave the remaining unallocated budget at \$0.
- b. Receive public comments on potential allocation of remaining Task 5A funds to assist in responding to TWDB Chapter 5 comments: None.
- c. Consider and take action on amending the Task 5A Scope of Work for evaluating water management strategies for allocation of remaining Task 5A funds to assist in responding to TWDB Chapter 5 comments; and authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for the amendment and to execute the subsequent contract amendment: The LCRWPG approved a motion by Lauri Gillam and seconded by Barbra Johnson to amend the Task 5A Scope of Work, as recommended, for evaluating water management strategies for allocation of remaining Task 5A funds to assist in responding to TWDB Chapter 5 comments; and authorize LCRA to submit a request to the TWDB for the amendment and to execute the subsequent contract amendment.

**11. Presentation and discussion of Draft Prioritization spreadsheet. No action needed on this item at this time.** – Alicia Smiley, AECOM, presented the draft prioritization spreadsheet to the LCRWPG. Ms. Smiley went over the different prioritization criteria, including:

- Project decade online

- Funding decade
- Supporting data available
- Water rights
- Level of engineering and/or planning
- Request for inclusion in the plan
- Percent of the water user group(s) need met by project (first and last decade)
- Whether the project is the only economically feasible option other than conservation
- Whether the project serves multiple water user groups
- The period of time the project is expected to provide water
- Whether the volume supplied by the project changes
- The expected unit cost of water supplied by the project

David Lindsay had a question about why brush management is not listed as a strategy for Burnet and Llano Counties. Alicia explained that there was not data for brush management yields in those counties or in San Saba County, but all those counties had been included in the write-up for the brush management strategy. Rusty Ray, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), added that the TSSWCB had removed the requirement that a strategy had to be in the state water plan to receive funding through the TSSWCB water supply enhancement program.

**12. Update on TWDB Interregional Planning Council.** – David Wheelock, LCRA, updated the LCRWPG on the progress of TWDB Interregional Planning Council, which was formed by HB 807. The Council has met five times so far and has established Council goals. The next meeting will be held on July 29, 2020.

**13. Agenda items for next meeting**

- Location and date of next meeting: The next LCRWPG meeting will be on August 12, 2020 and will likely be held virtually. There will also likely need to be a September meeting held to approve the plan. If a September meeting is needed, it will be held on September 15, 2020, with September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> as additional meeting and back-up dates.
- Other committee meetings: None.

**14. New / Other Business (time permitting)** – None.

**15. Public Comments** – Gary Newman, from Regional Water Planning Group G thanked the LCRWPG for their work and allowing him to join the meeting. Barbra Johnson also thanked the LCRWPG group members for their participation during these unprecedented times.

**16. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned by Chairman John Burke at 11:59 a.m.