

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

Members Signing In:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business
Jim Brasher, GMA 15
John Burke, Water Utilities
David Caldwell, GMA 10
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities
Karen Haschke, Public Interest
Barbara Johnson, Industries
David Lindsay, Recreation
Jason Ludwig, Electric Generating Utilities
Jim Luther, Counties
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Ann McElroy, Environmental
Charles Olfers, Agriculture

Mike Reagor, Municipalities
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Paul Sliva, Agriculture
James Sulzemeier, Counties
Byron Theodosis, Counties
Jim Totten, GMA 12
Paul Tybor, GMA 7
David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Jennifer Walker, Environmental
David Wheelock, River Authorities
Lann Bookout, Non-Voting, TWDB
Rusty Ray, Non-Voting, TSSWCB
Rob Barthen, Non-Voting, TDA
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD

Voting Members Absent:

Mitchel Sodek, GMA 8

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

Brooke Paup, TWDB	Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting
Michael Redman	Sarah Backhouse, TWDB
Adam Conner, FNI	Sarah Hoes, Austin Water
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda	Stephen Van Kampen-Lewis, SWCA
Carol Olewin, Alternate for Public Interest	Tina Hendon, TRWD
Christianne Castleberry, Alt. for Water Utilities	Temple McKinnon, TWDB
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law	Marcin Tyszka, LCRA
David Villareal, TDA	Juston McMahon, LCRA
F. Guerrero	Helen Gerlach, Austin Water
Jordan Furnans, LRE Water	Jaime Burke, AECOM
Marcus Richardson, Alt. for Small Business	Alicia Smiley, AECOM
Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Austin Water	Stacy Pandey, LCRA
Monica Masters, LCRA	

*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: 24

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

Formal Actions Taken:

1. The minutes from the August 12, 2020 Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) meeting were approved as presented.
2. The LCRWPG approved a motion to authorize LCRA to start the process for consultant selection for the next regional planning cycle.
3. The LCRWPG approved a motion to authorize the Lower Colorado River Authority to serve as the Region K Political Subdivision for the 6th cycle of regional water planning.
4. The LCRWPG approved a motion to authorize the Region K Political Subdivision to provide public notice, submit a grant application to the TWDB, and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the Region K Water Planning Group for initial funding of the 6th cycle of regional water planning.

Regular Meeting:

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 and invited Brooke Paup of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), to say a few words. TWDB Board Member Paup thanked the planning group members for their hard work and expressed her ongoing support of the regional water planning process even through the challenging times being experienced in 2020. Teresa Lutes and David Wheelock expressed their thanks for TWDB's support throughout the planning process.
3. **Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items numbers 6 through 12** – No public comments.
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 August 12, 2020 regular meeting** – The LCRWPG approved a motion by Barbara Johnson and seconded by Lauri Gillam to approve the minutes as presented from the regular August 12, 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. Lann informed the group that TWDB had reviewed the responses to TWDB's draft Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) questions and comments and they are good with the information provided. Lann also noted to the group that the Governor's disaster declaration has been extended through October and that TWDB was beginning the process of reviewing water planning boundaries, which is performed on a 5-year cycle. A stakeholder process for this review will begin in October.
7. **Consultant Status Report –**
 - a. Progress to date: Alicia Smiley, AECOM, updated the group on the consultant team's efforts since the last meeting. AECOM has completed chapter updates and

submitted the draft IPP comment responses to TWDB for review. AECOM also participated in coordination meetings between TWDB and Austin, identified the DB22 changes for a meeting with TWDB based on IPP comments, and updated the prioritization spreadsheet based on new projects associated with strategies and comments from Austin. In addition to that work, AECOM coordinated with Pflugerville to incorporate information from a finalized Technical Memo regarding water rights alternatives, as accepted by staff and presented to their Council, into the Region K Plan.

- b. Upcoming effort: Alicia Smiley also presented the consultant's upcoming efforts to the group. AECOM will be working to meet with TWDB to implement DB22 changes and print new reports. AECOM will be working to prepare for the planning group to consider adoption and submittal to TWDB of the 2021 Region K plan in October. AECOM is also working to send out letters addressing and responding to all public and agency comments received.

- 8. Discussion of comments and draft responses for the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). Take action as needed.** – Alicia Smiley, AECOM, presented the comments and draft responses that they had received on the IPP. A portion of these comments and responses were presented at the August 12, 2020 LCRWPG Meeting. The comments and responses presented at the meeting can be viewed in the consultant presentation posted on the Region K website.

While discussing the comments and the responses on the IPP, David Lindsay asked what counties are mentioned for the brush management water management strategy. Alicia explained that specific volumes are only provided for counties included in the brush management study referenced, but all “hill country” counties are mentioned in the text for that strategy. The group discussed a proposed edit to the 6A appendix title and the appendix table headers. After discussion, it was decided to add the word “strategies” to the title. David Lindsay requested that a reference to a new report on inflow trends be added to the plan. After discussion, the group decided that a link to the report will be shared with members for review and, for consideration, members can review a track changes version of the plan with this reference included.

- 9. Discussion of edits to the Prioritization spreadsheet** – Alicia Smiley, AECOM, presented updates to the draft prioritization spreadsheet. The specific updates to the spreadsheet can be viewed in the consultant presentation posted on the Region K website. The plan will be for the group to take action on the updated prioritization spreadsheet at the next meeting.

- 10. Discuss and take action to authorize LCRA to start the process for consultant selection for the next Regional Planning Cycle.** – David Wheelock, LCRA, explained to the LCRWPG that it has been 10 years since the last Region K consultant selection process. After discussion, the group decided it was timely to conduct a new consultant selection process and appointed an ad-hoc committee to assist LCRA with the process. The committee members are:

- Barbara Johnson (Chair)
- Teresa Lutes
- David Lindsay
- Lauri Gillam
- David Wheelock

The LCRWPG approved a motion by Daniel Berglund and seconded by Jennifer Walker to authorize LCRA to start the process for consultant selection for the next Regional Planning Cycle.

11. Discuss and consider taking action to authorize the Lower Colorado River Authority to serve as the Region K Political Subdivision for the 6th cycle of regional water planning.

– The LCRWPG approved a motion by Barbara Johnson and seconded by Teresa Lutes to authorize the Lower Colorado River Authority to serve as the Region K Political Subdivision for the 6th cycle of regional water planning.

12. Discuss and consider taking action to authorize the Region K Political Subdivision to provide public notice, submit a grant application to the TWDB, and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the Region K Water Planning Group for initial funding of the 6th cycle of Regional Water Planning.

– The LCRWPG approved a motion by Karen Haschke and seconded by James Sultemeier to authorize the Region K Political Subdivision to provide public notice, submit a grant application to the TWDB, and execute a contract with the TWDB on behalf of the Region K Water Planning Group for initial funding of the 6th cycle of Regional Water Planning.

13. Agenda items for next meeting

- a. Location and date of next meeting: The next LCRWPG meeting will be on October 14, 2020 and will be held virtually.
- b. Other Committee meetings: None.

14. New / Other Business (time permitting) – David Wheelock, LCRA, informed the group that a draft report for the Interregional Planning Council is posted for review, and members can email David with any questions they might have.

During the meeting it was acknowledged that the LCRWPG was saddened by the passing of Region K Planning Group Member Karen Haschke's brother. Dr. Robert Otto Dittmar, II, DMV, (Dr. Bob) of Kerrville, was a much beloved family member and member of his community and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Karen and her family during this difficult time.

During the meeting it was also noted that the LCRWPG was saddened by the passing of longtime Region K Planning Group Member Haskell Simon. Haskell was a tireless champion of water planning. Haskell's enthusiasm for the mission of the regional water planning group and State water planning process will be missed.

15. Public Comments – Jordan Furnans, LRE Water, thanked the group for voting to conduct another consultant selection process for the next cycle of planning.

16. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned by Chairman John Burke at 11:27 a.m.