

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting**  
**July 21, 2021**  
**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  
Charlie Flatten, Alternate for Environment  
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities  
Karen Haschke, Public Interest  
Barbara Johnson, Industries  
David Lindsay, Recreation  
Jason Ludwig, Elect. Generating Utilities  
Charles Olfers, Agriculture  
Mike Reagor, Municipalities  
Michael Redman, Alternate for GMA 10

Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Alt. for Municipalities  
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business  
Mitchel Sodek, GMA 8  
James Sulzemeier, Counties  
Byron Theodosios, Counties  
Jim Totten, GMA 12  
Paul Tybor, GMA 7  
David Van Dresar, Water Districts  
Jennifer Walker, Environment  
David Wheelock, River Authorities  
Lann Bookout, Non-Voting, TWDB  
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD

**Voting Members Absent:**

Vanessa Escobar, GMA 10, Alternate Attended  
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities, Alternate Attended  
Jim Luther, Counties  
Ann McElroy, Environmental  
Paul Sliva, Agriculture  
Rusty Ray, Non-Voting, TSSWCB  
Lauren Mays, Non-Voting, TDA

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

Marcin Tyszka, LCRA  
Helen Gerlach, Austin Water  
Angelica Dillender  
Annette Keaveny, LCRA  
Carol Olewin, Alternate for Public Interest  
Danny Bulovas, Alternate for Recreation  
Earl Foster, Alternate for Municipalities  
Stacy Pandey, LCRA  
Alicia Smiley, AECOM  
Monica Masters, LCRA  
Paul  
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting

Augusto Villalon  
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda  
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law  
David Marino  
David Villareal  
Harvie Lindeman  
Jaime Burke, AECOM  
Jason Afinowicz  
Katie Snyder, Black & Veatch  
Lauren  
Lauren McCosky  
Lisa Gregg

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

Sara Armendariz	Marcus Richardson, Alt. for Small Business
Sara Eatman, Austin Water	Sarah Backhouse, TWDB
Sarah Hoes, Austin Water	Stephanie Moore, INTERA

\*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: 22

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

**Formal Actions Taken:**

1. The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) approved a motion made by Jennifer Walker and seconded by Barbara Johnson to issue a request for nominations for the Counties and Public Interest memberships.
2. The LCRWPG approved a motion made by Karen Haschke and seconded by Ron Fieseler to approve the minutes as amended from the regular January 27, 2021 meeting.
3. The LCRWPG approved a motion made by the Nominating Committee and seconded by John Burke to select INTERA as the consultant for this cycle of planning.
4. The LCRWPG approved a motion made by John Burke and seconded by Barbara Johnson to direct the Region K administrative agent to negotiate and enter into a consulting contract with the INTERA.

**Regular Meeting:**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman David Van Dresser called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chairman David Van Dresser welcomed all to the meeting.
3. **Member resignations and replacements** – The LCRWPG discussed the resignation of Karen Haschke as Public Interest representative and replacement by Carol Olewin, the current Public Interest alternate, and resignation of James Sultemeier as Counties representative and replacement by Emil Ueker, the current Counties alternate.

Public comment submitted by Blake Neffendorf on Agenda item number 3 was discussed and Mr. Neffendorf explained that the intent of his comment was to clarify the process for selecting Region K members. Jennifer Walker made a motion to issue

a request for nominations for the two open spots according to the procedure listed in the bylaws, with Barbara Johnson seconding. The motion carried, 17 for and 5 against.

- 4. Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items numbers 7 through 9 – None.**
- 5. Attendance report and financial report –** The Secretary's attendance report was included in the members' packets for review. David Wheelock reported that the Grants account is currently empty; Region K has not been funded yet for cycle 6 of Regional Water Planning from TWDB. The members account has \$2,967.18 as of June 30, 2021.
- 6. Approval of minutes from the January 27, 2021 regular meeting –** The LCRWPG approved a motion by Karen Haschke and seconded by Ron Fieseler to approve the amended minutes as presented from the regular January 27, 2021 meeting.

**7. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) –**

- a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules: Lann Bookout provided an update on the TWDB mining water use study, which includes fracking and sand/gravel mining. TWDB is working to develop a member survey which should be sent out in July. TWDB regularly sends email and newsletter updates, which highlighted the completion of the rulemaking process on May 10, 2021 and the approval of the State Water Plan on July 7, 2021. Contract documents for the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle of Regional Water Plans have been sent to the political subdivisions and must be executed by August 31, 2021.

TWDB has been accepting comments on the guiding principles documents and rules, as required every 5 years; the comment period closed July 5, 2021. An interagency meeting was held with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB), and Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), and TWDB will be addressing comments from those agencies through the rulemaking and revision process.

Lann also provided a brief TWDB legislative update, including an update on HB1905, which repealed Section 15.436 of the Texas Water Code requiring regional water planning groups to develop a prioritization list of recommended water management strategies and to develop the infrastructure financing report. SB69 removed requirements for the Board on filing certain reports that are already available online, as well as changing the requirements of state department coordination relating to dam maintenance. HB2225 changed the duties related to the Texas Water Trust and allows the parks to encourage and facilitate the dedication of water rights to the trust. The TWDB still has the same responsibilities managing the water trusts.

The LCRWPG needs to hold a pre-planning meeting for the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle of planning. This meeting can be held in conjunction with a regular meeting, requires 30 days notice, and has a few other specific requirements that were sent out via email around May 17, 2021 to the group. The planning groups will need to identify water management strategies that will develop or use a water resource in another region or that may otherwise impact the region of origin. From the identified strategies, the RWP should determine which may create opportunities for further cooperation or may create potential for interregional conflicts. The RWPG should begin discussing a course of action for coordinating for other RWPGs in the supplying of receiving groups to discuss opportunities for collaboration or conflict. The new plan needs to document the strategies identified, including the regions process and progress of work, methods, and efforts made for interregional coordination. LCRA will be working to get the 30-day notice sent out for the pre-planning meeting.

## **8. Committee Reports –**

- a. Consultant Selection Committee report: Barbara Johnson, Chair of the Selection Committee, thanked the selection committee and LCRA staff for the work they have contributed towards the procurement process and provided an update. The request for qualifications (RFQ) was posted on May 12, 2021 and closed June 2, 2021. Two responses were received from Black & Veatch and INTERA along with one withdrawal from LRE Water. Scoring and criteria were developed prior to posting the RFQ. Criteria included: firm experience, personal experience, registered Texas professional engineers, project approach, and exceptions to terms and conditions. The committee members scored each applicant individually and submitted scores to LCRA, then a consensus meeting was held to determine a recommendation. All applicants were extremely qualified, with INTERA ultimately being recommended based on their depth of experience, creative project approaches, and contract exceptions. The INTERA team includes Freese and Nichols, Plummer and Associates, and Blanton and Associates as subconsultants. Barbara Johnson made a motion to submit the recommendation for INTERA as the consultant for Cycle 6 for the LCRWPG to consider and take action on.

Karen Haschke asked if AECOM, the previous Region K consultant, had reapplied for Cycle 6. Barbara Johnson explained that AECOM did not submit individually, but was a subconsultant to the Black & Veatch submittal. Ron Fieseler wanted to know if the Selection Committee discussed the transition from AECOM to the new consultant; David Wheelock explained that all of the 5<sup>th</sup> Cycle planning data is available online as part of the TWDB DB21 database, in addition to the new projection information Region K will receive at the start of the 6<sup>th</sup> cycle of planning. In

response to a question from Mitchel Sodek, it was announced that Stephanie Moore from INTERA will be the project manager for Region K.

- b. Other committee reports, as needed: None.
- 9. Discuss and take action on the recommendation from the Consultant Selection Committee to direct the Region K administrative agent to negotiate and enter into a consulting contract with the selected firm.** – John Burke seconded the motion submitted by the Selection Committee recommending INTERA as the LCRWPG consultant for Cycle 6, and the motion passed. John Burke then made a motion to direct the Region K administrative agent to negotiate and enter into a consulting contract with the selected firm. Barbara Johnson seconded the motion, and the motion passed. David Van Dresar thanked the members of the previous consulting teams for their work with the planning group.
- 10. Agenda items for next meeting –**
  - a. Location and date of next meeting: The next Region K meeting will be held in-person on September 15, 2021 at the LCRA Dalchau Service Center, if possible. The September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will include the required pre-planning public hearing.
  - b. Other committee meetings: None.
- 11. New / Other Business (time permitting) –** None.
- 12. Public Comments –** None.
- 13. Adjourn –** The meeting was adjourned by Chairman David Van Dresar at 11:20 a.m.