

Meeting Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Regular Meeting
January 27, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Signing In:

Jim Brasher, GMA 15	Mike Reagor, Municipalities
John Burke, Water Utilities	Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Vanessa Escobar, GMA 10	Mitchel Sodek, GMA 8
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9	Byron Theodosis, Counties
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities	Jim Totten, GMA 12
Karen Haschke, Public Interest	Paul Tybor, GMA 7
Barbara Johnson, Industries	David Van Dresar, Water Districts
David Lindsay, Recreation	Charlie Flatten, Alternate for Environment
Jason Ludwig, Elect. Generating Utilities	David Wheelock, River Authorities
Jim Luther, Counties	Lann Bookout, Non-Voting, TWDB
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities	Rusty Ray, Non-Voting, TSSWCB
Ann McElroy, Environmental	Lauren Mays, Non-Voting, TDA
Charles Olfers, Agriculture	

Voting Members Absent:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business
Paul Sliva, Agriculture
James Sultemeier, Counties
Jennifer Walker, Environment, Alternate Attended
David Bradsby, Non-Voting, TPWD

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

Helen Gerlach, Austin Water	Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda
Marcin Tyszka, LCRA	Carol Olewin, Alternate for Public Interest
Kathleen Jackson, Board Member, TWDB	Cindy Smiley
Rebecca Batchelder, LCRA	David Villareal
Stacy Pandey, LCRA	Jennifer White
Evan Strickland, TWDB	Jordan Furnans, LRE Water
Jaime Burke, AECOM	Michael Redman
Alicia Smiley, AECOM	Sarah Hoes, Austin Water
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting	Marcus Richardson, Alt. for Small Business
Sarah Backhouse, TWDB	Christianne Castleberry, Alt. for Water
Adam Connor, FNI	Utilities

*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 Anne McElroy and seconded by Barbara Johnson to approve the proposed slate of Executive Committee members and officers for 2021.
2. The members of the Nominating Committee approved a motion made by Anne McElroy and seconded by Karen Haschke to approve the December 17, 2020 Nominating Committee meeting minutes.
3. The Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) approved a motion made by Teresa Lutes and seconded by Anne McElroy to approve additional terms for members who wished to continue serving on the Region K.
4. The LCRWPG, Charlie Flatten abstaining, approved a motion made by David Wheelock, seconded by Lauri Gillum approving the minutes as presented from the regular October 14, 2020 meeting.
5. The LCRPWG approved a motion by Ron Fieseler and seconded by Barbara Johnson to approve the Region K Political Subdivision to provide public notice and hold a pre-planning public meeting to obtain public input on the development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan and 2027 State Water Plan

Regular Meeting:

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman John Burke 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 John Burke welcomed all to the meeting.
3. **Report on Nominating Committee Recommendations** – Before reporting on the Nominating Committee, Ann McElroy presented a senate proclamation thanking Chair Burke for his many years of service on the Region K planning group. Kathleen Jackson and other members thanked John for all his work as the Chair of Region K.
 - a. Discuss and take action on election of Executive Committee and Officers:
Anne McElroy presented the slate of proposed Executive Committee members and officers, shown below. The group approved a motion made by Anne McElroy and seconded by Barbara Johnson to approve this proposed slate of Executive Committee members and officers for 2021
 - David Van Dresar, Chair
 - David Wheelock, Vice Chair
 - Teresa Lutes, Secretary
 - Paul Sliva, Member at Large
 - Paul Tybor, Member at Large
 - Jim Luther, Member at Large
 - b. Approval of minutes from January 27, 2021 Nomination Committee meeting: The members of the Nominating Committee approved a motion

made by Anne McElroy and seconded by Karen Haschke to approve the December 17, 2020 Nominating Committee meeting minutes

4. Discuss term expiration for several member representatives and take action as needed – Newly appointed David Van Dresar led the discussion regarding term expirations for Region K members.

- Daniel Berglund would like to continue serving on the group.
- Karen Haschke: indicated that she would like to retire from her position on the group and would nominate her alternate, Carol Olewin, to fill her vacated position.
- Jason Ludwig would like to continue serving on the group.
- Paul Sliva will continue serving on the group.
- Byron Theodosios would like to continue serving on the group.

The LCRWPG approved a motion made by Teresa Lutes and seconded by Anne McElroy to approve additional terms for members who wished to continue serving on the Region K planning group.

5. Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items numbers 8 through 11 – None.

6. Attendance Report – The Secretary’s attendance report was included in the members’ packets for review. Teresa Lutes introduced the new GMA 10 representative, Vanessa Escobar.

7. Approval of Minutes from the October 14, 2020 regular meeting – The LCRWPG approved a motion made by David Wheelock and seconded by Lori Gillum approving the minutes as presented from the regular October 14, 2020 meeting.

8. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) –

- a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules: TWDB Board Member Kathleen Jackson provided an update on regional water planning activities around the state. Board Member Jackson told the group that all 16 regional water plans have been approved and that TWDB is working to use those regional plans to put together the State Water Plan. She also provided an update on the new state flood planning process and highlighted recent changes to SWIFT and SRF to allow funding for projects today while also ensuring the funds’ availability in the future.

Lann Bookout, TWDB, then provided an update on the Board’s ongoing mining water use study. He also noted that there were no public comments received by the Board regarding the regional boundary review process, which is required to be performed every 5 years. Lann also noted that the 2021 SWIFT application is opening soon, and that SRF invitations were sent out recently.

Regarding the Region K group, Lann noted that they had approved the political subdivision to commence the 6th cycle of planning, and have an item on today’s agenda for the public meeting, so the group is in good shape

for the next cycle. Lann also provided a timeline for the Region K consultant selection process: the RFA will be posted March 12th 2021, along with the initial scope of work. The deadline to submit an application is 30 days after posting. Contract negotiations and execution will occur in June.

Lann also provided an update on the interregional planning council, which has developed recommendations and submitted a report to the Board in October 2020, which is available on TWDB's website. One recommendation to allow for virtual meetings to continue after COVID is a legislative priority for this session. The current interregional planning council will dissolve following adoption of the 2022 State Water Plan, and nominations for new council members will be requested.

9. Discuss authorizing the Region K Political Subdivision to provide public notice and hold a pre-planning public meeting to obtain public input on the development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan and 2027 State Water Plan. Take action as needed. – David Wheelock noted that this public meeting is typically held during one of the regular Region K meetings. If we chose to continue this method, that would result in the public hearing occurring at the next Region K or sometime in summer 2021. The LCRPWG approved a motion by Ron Fieseler and seconded by Barbara Johnson to approve the Region K Political Subdivision to provide public notice and hold a pre-planning public meeting to obtain public input on the development of the 2026 Regional Water Plan and 2027 State Water Plan.

10. Region K Website Update and Demonstration – Stacy Pandey, LCRA, provided an update and demo of the new Region K website. A new website is required as the website currently in use was created during the 5th planning cycle and will no longer be supported. The new website is proposed to be hosted on Squarespace, which will improve functionality and allow a mobile version of the website. The group discussed and provided input on the development of the new website, including ideas to include a public comment portal, post meeting recordings or links to meeting recordings, and others.

11. Update on Edwards-Trinity Plateau BRACS study and on the Hill Country project. – Evan Strickland, TWDB, gave a presentation on the Board Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System (BRACS) study of the Edwards-Trinity Plateau and on the Hill Country project.

12. Agenda items for next meeting.

- a. Location and date of next meeting: The next Region K meeting is proposed to be held April 15, 2021. The location will be virtual or at the LCRA Dalchau Service Center, if possible.
- b. Other committee meetings: The consultant search committee is planning to meet in the next few months, but no date has been set yet.

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

14. Public Comments – limit 3 minutes per person – None.

15. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned by Chairman David Van Dresar at 11:50 a.m.