

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting**  
**April 27, 2022**

LCRA Dalchau Service Center  
3505 Montopolis Drive  
Austin, TX  
10:00 a.m.

**Regular Meeting Minutes:**

**Members Signed in:**

Jim Brasher	Carol Olewin
Christianne Castleberry	Mike Reagor
Ron Fieseler	Mitchell Sodek
Lauri Gillam	Jim Totten
Barbara Johnson	Paul Tybor
David Lindsay	Emil Uecker
Jason Ludwig	David Wheelock
Teresa Lutes	Tim Loftus (Alternate for Michael Redman)
Ann McElroy	Charlie Flatten (Alternate for Jennifer Walker)

**Voting Members Absent**

Daniel Berglund	Paul Sliva
Jim Luther	Byron Theodosis
Charles Olfers	David Van Dresar
Michael Redman	Jennifer Walker
Robert Ruggiero	

**Support/Consultants/Visitors**

Annette Keaveny, LCRA	Stephanie Moore, INTERA
Sue Thornton, CTWC	Helen Gerlach, Austin Water
Dianne Wassenich, Region L	Sara Eatman, Austin Water
Lann Bookout, TWDB	Sara Hoes, Austin Water
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda	Jamie Burke, B&V
Vanessa Escobar, Blanton & Associates	Alicia Smiley, B&V
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm	Robert Adams, Plummer
Shrader Davis, CTGCD	Monica Masters, LCRA
Mike Thuss, WRA	Earl L. Foster
Andy Wier, SAWDF	Lauren Mayes, TDA
Laurence Brown, TSSWCB	

**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  
Number of voting members required for 2/3 vote: 17

## Formal Actions Taken:

1. The Regional Water Planning Group (RWPG) approved voting members with expiring terms to continue to serve for an additional term. These voting members are: Barbara Johnson (Industrial), Jim Luther (Counties), Teresa Lutes (Municipalities), Ann McElroy (Environmental), and Jennifer Walker (Environmental). The new terms will end in 2027.
2. The minutes from the January 26, 2022 meeting were approved as presented and minutes from the September 15, 2021 meeting were approved with changes.
3. The RWPG authorized the Lower Colorado River Authority to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 Regional Water Plans.

## Minutes:

1. Call to Order – Vice Chairman David Wheelock 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 – David Wheelock welcomed attendees.
3. Receive public comments on specific issues related to agenda items 4 through 11.

*Andy Wier, Executive Director for Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund (SAWDF).*

Mr. Wier described the work that SAWDF does for the area and thanked the group for including his comments in the September meeting minutes. The speaker expressed that best available science shows that groundwater pumping will reduce surface water. In Region K, pumping from the central Carrizo Aquifer will affect flows in the Colorado River. SAWDF encourages Region K to promote conservation, reuse, and aquifer storage and recovery projects. He recommended that those involved in regional water planning should read the 2021 publication “Five Gallons in a Ten Gallon Hat; Groundwater Sustainability in Texas” from Dr. Mace at the Meadows Center. Dr. Mace’s research shows that the modeled available groundwater (MAGs) numbers overestimate sustainable production (2020 MAGs are estimated to be 2.7 times higher than the sustainable pumping level), and Mr. Wier recommends that the LCRWPG consider applying a reduction to the MAGs for the purposes of sustainable planning. Mr. Wier expressed that sustainable production of groundwater can help protect surface water flow as well as property rights. Mr. Wier again urged the planning group to read the research from the Meadows Center and develop an informed and sustainable plan for central Texas’ water resources.

4. Planning Group Membership
  - a. Attendance report – Teresa Lutes
    - i. It was noted that Paul Sliva has attended fewer than half of the meetings over the last year, the goal set out in the bylaws. Ms. Lutes noted that she would reach out to Mr. Sliva and remind him of the attendance requirements.
  - b. Introduce GMA 10 representative Michael Redmond – Mr. Redmond was not able to attend the meeting. However, Mr. Tim Loftis, alternate for Mr. Redmond, was present in his place. Both Mr. Loftis and Mr. Redmond were welcomed.
  - c. Requests to continue serving from members with expired terms – David Wheelock. Bylaws require 2/3 of membership (17 votes) to approve a member for an additional term. Ron Fieseler made a motion to approve members with expiring

terms, considering them one-by-one to meet 2/3 requirement, to continue to serve for an additional term. Lauri Gillam seconded. The following membership renewals were all approved unanimously:

- Barbara Johnson
- Jim Luther
- Teresa Lutes
- Ann McElroy
- Jennifer Walker

The new terms will end in 2027.

5. Consider approval of Minutes – Teresa Lutes

- a. September 15, 2021 – Minutes were revised since they were presented at the January meeting to better reflect the public comments at the request of the planning group. Carol Olewin should be listed on the Bylaws Committee – meeting minutes item 10. Motion to approve was made by Barbara Johnson and seconded by Christianne Castleberry to approve the minutes with the noted changes.
- b. January 26, 2022 – A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Jim Brasher and seconded by Jason Ludwig.

6. Discussion the need for the RWPG to authorize the Lower Colorado River Authority to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 Regional Water Plans. David Wheelock noted that this authorization is only for the work that the Consultant outlined in the regional water planning overview presentation (available in the meeting materials posted on the Region K website). A motion was made by Jim Brasher to authorize the Lower Colorado River Authority to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 Regional Water Plans. This motion was seconded by Paul Tybor and approved unanimously by the planning group. (Note – during the meeting, this item was taken up after Agenda Item 9, below, Consultant report.)

7. Interregional Coordination Activities – David Wheelock

- a. Notice was sent to the Interregional Planning Council that David Van Dresar and Anne McElroy will serve as Region K's representative and alternate, respectively. No further updates were noted.
- b. Updates from liaisons to neighboring planning regions
  - i. Liaison to Region G: Michael Redman- Region G met March 23<sup>rd</sup> and discussed the region-specific timeline for planning; adopted updated bylaws and filled vacant positions.
  - ii. Liaison to Region J: Paul Tybor- No updates from Region J
  - iii. Liaison to Region L: Ron Fieseler - No update, trying to coordinate meetings and committees but anticipate being able to attend more consistently in the future, will have update at next meeting.

- iv. Liaison to Region P: Daniel Berglund (absent)
- v. Liaison to Region F: vacant
- vi. Liaison to Region H: vacant

## 8. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Report

- a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules – Lann Bookout

Mr. Bookout noted that TWDB adopted changes to the water planning rules on April 11<sup>th</sup>. SWIFT applications will be due the first part of May; decisions will be made in Summer. The TWDB will consider additions to scope and funding for Regional Water Planning contracts in July, in accordance with requests, (addressed in Agenda Item 6).

## 9. Consultant Report – Stephanie Moore, INTERA

- a. *Regional Water Planning 101*. Ms. Moore presented background on the regional and state water planning processes, regional water planning groups, and planning group membership and responsibilities. Ms. Moore also reviewed fundamentals of planning, including basic planning parameters, units and key terms, the planning process and flow, and standard plan chapters. Ms. Moore noted that her slides are from the TWDB and are available on the TWDB water planning website along with additional resources.

David Lindsay asked how the Lower Colorado River Authority Water Management Plan (WMP) and demand estimates are included in the regional water planning process. He also asked about water availability; if all permits and environmental requirements are included in the water availability calculation. Stephanie noted that at this point, early in the process, only population estimates are available and water availability modeling will be discussed later in the cycle. David Wheelock called attention to slide 28 in the presentation addressing water availability, which includes agricultural use, environmental needs, regulatory requirements, and the LCRA WMP. Environmental flows are not listed as a demand in the regional water planning process.

- b. *6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Planning progress*. Ms. Moore noted that comments or corrections to the water user group (WUG) list and historical data are due July 29, 2022; the livestock, manufacturing, and steam electric power generation water demand projections were released in January 2022, and the mining and irrigation demands (the other two non-municipal demands) will be released later in 2022. Request for revisions for all non-municipal draft demands will be due July 2023.

- i. *Draft Livestock, Manufacturing and Steam Electric demand projections.*

- 1. Livestock: Stephanie presented the livestock demand projections for Region K. This is not a large use sector for Region K. For the 2026 regional water plan (RWP) livestock use coefficients were adjusted slightly, resulting in a slightly lower projected livestock demand over the planning horizon.

Barbara Johnson asked if there is a comparison of past projected use and actual use to determine how accurate projections in this

category have been in the past. Stephanie said that it is very difficult to measure actual livestock water use, so there is not a comparison she is aware of. Lann added that there is a one-pager methodology covering the method used to make the livestock projections for those interested in diving in to the methodology in more detail. According to Lann, the drop in demands may have been influenced by a switch from production numbers to inventory numbers of livestock, as TWDB decided that inventory numbers were a better representation of actual use. Overall, the new projection represents a relatively small decrease (~1,000 AFY) compared to projections from the last planning round (2021 Plan).

2. Manufacturing shows an increase from last cycle's projections by about 3,000 in 2030 to 8,000 AFY by the end of the planning horizon. Lann added that the methodology last time assumed constant manufacturing after 5 years; got feedback that that was not appropriate, so now the methodology linearly increases through the planning horizon.

David Lindsay asked if new plants in the Austin area (like Tesla) are incorporated into the manufacturing demands? Teresa Lutes said that that is something Austin will look at and will consider working through the Population and Demand Committee process to see if the planning group would want to potentially request a TWDB revision, if needed, to capture that growth once the projections are further reviewed.

3. Steam Electric demand projections were developed using the same methodology as 2021 RWP process, but demands are about 60,000 AFY lower than last cycle due to changes in facility assumptions. The 2026 plan process projections include relatively large-scale decreases in Fayette and Matagorda Counties.

Mike Reagor noted that there projected manufacturing demand increases and steam electric decreases and that it seems like those would be correlated to either both go up or down together. David Wheelock noted that past trends in the electric industry have shown increased efficiency and less use of water in addition to use of renewable energy sources, so projection decreases may reflect that.

Carol Olewin asked about nuclear plants; Jason Ludwig said that no additional nuclear units are currently planned to the South Texas Project facility. Teresa Lutes noted that the demand committee will look at the demands in more detail, and that the City of Austin also has steam-electric demands that need to be reviewed.. All members are encouraged to review information and bring up questions/ comments, not just the interest group representatives.

- ii. *Municipal WUG list, GPCD, historical population and water use.* There is a July 29, 2022 deadline for feedback to TWDB on the water user group (WUG) list and historical data. A municipal WUG is defined as utility with annual water use of more than 100 AF, or any utility that the planning group designates as a WUG. WUGs from past planning rounds with active public

water systems (PWSs) were carried over to this planning cycle, and new WUGs were added, as needed, based on 2015-2019 water use. Utilities with use levels that do not meet the WUG requirement are grouped in the County-Other category (includes domestic well use).

David Lindsay asked if a new water treatment plant for an existing entity would be included; Stephanie answered yes if it is an existing PWS, but if anyone knows of new PWS that may not be included please let the Region K consultant know. Mike Reagor noted that a company in Llano announced a new hydroelectric facility —David Wheelock noted that that should be captured in the steam-electric demand projection category.

Region K WUG list—in the 2021 planning cycle there were 115 WUGs, in 2026 there are 108 proposed WUGs (including 13 County-Other WUGs). 18 WUGs were removed and 11 new WUGs were added. INTERA is preparing the contact list for all the WUGs. Need to review WUG list and historical data by July 29th, so it was suggested that a a Population and Demand Committee meeting needs to be scheduled to review this data and make recommendations to the full planning group.

- iii. *Schedule Population and Demand Projection Committee meeting.* The goal of the committee meeting would be to review the list of WUGs for completeness and accuracy. Eighteen WUG's were removed (possibly merged or spans multiple regions and are planned for by another region). There are eleven new WUGs that passed the 100 acre/foot annual use threshold since the last plan. Region K has a total of 108 WUGs. Logistics of setting the Population and Demand Projection Meeting were discussed.
- iv. *Website updates.* Various website revisions were made. Region K committees are listed including all of the members. All meeting materials are posted and available on the Region K website.
- c. *Upcoming efforts.* The Population and Demand Projection Committee are going to meet and come back, will be presented during the July meeting. INTERA's team will begin updating WUG contact list, in preparation to review draft municipal demands. August 2022 mining will be complete. September 2022 both Mining and irrigation demand projections. February 2023 population and municipal demand projections should be available.

10. Upcoming meetings:

- a. The next meeting will be held July 27, 2022, at the LCRA Dalchau Service Center
- b. The Population and Demand Projection Committee meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2022 at INTERA's offices in Austin

11. New / Other Business (time permitting) - None

12. Public Comments – - None

- 13. Adjourn- The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.