

Meeting Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group
Regular Meeting
January 26, 2022

Hybrid Meeting, Offered on Zoom and In-Person
LCRA Dalchau Service Center
3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX
10:00 a.m.

Members Signed in:

Daniel Berglund	Mike Reagor
Jim Brasher	Michael Redman
John Burke	Robert Ruggiero
Ron Fieseler	Byron Theodosis
Lauri Gillam	Jim Totten
Barbara Johnson	Paul Tybor
David Lindsay	Jennifer Walker
Jason Ludwig	David Wheelock
Teresa Lutes	Dennis Neffendorf (Alternate for Charles Olfers)
Jim Luther	Paul Babb (Alternate for Mitchell Sodek)
Ann McElroy	Emil Uecker (Alternate for James Sultemeier)
Carol Olewin	Paul Sliva

Voting Members Absent:

Charles Olfers	David Van Dresar
Mitchell Sodek	James Sultemeier

Non-Voting Members Signed In:

Lawrence Brown, Jr., Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	Lann Bookout, TWDB
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Non-Voting Members, Support, Consultants, and Visitors:

Alyson McDonald, Collier Consulting	Annette Keaveny, LCRA
Andy Wier, SAWDF	Augusto Villalon, FNI
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda	Charlie Flatten, Hays-Trinity GCD
Christianne Castleberry, CEG	Walt Smith, Hays County
Cindy Hobson, TPWD	Cindy Smiley
David Marino, BSEACD	David Villareal, Texas Department of Agriculture
Dianne Wassenich, Region L	Earl Foster, Lakeway MUD
Helen Gerlach, Austin Water	Jamie Burke, B&V
Jason Afinowicz, FNI	Jason Homan, Travis County WCID 17
Jennifer Schein	Jo Karr Tedder, Central Texas Water Coalition
Vanessa Escobar, Blanton & Associates	Joe Don Dockery
Justin McMahon	Josh Becker, City of Llano
Karen Haschke	Valerie Miller, LCRA
Marcus Richardson	Lauren Gonzalez, B&V
Marcin Tyszka	Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Austin Water
Stephanie Moore, INTERA	Monica Masters, LCRA
Sara Eatman, Austin Water	Sarah Backhouse, TWDB
Sara Hoes, Austin Water	Stacy Pandey, LCRA

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

Number of votes required for 2/3 majority of voting membership approval: 17

Formal Actions Taken:

1. The Nominating Committee recommendations to elect the following Officers and Executive Committee for calendar year 2022 was approved:
 - David Van Dresar - Chair,
 - David Wheelock - Vice-Chair,
 - Teresa Lutes - Secretary,
 - Daniel Berglund – At-large Member
 - Byron Theodosis, – At-large Member
 - Jennifer Walker – At-large Member
2. Revisions to the Bylaws recommended by the Bylaws Committee, with the exception of the recommendation to increase the number of voting members, were approved.
3. Emil Uecker was elected to represent the Counties interest.
4. Christianne Castleberry was elected to represent the Water Utilities interest.
5. Chair David Van Dresar was approved to be the Region K nominee to the Interregional Planning Council. Anne McElroy was approved to be the alternate to Chair Van Dresar.
6. Certification of LCRA's billing to TWDB for administrative expenses related to Task 10 work for the entire Planning Cycle 5 was approved.

Minutes:

1. **Call to Order** – Vice Chair David Wheelock called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.
2. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair David Wheelock welcomed all to the meeting and asked Teresa Lutes to call roll to record attendance.
 - Roll Call, 23 members present (including 3 alternates) – note that one additional voting member arrived after roll call for a total of 24 members present (including 3 alternates)
3. **Public Comment:**
 - Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda.
 - Noted a correction to the minutes from the September meeting, incorrectly stating Walt Smith's board membership, Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency (HCPUA) should be West Travis County Public Utility Agency (WTCPUA)
 - Agenda item 5, talking about term expiration dates, noted that he thinks that Groundwater Management Area (GMA) and river authority members do not have an expiration date, suggested striking those categories from the expiration discussion
 - Reiterate that the City of Buda supports Walt Smith for the Counties position, as shown in the letter they submitted
 - Jason Homan noted that he prefers to speak during his nomination item
 - Joe Don Dockery – Regarding bylaws under item 8, suggests adding another water utility position in an effort to strive for diversity. Would also be a good time to add additional voting member positions for water supply and management for diversity and coverage

reasons. From his perspective, the group has one river authority representative, seven groundwater area representatives, and only one water utility representative. The water utility area is what supports the area's dramatic growth and conservation. At least 3 other regions have multiple water utility positions. All water strategies need to go through this board. Need to address both surface and groundwater. There are two good nominees, should make an effort as a board to incorporate both people. Burnet County Commissioners took action and expressed unanimous support of Jason Homan. Two commissioners, Ann Howard and Brigid Shea from Travis County, represent about 1/2 million people and have submitted letters of support for Jason Homan.

- Andy Wier submitted a correction to the minutes from the September 2021 meeting. Mr. Wier expressed that he wanted to correct the way his comments from the September 2021 Public Hearing were reflected in the draft minutes. Mr. Wier expressed interest in noting that when groundwater pumping increases you can take water from surface waters, so there is a concern about risk of double counting.

4. **Consider approval of Minutes from the September 15, 2021 regular meeting** – Two changes were requested; Walt Smith is a board member of the West Travis County PUA, not the Hays County PUA, and Andy Wier requested that the summary of his public comment regarding groundwater in the The committee decides to table the approval until the stated corrections are made. Mr. Wier provided the language in the group chat for all to review.
5. **Attendance report** – Teresa Lutes noted that the attendance report is in the packet. It was requested that members check the attendance report and provide any corrections, as needed.
6. **Discuss term expiration for several voting members and take action as needed** – Teresa Lutes noted that the members with terms expiring include: Ann McElroy, Barbara Johnson, Jim Luther, Teresa Lutes, and Jennifer Walker. Term limitations do not apply to GMA representatives. Members interested in continuing to serve on the planning group should e-mail Sara Eatman and this item will be taken up again at the upcoming planning group meeting.
7. **Report on Nominating Committee Recommendations** – Ann McElroy, Chair of Nominating Committee presented the Nominating Committee recommendations.

The Nominating Committee met and are recommending the following Officers and Executive Committee for calendar year 2022:

- David Van Dresar - Chair,
- David Wheelock - Vice-Chair,
- Teresa Lutes - Secretary,
- Daniel Berglund – At-large Member
- Byron Theodosis, – At-large Member
- Jennifer Walker – At-large Member

A motion to approve the Nominating Committee recommendations for the Officers and Executive Committee for calendar year 2022 was approved unanimously.

8. Committee Reports

a. Bylaws Committee

- i. Report on recommendation for changes to the LCRWPG Bylaws

Barbara Johnson, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, reported that the committee met several times to address two issues; first, the composition of Region K, and second to align the bylaws with TWDB and other guidance and for readability. Ms. Johnson outlined major highlights from the proposed bylaws revisions:

- a) Recommends the addition of one seat for a total of twenty-six (26) in an effort to improve geographic representation,
 - b) Changes wording to clarify the process for how GMA representatives are appointed,
 - c) Changes the limitations on the roles of alternates for officers which prevent them from serving in the place of the officer to not apply to the alternate for the Secretary,
 - d) Adds clarifying language in line with Texas Open Meetings Act, including that a quorum is defined as the majority of voting members excluding vacancies.
- ii. Discuss and take action on recommendation for changes to the LCRWPG Bylaws from Bylaws Committee. Note that a 2/3 majority approval is required.
- Committee Chair Johnson made a motion, John Burke seconded, to amend the Bylaws as recommended by the Bylaws Committee.
 - An amendment to the original motion to raise the number to 27 was made by David Lindsay and seconded by Jim Luther.
- Discussion on the amendment: Jim Brasher gave a presentation which described the distribution of water demand around the region and advocated for additional representation for lower basin interests.
- The amendment to the original motion proposing 27 voting members instead of 26 did not pass by a roll call vote 4 in favor and 20 opposed.
 - The original motion to accept the bylaws as recommended by the committee did not pass by a roll call vote of 11 in favor, 11 opposed, and 2 abstentions.
 - Jim Brasher made a motion, Daniel Berglund seconded, to accept all changes as recommended by committee, with the exception of the recommendation (a) to increase the number of voting members. The motion passed with 21 in favor, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

b. Executive Committee

Teresa Lutes, Secretary, provided a report on January 6, 2022 Executive Committee meeting and recommendations to fill vacancies. The Executive Committee recommendations:

- Emil Uecker for the Counties position
 - Walt Smith for an additional vacancy if the proposed Bylaws change to increase the number of voting members to 26 is approved by the planning group
- (Note: the planning group did not vote to approve the proposed Bylaws change to increase the number of voting members to 26)
- Christianne Castleberry for the Water Utilities position

9. Consider election of voting members to fill vacancies

- a. Discuss and take action on filling the Counties interest representative vacancy:

A motion was made by Teresa Lutes, seconded by Ron Fiesler, to approve the Executive Committee recommendation for Emil Uecker to fill the single County representative vacancy. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 18 in favor, 4 against, and 1 abstention (by Emil Uecker). Note that for this vote, one voting member who had been in attendance was out of the room for this vote.

There were no additional nominations from the floor.

b. Discuss and take action on Water Utilities interest representative vacancy:

A motion was made by Jennifer Walker, seconded by Lauri Gillam, to approve the Executive Committee recommendation of Chrisitanne Castleberry for the Water Utilities representative vacancy.

David Lindsey made a nomination from the floor, seconded by Jim Luther, to nominate Jason Homan for the Water Utilities representative vacancy. Vice Chair Wheelock asked both candidates to introduce themselves

Chrisitanne Castleberry addressed the planning group in regard to her interest in representation for the Water Utilities vacancy. Ms. Castleberry has served as John Burke's alternate on the planning group and has attended planning group and committee meetings for a number of years. Ms. Castleberry has a BS and MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UC Davis and is a Professional Engineer in Texas and California. She has over 26 years in experience working for, with, and in direct representation of water utilities, planning and designing water supply projects and serving with Texas Section of the AWWA and on other boards.

Jason Homan introduced himself to the planning group. He is the General Manager of Travis County WCID 17 (45,000 residents served with water and wastewater services). As a water utility manager, he is responsible for every facet of water planning of a growing utility and understands the importance of water planning, conservation, financing, and other vital factors. He has support from municipal, political, and business interests. As an experienced water utility manager Mr. Homan expressed that he would serve a valuable role, would provide valuable perspective, and would represent water utilities across the region.

A roll call vote was first held on the motion to approve the Executive Committee recommendation of Chrisitanne Castleberry for the Water Utilities representative vacancy. This motion passed with 20 in favor and 3 against. Note that for this vote, one voting member who had been in attendance was out of the room for this vote.

Since the approval of this motion filled the vacancy, then a vote on the nomination from the floor was not needed.

10. Recognize recently resigned members.

David Wheelock recognized recently resigned members of the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group: Karen Haschke, John Burke, and James Sultemeier, in appreciation of their years of service.

11. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Report

Lann Bookout provided an update on regional water planning activities and schedules. As an update of efforts, the comment period on TWDB proposed rules, including rules related to regional water planning closed on the 31st of May. The final rules will be taken to the TWDB in the Spring. Lann offered that TWDB is happy to provide presentations on any of the upcoming projections and on an ASR study that is being conducted in the area. The projections were recently sent out for livestock, steam and electric. In March, the water user group lists will be released and the historical population, net use, and GPCD information for each group will be included for review. In August the irrigation and mining projections are planned to be released. Requests for changes are due in July 2023 to the non-municipal projections. August 2023 is the deadline for requests for changes to the municipal demand projections.

12. Consultant Report – Stephanie Moore, INTERA

- **Progress to date-** Contracting is complete.
- **Upcoming efforts-** Preliminary projections have been released by the TWDB for some sectors. Stephanie requested that anyone with specific concerns about the projections can reach out to her to let her know. Ms. Moore asked the committee about interest in holding a regional planning 101 meeting to refresh and go over the process and policies for the next meeting.

13. Interregional Coordination Activities –

- **Interregional Planning Council.** David Wheelock discussed the deadline for nominations and requested nominations for a representative and alternate for the Interregional Planning Council. Teresa Lutes made a motion for David Van Dresar to be the nominee for the Interregional Planning Council which passed unanimously. Jennifer Walker made a motion for Anne McElroy to be the alternate, and Teresa Lutes seconded; the nomination passed unanimously. Lann Bookout requested that these nominations be submitted in an email to TWDB
- Members who have offered to serve as liaisons to other Regional Water Planning Groups were discussed. The member liaisons are:
 - Michael Redman – Region G
 - Ron Fielser – Region L
 - Paul Tybor – Region J
 - Daniel Berglund - Region P

14. Discuss certification of any administrative expenses related to Task 10 work and take action, as needed. David Wheelock described that there are mailing and posting costs associated with the public notification processes that are incurred by LCRA as the administrator; these are all direct expenses, no overhead, which can be reimbursed under the TWDB's regional water planning rules. Vice-Chair Wheelock requested a motion and a second to approve certification of LCRA's billings to TWDB for administrative expenses related to Task 10 work for the entire Planning Cycle 5. This is for reimbursement to LCRA for direct out of pocket costs required for public notices of public hearings. The motion was made by Lauri Gillam, seconded by Mike Reagor, and the motion passed.

15. Review, discuss, and update committee membership rosters as needed. David Wheelock asked the committee to email him directly if interested in joining or continuing membership.

16. Upcoming meetings:

- Date of next RWPG meeting- April 27, 2022
- Other committee meetings- David Wheelock mentioned that he will be unable to attend the TWDB Chairs Conference call at 2:00 pm (1/26) and asked for a volunteer to cover the meeting (Teresa Lutes and Stephanie Moore said that can plan to attend). Jennifer Walker requested materials from the Chairs Conference be shared out to the planning group.

17. New / Other Business - None.

18. Public Comments – None.

19. Adjourn- The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm