

MEETING MINUTES

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

April 26, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

LCRA Dalchau Service Center
3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX

Members Signed in:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business	Charlie Flatten, Environment (Alternate)
Jim Brasher, GMA 15	Monica Masters, River Authorities
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utilities	Ann McElroy, Environmental
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9	Carol Olewin, Public Interest
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities	Mike Reagor, Municipalities
David Lindsay, Recreation	Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Barbara Johnson, Industries	Paul Sliva, Agriculture
Tim Loftus, GMA 10	Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8
Jim Luther, Counties	Jim Totten, GMA 12
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities	David Van Dresar, Water Districts

Voting Members Absent:

Jody Fauley, Counties	Charles Olfers, Agriculture
Jason Ludwig, Electric Gen. Utilities	Emil Uecker, Counties
Jennifer Walker, Environmental	Paul Tybor, GMA 7

Support/Consultants/Visitors:

Adam Conner, FNI	Sara Eatman, Austin Water
Dana Michaud	Helen Gerlach, Austin Water
Annette Keaveny, LCRA	Sarah Hoes, Austin Water
Lann Bookout, TWDB	Robert Adams, Plummer
Mike Thuss, WRA	Earl L. Foster, LMUD
Sue Thornton, CTWC and Alternate for Recreation	Laurence Brown, TSSWCB
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda	Jason Homan, Alternate for Environmental
Carol Faulkenberg, TDA	Dianne Wassenich, Region L Liaison
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm	Paul Babb, GMA 9-8
Stacy Pandey, LCRA	

Quorum

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 20

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 minutes from the January 11, 2023 planning group meeting were approved as presented.
2. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) draft projections were accepted for Livestock and Steam Electric demands.
3. The Population and Demand Committee's recommended revisions and subsequent submittal to TWDB were approved for Irrigation, Manufacturing, and Mining.

Regular Meeting:

1. Chairman David Van Dresar called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.
2. Chairman Van Dresar welcomed all to the meeting and asked that members introduce themselves.
3. Public Comments. Cindy Smiley, of Smiley Law, provided public comment thanked the planning group for their efforts. Ms. Smiley asked that the members not rely on the standardized approach for developing demands that is used at a state level but to look for local information wherever available and to err on the side of caution. Ms. Smiley noted the criticality of developing comprehensive demand estimates, including any uses that require releases from LCRA's reservoirs.
4. Planning Group Membership
 - a. Secretary Teresa Lutes noted that attendance was taken during introductions.
 - b. Ms. Lutes called the group's attention to the attendance report included in packets for review and correction, if needed.
5. Consider approval of Minutes
 - a. Chairman Van Dresar asked that the planning group review and consider approval of the January 11, 2023 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Ron Fiesler, seconded by, Daniel Berglund and approved with none opposed.
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Lauri Gillam, Chair of the Population and Demand Committee, reported on their meetings, held on February 2, February 28, and April 10, 2023. Ms. Gillam noted that the committee is focused only on population and demands, and progress made by the committee and consultant so far includes recommendations for revisions of irrigation and manufacturing demand estimates.

Ms. Gillam noted that in the last planning cycle, some members of the RWPG requested that environmental flows be included in the demands portion of the planning process. David Lindsay expressed concern that water releases through the dams for the environment should be appropriately accounted for. The group discussed that environmental flow requirements are accounted for later in the planning process, and

Chair Van Dresar made a recommendation that an Environmental Flows 101 session be included on the agenda for the next regular planning group meeting.

7. Consultant Report

- a. Robert Adams, Plummer, presented a summary of the proposed non-municipal demand revisions as recommended by the Population and Demand Committee.
 - i. Mr. Adams reviewed how livestock counts have changed over time and made a note that this accounts for a very small amount of overall demand projections. The Committee did not recommend any revisions to the Livestock projections.
 - ii. Mr. Adams presented the demand projections associated with Steam Electric power generation and relayed that the Committee did not request revisions of these estimates. Chair Van Dresar asked about Fayette, and Monica Masters noted that the projections were in line with recent usage and that Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) reviewed all of the projections and agrees with them. Discussion followed about the increase in demand for power associated with growing population, and the move of power generation toward lower water use technologies.
 - iii. Mr. Adams presented revisions recommended for the Manufacturing demand projections in Burnet, Matagorda, and Travis counties. Mr. Adams explained that a couple of existing businesses that were missing from the data have been included, and both LCRA and City of Austin projections for future manufacturing demand were used to develop revised projections for those three counties. The Committee recommended the revisions presented.
 - iv. The draft mining demands were presented by Mr. Adams, which were developed by TWDB based on updated information from the Bureau of Economic Geology. Mr. Adams described revisions requested from the Population and Demand Committee, which include increases in Burnet County from Groundwater Conservation District (GCD) data and Llano County for a specific aggregate mine.
 - v. The consulting team recognized Stacy Pandey and Daniel Berglund for their contributions in developing the proposed irrigation projection revisions. Mr. Adams noted that surface water irrigation and groundwater irrigation were considered separately and rely on different data sources. Mr. Adams presented the recommended approach for surface water, which uses the maximum irrigated acreage since 2011 and the water use per acre from 2022 for the first crop, and second season irrigation demand based on the highest use since 2016. Mr. Adams explained the recommended groundwater methodology based on average groundwater demand during the 2011-2014 drought from the GCD and TWDB data sources available for each county.
- b. Adam Conner, of Freese and Nichols, was introduced to present draft municipal population and demand projections.
 - i. Mr. Conner described the TWDB's process for developing population and demand estimates, which relies on Texas Data Center population estimates at a county level and distributing those among Water User Groups (WUGs). Mr. Conner explained that the projections are based on the cohort component method, which considers birth rate, death rate, and two different migration rates which are either 100% of historical migration or 50% of historical migration, referred to as the 1.0 and 0.5 projections, respectively. The planning group discussed the difficulty associated with per capita

accounting for water use in vacation rentals and second homes, which are not associated with a population unless there is full-time residency but do have water usage, which would result in a higher Gallons Per Capita per Day (GPCD) use rate. The planning group noted that utilities are likely to assume a population associated with each connection, which may be a source of some differences between TWDB estimates and the utility estimates.

Mr. Conner noted that the demand estimates are based on GPCD and an estimate of passive conservation savings associated with plumbing code changes, which are being reviewed by TWDB, and may result in updated demand estimates. David Lindsay noted that he is concerned with the demands associated with Brushy Creek, which are accounted for in Region G but draw their water from the Highland Lakes. It was clarified that the transfer of water from Region K to Region G for this purpose is accounted for in the water supplies accounting part of the regional water planning process.

- ii. Mr. Conner presented the progress to date on the consultant's WUG survey and the timeline for completion.
 - c. The consulting team noted that the non-municipal demands have been reviewed and revision recommendations have been presented.
 - d. The consultants discussed their ongoing coordination with the Population and Demand Committee and intent to finalize review of municipal demands prior to the next meeting.
8. The planning group considered and took action on each category of non-municipal water user group demand revision requests, and the following submittal of revision requests to TWDB by the consultant.
 - a. Livestock demand projection revisions: Lauri Gillam moved to accept the TWDB draft projections, Daniel Berglund seconded, and the motion passed.
 - b. Steam electric demand projection: Barbara Johnson moved to accept the TWDB draft projections, Christianne Castleberry seconded, and the motion passed.
 - c. Mining demand projections: Teresa Lutes moved to submit the recommended revision request to TWDB, Mitchell Sodek seconded. Discussion followed, and the motion passed.
 - d. Manufacturing demand projections: Monica Masters moved to submit the recommended revision request to TWDB, Daniel Berglund seconded, and the motion passed.
 - e. Irrigation demand projections: Lauri Gillam moved to submit the recommended revision request to TWDB, Daniel Berglund seconded. David Lindsay requested an overview document like what was provided in the last cycle when it is available. The motion passed.

9. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Report

Lann Bookout, TWDB, reviewed the submittal schedule for revision requests of municipal and non-municipal demands. He also noted that the plumbing code estimates for passive conservation are being reviewed and may result in revised demand estimates being released.

10. Interregional Coordination Activities

- a. Barbara Johnson reported for Terry Bray, Region G Liaison, that Region G will take up the Liberty Hill project at their May meeting. Lann Bookout noted that Liberty Hill

has withdrawn the application for funding for the Gandy Pond project, but they're now proposing a wellfield in Williamson County which may require review in the future.

- b. Ron Fieseler provided an update that Region L is on the same timeline as Region K and doing similar reviews of the draft demands.
- c. Dianne Wassenich introduced herself as the liaison from Region L. The planning group discussed coordination required between these two regions and noted that the current focus is on information sharing.

11. Chair Van Dresar called the group's attention to the financial report provided in the packet and requested review.

12. Upcoming meetings

- a. Regular meeting: July 12th at Dalchau Service Center
- c. Ongoing Population and Demand Committee meetings to be announced.

13. Future agenda items: a water modeling discussion will be included in the July agenda.

14. No additional public comments were provided.

15. Adjourn 11:41