

MEETING MINUTES

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

July 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

LCRA Dalchau Service Center

3505 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX

*Meeting materials and an audio recording of the full meeting proceedings
are available at regionk.org/all-meetings*

Voting Members Signed in:

Jim Brasher, GMA 15	Charlie Flatten, Environment (Alternate)
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities	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	Paul Tybor, GMA 7
Barbara Johnson, Industries	Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8
Kendell Bell-Enders, GMA 10 (Alternate)	Emil Uecker, Counties
Jason Ludwig, Electric Gen. Utilities	Jim Totten, GMA 12
Jim Luther, Counties	

Voting Members Absent:

Jody Fauley, Counties	Charles Olfers, Agriculture
Tim Loftus, GMA 10	David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business	Daniel Berglund, Small Business
Paul Sliva, Agriculture	Jennifer Walker, Environmental

Support/Consultants/Visitors:

Jason Homan, Environmental Alternate	Sara Eatman, Austin Water
Justin DuRant, FNI	Marisa Flores-Gonzalez, Austin Water
Earl L. Foster, Small Municipalities Alternate	Helen Gerlach, Austin Water
Jon Albright, FNI	Sarah Hoes, Austin Water
Earl Wood, Water Utilities Alternate	Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting
Annette Keaveny, LCRA	Shannon Hamilton, CTWC
Lann Bookout, TWDB	Robert Adams, Plummer
Mike Thuss, WRA	Jordan Furnans, LRE Water

Stacy Pandey, LCRA
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda
Daria Deeds, Austin Water
Nick Zackoff, Lake Buchanan
Conservation Corporation
Terry Bray, Industry Alternate

Laurence Brown, TSSWCB
Lauren Gonzalez, Black & Veatch
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm
Sue Thornton, CTWC

Quorum

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 19

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 April 26, 2023 planning group meeting were approved as presented.
2. A motion was approved to accept the proposed population and municipal demand revision request, authorize the consultant to submit to the TWDB on the planning group's behalf, and to authorize the consultant to make minor changes to the revision request based on further discussion with TWDB as needed prior to final submittal.
3. A motion was approved to accept a minor correction for irrigation demand projections for submittal to TWDB as presented.
4. A motion was approved to authorize LCRA to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to increase the total project cost and committed funds for the 2026 RWP.

Regular Meeting:

1. Vice Chair Monica Masters called the meeting to order at 10:09am.
2. Vice Chair Masters welcomed all to the meeting and asked that members introduce themselves.
3. Public Comment
 - a. Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law. Ms. Smiley thanked the planning group and the chair of the water modeling committee and asked that the planning group tailor the state-wide standard processes for water modeling to our region and minimize risk.
 - b. Jordan Furnans, LRE Water. Mr. Furnans provided feedback on environmental flow releases: the 33,000 acre-feet that is designated for environmental flow is only half of what LCRA has been releasing. Mr. Furnans strongly urged group to increase storage designated for environmental flow to 66,000 AF.
4. Planning Group Membership
 - a. Secretary Teresa Lutes asks the group to review the attendance information provided in the packet and let her know if there are any corrections that need to be made.

5. Vice Chair Masters asked the planning group to review the April 26, 2023 LCRWPG regular meeting draft minutes. Ron Fieseler made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, which was seconded by Jim Totten. Approved with none opposed.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Water Modeling Committee Chair Teresa Lutes provided an update on the most recent Water Modeling Committee meeting and additional meetings planned for August and September. Ms. Lutes noted that the committee is going to develop an updated Hydrologic Variance Request, and a draft will be provided to the group at the next meeting. Barbara Johnson and Christianne Castleberry requested to be included in that committee.
- b. Population and Demand Committee meeting Chair Lauri Gillam provided a report on meetings May 22, June 12, and June 22, 2023. The committee has substantially completed their work and is providing their recommendation for demand revisions (Item 7).

7. Population and Water Demand Projections

- a. A summary of proposed population and municipal demand revisions from Population and Demand Committee was presented by Adam Conner, FNI. Mr. Conner's presentation and the draft technical memo are included in the meeting packet.
- b. Vice Chair Masters asked that the voting membership consider Agenda item 7b. Lori Gillam made a motion to accept the proposed population and municipal demand revision request, authorize the consultant to submit to the TWDB on the planning group's behalf, and to authorize the consultant to make minor changes to the revision request based on further discussion with TWDB as needed prior to final submittal. The motion was seconded by Christianne Castleberry, and the motion passed with Mike Reagor abstaining.
- c. Robert Adams, Plummer, presented a minor correction of 400 acre-feet in how Wharton County's irrigation demand was split between Regions K and G. Barbara Johnson made a motion to accept the revision as presented, and Ron Fieseler seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Adams' presentation and the draft technical memo are included in the meeting packet.

8. Consultant Report

- a. Robert Adams, Plummer, and Jon Albright, FNI, provided an Environmental Flows 101 presentation (see presentation in meeting packet). The planning group discussed LCRA's WMP and environmental releases in typical conditions and during drought periods.
- b. Robert Adams, Plummer, indicated that the non-municipal demand revision requests are progressing on schedule.
- c. Neil Deeds, INTERA, provided a summary of progress to date.
- d. Neil Deeds, INTERA, provided a summary on upcoming efforts and key dates.

9. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Report – Lann Bookout, TWDB

- a. Lann Bookout provided an update on regional water planning activities and schedules. Mr. Bookout shared that additional funding will be available to support the work on determining the feasibility of Water Management Strategies (WMS) recommended in the 2021 RWP.
- b. Mr. Bookout requested that the group authorize LCRA to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to increase the total project cost and committed funds for the 2026 RWP. Teresa Lutes made said motion, David Lindsay seconded, and the motion passed.

10. Interregional Coordination Activities – Vice Chair Masters

- a. Ron Fieseler, Liaison to Region L, told the group that he will attend the next Region L meeting, but that he is in the process of retirement at the end of September. The GMA 9 meeting will be held September 5th and a new representative will be selected.
- b. Terry Bray reported on the recent Region G meeting at which there were two projects considered for Liberty Hill: a wellfield in Eastern Williamson County (however, it was not clear which RWPG it is located in) and a reuse project. Mr. Bray shared that Region G supported the reuse project but declined to support the wellfield project until additional information is made available.

11. Vice Chair Masters asked the planning group to review the financial report provided in the meeting packet.

12. Upcoming meetings– Vice Chair Masters

- a. The next RWPG meeting will be held October 4th
- b. Water Modeling Committee meetings will be scheduled by committee chair Teresa Lutes with input on availability.

13. No future agenda items were discussed.

14. No additional public comments were provided.

15. Adjourn 11:32 am.