

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting**

**October 4, 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](https://regionk.org/all-meetings)***

**Voting Members Signed in:**

Daniel Berglund, Small Business	Jason Homan, Counties (Alternate)
Jim Brasher, GMA 15	Monica Masters, River Authorities
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utilities	Paul Tybor, GMA 7
Jennifer Walker, Environmental	Carol Olewin, Public Interest
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities	Mike Reagor, Municipalities
David Lindsay, Recreation	Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Barbara Johnson, Industries	David Van Dresar, Groundwater Districts
Tim Loftus, GMA 10	Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities	Jim Totten, GMA 12
Paul Babb, GMA 9	

**Voting Members Absent:**

Jody Fauley, Counties	Charles Olfers, Agriculture
Jason Ludwig, Electric Gen. Utilities	Emil Uecker, Counties
Ann McElroy, Environmental	Paul Silva, Agriculture
Jim Luther, Counties	

**Support/Consultants/Visitors:**

Adam Conner, FNI	Sara Eatman, Austin Water
Ron Fieseler	Emily Rafferty, Austin Water
Gary Rabalais, Quiddity	Nieves Alfaro, Quiddity

Annette Keaveny, LCRA	Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting
Lann Bookout, TWDB	Robert Adams, Plummer
Leonard Oliver, LCRA	Earl Wood, Water Utilities
Tom Englehart	Laurence Brown, TSSWCB
Leslie Soto, LCRA	Jordan Furnans, LRE Water
Alicia Smiley, B&V	Dacy Cameron, Aqua WSC
Jamie Burke, B&V	Monica Polgar, TWDB
Andrew Wier, SAWDF	Neil Deeds, INTERA
Vanessa Chapman, Texas Department of Wildlife	Emily Poston, Aqua WSC
	Sue Thornton, Alternate
Tom Hegemier, LCRA	Earl Foster, Municipalities
Lauren Gonzalez, Black & Veatch	John Albright, FNI
Stacy Pandey, LCRA	

### **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. A motion to officially recognize the appointment of Paul Babb to represent GMA 9 as a voting member to replace Ron Fieseler was approved.
2. A motion was approved to recognize the designation of Charlie Flatten as alternate for GMA9.
3. The minutes from the July 12, 2023, planning group meeting were approved with a minor correction.
4. A motion to approve the proposed surface water Hydrologic Variance Request packet with the edit to remove the word "interim" and to authorize technical consultant to submit the request to TWDB was approved.

**Regular Meeting: (Time stamps match the audio recording that is available online)**

1. Chair David Van Dresar called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. Chair Van Dresar welcomed all to the meeting and asked that members introduce themselves. (1:00 – 2:15)
3. Public Comment (3:20 – 10:30)
  - a. Andrew Wier, Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund. Mr. Wier discussed the relationship between the Colorado River and the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer and stated that the TWDB approved Groundwater Availability Model indicates that pumping groundwater in the Carrizo impacts water flow in the Colorado River and other surface waters. Mr. Weir described the outflows from the aquifer in relation to the Colorado River flow and asked Region K members to take note that water supply strategies that rely on increased production from the aquifer in Region K could reduce surface water available in the Colorado River below Austin. Mr. Wier suggested that the planning group consider the cost of water treatment for public water supplies for PFAS and PFOS below Austin on the Colorado River.
  - b. Jordan Furnans, LRE Water, representing Central Texas Water Coalition. Dr. Furnans suggested that the planning group should consider the impact of the drought we are currently in potentially becoming a new drought of record. Dr. Furnans developed a water model using LCRA daily published inflows that can be updated frequently. Dr. Furnans stated that his modeling shows that if 2024 is like 2023 in terms of drought conditions, we may enter a new drought of record in 2024.
4. Planning Group Membership – Secretary Teresa Lutes (10:51—21:10)
  - a. Secretary Teresa Lutes asked the group to review the attendance information provided in the packet.
  - b. Chair David Van Dresar and the planning group acknowledged Ron Fieseler’s retirement.
    - i. Chair David Van Dresar presented Ron Fieseler with his recognition plaque.
  - c. Chair David Van Dresar asked the planning group to officially recognize the appointment of Paul Babb to represent GMA 9 as a voting member to replace Ron Fieseler. Monica Masters made a motion and Jennifer Walker seconded. The motion was approved with none opposed.
    - i. Paul Babb made a motion to recognize the designation of Charlie Flatten as alternate for GMA9 (as well as Environment). Jennifer Walker seconded the motion. Approved with none opposed.
  - d. Vanessa Chapman was recognized as a new non-voting member representing Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
5. Chair David Van Dresar asked the planning group to review the July 12, 2023 LCRWPG regular meeting draft minutes. Secretary Teresa Lutes offered a minor correction to the minutes for the July 12, 2023, LCRWPG regular meeting. Mike Reagor made a motion to approve the minutes with

the minor correction. Barbara Johnson seconded the motion. The motion is approved with none opposed. (21:10—24:10)

6. Committee Reports (24:10—56:50)

a. Water Modeling Committee – Teresa Lutes, Committee Chair

- i. John Albright, Freese and Nichols, presented on the Hydrologic Variance Request and explained its purpose. Teresa Lutes stated that the modeling committee approved the recommendations for the proposed hydrologic variance request. There was discussion by David Lindsay regarding the possibility that a new drought of record may develop during this planning cycle.
- ii. Teresa Lutes made a motion to approve the proposed surface water Hydrologic Variance Request packet with the edit to remove the word “interim” and to authorize the technical consultant to submit to TWDB, Jim Brasher seconded the motion. The motion passed. David Lindsay abstained.

7. Consultant Report (57:00—1:24:50)

- a. Adam Conner, FNI, gave an update on the Water User Group (WUG) survey of water supplies and discussed the difference between water sources and supplies.
- b. Adam Conner, FNI, discussed the responses from TWDB on the submitted Region K population and GPCD revision request with the group.
- c. Neil Deeds, INTERA, provided a summary of the consultant’s progress to date.
- d. Upcoming efforts and key dates – Neil Deeds, INTERA
  - i. Neil Deeds provided a summary on the identification and revision of Infeasible Strategies in RWP. Mr. Deeds informed the group that the next two meetings will require a 14-day public comment period. The planning group discussed the new infeasible strategy identification requirements this cycle. Item 11a was moved up by Chair David Van Dresar to this point so that dates and location for the next regular meeting could be solidified. Mr. Deeds and the group discussed and decided on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 for the next LCRWPG regular meeting.
  - ii. Neil Deeds provided a summary over the Technical Memorandum that is due March 4, 2024.

8. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Report – Lann Bookout, TWDB (1:24:50 – 1:29:30)

- a. Lann Bookout, TWDB, provided an update on regional water planning activities and schedules. The group discussed Texas Proposition 6, Creation of the Water Fund Amendment (2023).

9. Interregional Coordination Activities – Chair Van Dresar (1:29:25 – 1:30:40)

- a. Ron Fieseler provided a liaison report regarding the Region L meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and told the group that he would no longer be the liaison. David Van Dresar said that filling the Region L liaison role should be added to the next agenda.
10. Chair David Van Dresar reviewed the financial report with the planning group and noted that the group is within the budget. (1:30:40—1:31:31)
11. Upcoming meetings, consider and take action as needed – Chair Van Dresar (1:31:35—1:39)
  - a. The location and date of the next RWPG meeting was set in item 7d. The next RWPG meeting will be on Friday, December 1, 2023, at the LCRA Dalchau Service Center in Austin, Texas.
  - b. Other committee meetings:
    - i. The Water Modeling Committee meeting will be held on October 23, 2023, at Freese and Nichols.
    - ii. The Water Management Strategies Committee meeting will also be held on October 23, 2023, at Freese and Nichols.
12. No additional future agenda items were discussed. (1:39:01—1:39:45)
13. No additional public comments were provided.
14. Adjourn 11:43am. (1:43:53)