

MEETING MINUTES

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

December 1, 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:

Daniel Berglund, Small Business	Emil Uecker, Counties
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	Paul Silva, Agriculture
Barbara Johnson, Industries	David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Jim Luther, Agriculture	Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities	Jim Totten, GMA 12
Paul Babb, GMA 9	Paul Silva, Agriculture

Voting Members Absent:

Jody Fauley, Counties	Charles Olfers, Agriculture
Ann McElroy, Environmental	Tim Loftus, GMA 10
Jason Homan, Counties (Alternate)	Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Jason Ludwig, Electric Gen. Utilities	

Support/Consultants/Visitors:

Adam Conner, FNI	Helen Gerlach, Austin Water
Earl L. Foster, Alternate	Emily Rafferty, Austin Water
Lawrence Brown, TSSWCB	Sue Thornton, Alternate

Annette Keaveny, LCRA	Marisa Flores-Gonzales, Austin Water
Lann Bookout, TWDB	Robert Adams, Plummer
Leonard Oliver, LCRA	Earl Wood, Water Utilities
Mike Thuss, LCRA	John Maurer
Holly Fair, Aqua WSC	Jordan Furnans, LRE Water
Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm	Dacy Cameron, Aqua WSC
Alan Moon, Quiddity	Leslie Soto Sanchez, LCRA
Tom Entsminger, STV	Neil Deeds, INTERA
Tom Hegemier, LCRA	Robert Nies, South Texas Project (STP)

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 October 4th, 2023, planning group meeting were approved with minor corrections.
2. A motion to approve the process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies for the 2026 Region K plan was approved.
3. A motion to appoint Tom Hegemier to fill the Region L liaison role was approved.

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

1. Call to Order –Chair David Van Dresar called the meeting to order at 10am.
2. Chair Van Dresar welcomed all to the meeting and asked that members introduce themselves. (0:25 – 2:34)
3. Chair Van Dresar opened the floor to public comments and there were none. (2:40 – 3:11)
4. Planning Group Membership – Secretary Teresa Lutes (3:12—6:15)

- a. Secretary Teresa Lutes asked the group to review the attendance information provided in the packet. Secretary Lutes noted that there are terms set to expire and these members need to let the Secretary know if they want to continue their membership so action can be taken to extend terms at the January meeting.
5. Chair David Van Dresar asked the planning group to review the October 4th, 2023 LCRWPG regular meeting draft minutes. Daniel Berglund made a motion to approve the minutes with minor corrections to the attendance of the October 4th, 2023, LCRWPG regular meeting minutes. Laurie Gillam seconded the motion. The motion was approved with none opposed. (6:20 – 7:55)
6. Committee Reports (8:00 – 9:43)
 - a. Water Modeling Committee – Teresa Lutes, Committee Chair stated that the Water Modeling Committee will be reviewing preliminary results of a modeling analysis of surface water availability at their next meeting on December 19th, 2023.
 - b. Water Management Strategies Committee – Lauri Gillam, Committee Chair informed the planning group that the Water Management Strategies committee has met twice since the last LCRWPG regular meeting and that the next agenda items pertain to the work their committee had been involved in.
7. Neil Deeds, INTERA, presented the results of analysis of potentially infeasible water management strategies and water management strategy projects in the 2021 Region K Water Plan. (9:45 – 20:10)
8. Identify potentially feasible water management strategies process for the 2026 Region K Plan (20:10 – 38:35)
 - a. Neil Deeds, INTERA, presented on the Region K process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies. Chair David Van Dresar asked the planning group for comments. Planning group members discussed the ability for the public to submit their comments online.
 - b. Chair David Van Dresar opened the floor to take public comments on the Region K process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies. There were no public comments.
 - c. Secretary Teresa Lutes made a motion to approve the process for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies for the 2026 Region K plan as presented. Daniel Berglund seconded the motion. The motion was passed with none opposed.
9. Consultant Report (38:40 – 56:45)
 - a. Adam Conner, FNI, gave an update on the supply survey that was sent out to Water User Groups (WUG). There was discussion amongst the planning group members regarding how long surveys are being accepted, if there are any important areas missing from the survey

results, and what happens if there is no response from a WUG. Mitchell Sodek asked if there is a plan to reach out to County Other and Paul Babb commented on the importance of accurately identifying the water supply for County Other.

- b. Neil Deeds, INTERA, provided a summary of the consultant's progress to date.
- c. Neil Deeds, INTERA, provided a summary of upcoming efforts and key dates.

10. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Report – Lann Bookout, TWDB (56:45 – 1:02:25)

- a. Lann Bookout, TWDB provided an update on regional water planning activities and schedules. The group discussed proposition 6, Creation of the Water Fund Amendment (2023), which was approved by voters.

11. Interregional Coordination Activities – Chair Van Dresar (1:02:25 – 1:05:04)

- a. Liaison reports
 - i. Monica Masters made a motion to appoint Tom Hegemier to fill the Region L liaison role to replace Ron Fieseler. Paul Babb seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed.

12. Chair David Van Dresar reviewed the financial report with the planning group and noted that the group is withing the budget. (1:05:05)

13. Upcoming meetings, consider and take action as needed – Chair Van Dresar (1:05:40 – 1:08:58)

- a. The location and date of next RWPG meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2023, at the LCRA Eastern Maintenance Facility, La Grange, Texas.
- b. Other committee meetings
 - i. The Water Modeling Committee meeting will be held on December 19, 2023, at Freese and Nichols offices in Austin, Texas.
 - ii. There was no Water Management Strategies Committee meeting scheduled at this time.
 - iii. Chair David Van Dresar made a note that the Nominating Committee will need to meet prior to the January 2024 meeting to develop a slate of nominees for the Executive Committee.

14. Future Agenda Items (1:09:14)

- a. A technical memo to review and vote on will be included in the January agenda.

- b. Discussion of Task 5, Water Management Strategies scope and fee will be included in the January agenda.
- c. An update on the Water Modeling Committee Water Availability Model will be included in the January agenda.
- d. Membership items to approve new executive positions will be included in the January agenda.

15. Public Comments (1:10:35)

- a. Jordan Furnans, LRE Water stated that he wanted the planning group to know he was trying to see what it would look like to incorporate results of a Water Availability Model uncertainty analysis into the next planning cycle.

Monica Masters noted the passing of previous Region K Chair from 1998—2021, John Burke. The planning group decided to use \$100 from the membership fund to send to his family to express Region K's condolences.

16. Adjourn 11:14am. (1:14:10)