

DRAFT MINUTES

**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting
January 11, 2012
LCRA McKinney Roughs Nature Park
1884 State Highway 71 West
Cedar Creek, Texas
10:00 a.m.**

Members Signing In

Jim Barho, Environmental
John Burke, Water Utilities
Sandra Dannhardt, Electric Generating Utilities
Finley deGraffenried, Municipalities
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Jed Garren, Other
Ronald Gertson, Small Business
Karen Haschke, Public
Barbara Johnson, Industries
James Kowis, River Authorities
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Bill Neve, Counties
Doug Powell, Recreation
Billy Roeder, Agriculture
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Haskell Simon, Agriculture
James Sultemeier, Counties
Byron Theodosios, Counties
Paul Tybor, GMA 7
David A. Van Dresar, Water Districts
Jennifer Walker, Environmental
John Dupnik, GMA 10
Jim Brasher, GMA 15
Joe P. Cooper, GMA 12
Clyde Waters, GMA 8
David Bradsby, TPWD, Non-voting
David Meeseey, TWDB, Non-voting
Richard Eyster, TDA, Non-voting

Voting Members Absent:

None

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Others:

Bob Pickens, Former Member
Jo Karr Tedder, Alternate
Janet Caylor, Alternate
Martina Bluem, LCRA

Steve Box, Environmental Stewardship
Jamie Burke, AECOM
David Parkhill, AECOM
David Wheelock, LCRA, Alternate
Jeff Fox, City of Austin, Alternate
Richard Hoffpauir, Hoffpauir Consulting
James Miller, City of Bastrop
Joe Beal, City of Bastrop
Stefan Schuster, DBS&A
Leo J. Wick, FCGW
Charlotte Gilpin, K Friese and Associates
Karen Friese, K Friese and Associates

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members, or alternates representing voting members present: 25

Number required for quorum per current membership of 25: 13

FORMAL ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. Motion was made to accept 3 new GMA (Groundwater Management Area) member representatives for 3 of the 6 GMAs and to approve changing 3 existing member's interest areas to now represent the other 3 GMAs interest areas. The motion was seconded and passed.
2. Motion for approval of the Nominating Committee recommendations for the Executive Committee and Officers was made and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Minutes from the September 14, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved with noted minor typographical corrections.

Regular Meeting:

1. Call to Order – Chairman Burke called the meeting to order at 10:05
2. Welcome and Introductions – John Burke welcomed everyone to the meeting
 - a. Plaque Presentations – John Burke presented a commemorative plaque to resigning member Bob Pickens thanking Bob for his many years of service on the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group.
3. Discuss and take action on voting member representative nominations from Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 7, GMA 12 and GMA 15
 - a. Nominee's presentation to the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group – New members recently appointed by their respective Groundwater Management Area (GMA) introduced themselves to the planning group. Three new GMA interest representatives are existing members or alternates that will now represent GMA interest areas, including Ron Fieseler for GMA

9, Paul Tybor for GMA 7 and John Dupnik for GMA 10. The three new members are Joe P. Cooper representing GMA 12, Jim Brasher representing GMA 15 and Clyde Waters representing GMA 8. Ron Fieseler put forth the motion to accept the 3 new GMA member representatives and to approve changing the 3 existing member's interest areas to now represent the other 3 GMA interest areas. The motion was seconded and passed.

Teresa Lutes reviewed the Region K Bylaws interest group coverage requirements and the bylaws voting membership limitation of 24 members. Teresa said that, accordingly, the planning group will need to revise the bylaws voting membership limitation and review the voting member representation wording to see if changes need to be made. Bylaws Committee Chair Barbara Johnson agreed to lead the review and come back to the planning group with recommended changes.

4. Consideration of Nominating Committee Recommendations:
 - a. Discuss and take action on election of Executive Committee and Officers – Jim Barho listed the recommendations of the nominating committee: Chairman-John Burke, Vice Chairman-Jim Barho, Secretary-Teresa Lutes, At-large members: Ronald Gertson, Barbara Johnson, and Finley deGraffenried. James Kowis made the motion for approval and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
5. Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes said the membership terms will need to be updated for the 2012 to 2017 planning period, including the interest group categories. John Burke reminded the group of the minimum annual 50 percent attendance requirement for voting members. Ron Fieseler said the bylaws may need to be updated to account for the GMA representative terms.
6. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the September 14, 2011 meeting – James Kowis made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2011 meeting with noted minor typographical corrections, Jim Barho seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Financial/Budget Report – James Kowis said that as of December 1st the administrative-related account balance was \$2,910.00.
7. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Communications –
 - a. Discussion on TWDB non-municipal demand projections – David Meesey said that the new TWDB irrigation demand projections numbers are lower for Region K and are somewhat lower on a statewide basis. David said the planning group will need to look at the groundwater conservation district values and LCRA data to determine whether requests for changes need to be submitted to TWDB. David introduced Doug Shaw, Project Manager with TWDB specializing in agricultural and irrigation projections and said

that Doug will oversee those determinations. David explained the TWDB approach to evaporative loss calculations. David said some irrigated acreage may not have been accounted for if it was not reported to the USDA Farm Service Agency and fell outside of a groundwater conservation district. Ronald Gertson said the TWDB numbers go lower than historical trends and that the TWDB numbers could be used as a starting point. David Parkhill suggested the group may want to invite Region P to participate in a joint review of the State methodology in case new methodology-related recommendations to the State are developed. David Van Dresar said the impact of the mining projection changes may be significant. Barbara Johnson pointed out the projected growth in the manufacturing demands sector, as compared to the projections from the last round of regional water planning. Doug Shaw, with TWDB said that manufacturing numbers are based on surveys sent out and that he thinks on a statewide basis there will not be large changes in manufacturing demands.

8. Discussion of the wholesale water provider recommended and alternative water management strategies described in the current Region K approved regional plan:
 - a. Discuss and possible action on a draft resolution – John Burke said that going forward the LCRA-SAWS Water Project (LSWP) strategies will no longer be in the Region K Plan. John added that downstream agricultural interests would still like to see downstream reservoir strategies be considered in the Region K Plan. Jim Barho said the planning group is responsible for identifying potential sources of supply and that there is a lot of cost information in the LSWP studies that may help to identify future supply strategies including downstream off-channel reservoirs (OCR). Jim said County Judges have already been looking up and down basin for strategy opportunities. James Kowis said now that the LSWP lawsuit issues have been resolved the planning group can look at needs identified and how demands including downstream agricultural demands in the basin may be able to be met. The LSWP-related water management strategies in previous Region K Plans include large-scale OCRs that could possibly be broken down into smaller OCR projects, additional conservation, and other supply projects to meet those needs. Bill Neve discussed the need for a resolution to support OCRs and other strategies and suggested that a committee be formed to address these. Jim Barho said he is not proposing a resolution at this time but that the planning group needs to look at the 150,000 AFY short-fall resulting from not having the LSWP strategies in the Region K Plan. Teresa Lutes suggested convening a committee to identify and evaluate strategies within the current planning process. Jennifer Walker asked if this approach was outside of any ongoing strategy process. Ronald Gertson said the intention was to fill the gap left by the absence of the LSWP. David Parkhill said the planning group will be able to identify strategies and apply for the next round of state funds and compete for available funding to help evaluate alternate strategies. Bill Neve reminded

the group that the County Judges have passed resolutions supporting identification of new strategies.

John Burke asked for volunteers to serve on a Water Management Strategy (WMS) committee. Members that volunteered to serve on the WMS committee include James Kowis and Jim Barho (co-chairs), Karen Haschke, David Bradsby, Teresa Lutes, David Van Dresar, Ronald Gertson, Doug Powell, John Burke, Barbara Johnson, Bill Neve, Jennifer Walker, and Finley deGraffenried.

9. Consultant Status Report – Jaime Burke reported on work that has taken place since the September 14, 2011 regular meeting:
 - a. September Region K meeting – the September 14, 2011 meeting was the kick-off meeting for this round of regional water planning for the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group. Jamie said that later this year (2012) may be a good time to apply for additional planning funds.
 - b. Work progress for September through December 2011- Jamie reviewed work progress as reported in the AECOM monthly progress reports, which were sent electronically to members.
 - c. Non-Municipal Demand Projection Data from TWDB – AECOM reviewed TWDB demand projections for irrigation, manufacturing, mining, steam-electric and livestock use categories. Irrigation demand projections are shown to be about 32% lower for the basin compared to the approved 2011 Region K Plan projections. David Meesey said the TWDB process starts with State Data Center data and that it may be several months to late fall before data is updated and available. David pointed out that now, early in the process, would be an opportune time to revise the values for the next planning cycle. David Parkhill said there is a formal process for making revisions. Jaime Burke suggested that at the April meeting the group may review groundwater and surface water availability numbers and also address a public comment process. Jaime said that by October 2012 the group will be working on the draft technical memo which will be the foundation moving towards the initially prepared Region K Plan. The goal is to have a draft technical memo available by November 2012 prior to sending to TWDB before the due date of February 28, 2013. David Van Dresar said GMA 12 may not be through the managed available groundwater (MAG) petition process until June 2012 and that the rules say to use the MAG numbers in the 2011 Region K Plan, which are the 2010 MAG numbers. David Parkhill said it will be up to the planning group to decide if using the 2010 MAG numbers is the best approach for the current round of plan development.
 - d. Region K Cutoff Model initial meeting – A surface water model meeting was held on December 9, 2011 to discuss components of the model proposed for use and identify any needed modifications for the current round of planning. Jaime Burke said the modifications would include recent TCEQ water rights permits and other updates and assumptions. David Parkhill said at the next meeting in April a draft letter from the

Region K planning group to TWDB to request to use the modified Region K Cutoff model will be presented for review and approval.

- e. Proposed schedule and Future Task Work – AECOM handed out and Jamie Burke reviewed an Estimated Working Schedule and discussed Future Work Tasks (refer to AECOM handout from January 11, 2012 Region K Quarterly Meeting). Jamie described the TWDB regional water planning group draft rules which solicit comments by January 31, 2012. David Meeseey said there is no requirement for comments and that a lot of the draft TWDB rules are more procedural in nature, making some parts less redundant. Ronald Gertson suggested that all members review them and expressed some concern as to how RPGs would incorporate environmental flows from the Senate Bill 3 process.
10. City of Bastrop Regional Water Plan Amendment Request – Joe Beal representing the City of Bastrop discussed their request for amending the Region K Plan in order for the City of Bastrop to address additional water supply strategies. Joe Beal explained that Bastrop has been relying on alluvial groundwater for decades, but is interested in exploring other groundwater and surface water strategy options. Bastrop intends to further evaluate their options and come back to the Region K planning group at the April meeting with their results. Charlotte Gilpin with K Frieze and Associates said Bastrop is looking at an option of pursuing Carrizo-Wilcox Simsboro formation availability of approximately 3,500 AFY through a year 2040 planning horizon with a secondary strategy of surface water. David Meeseey said more refined quantity numbers will be needed to obtain an amendment but that they can use approximate quantities for now. K Frieze and Associates will work with AECOM to determine what changes would be needed for an amendment process. Jennifer Walker asked about the City of Bastrop supply source and what would be changing. Charlotte said there are no plans to change the demand numbers, just the source of supply. Bill Neve said some strategies have been to increase the quantity of surface water contracts with the LCRA. James Kowis said the approach would be to look at what supplies are available to meet the additional demands and to see if and when adjustments in the Region K Plan are needed. John Burke said that no more than the approximately 3,500 AF of availability that remains, based on the Desired Future Condition (DFC) for Simsboro groundwater, can be approved. Charlotte said the City of Bastrop and K Frieze Associates will determine what the demand will be in the planning horizon and look at their current Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) and determine what quantity to use for the proposed amendment. David Parkhill said the idea would be to develop the new Region K Plan (2016 Plan) with the newer City of Bastrop numbers that come out of the proposed minor amendment to the 2011 Region K Plan. David said that as a minor amendment, the notification requirements are less extensive, however the Region K planning group is still required to vote on a minor amendment. James Kowis said the City of Bastrop would be responsible for the costs for notification and all work associated with the amendment process. The next step would be for the City of Bastrop to come back to the next meeting in April with additional information and details.

11. Committee Updates:
 - a. Review and update Active Committee listing – the committee lists have been updated and are available on the website.
 - b. Set committee meetings, as needed:
 - i. Modeling Committee will plan to meet on February 28th at 9:00.
 - ii. Population and Demand Committee to meet February 28th at 1:30.
12. Review projected 2012 Calendar – refer to AECOM handout from the January 11, 2012 regular quarterly meeting
13. Agenda items for next meeting – to be determined; the next meeting will be April 11, 2012
14. New / Other Business – Barbara Johnson announced that on March 30th the 2nd annual Central Texas Water Conservation Symposium will be held at LCRA's Dalchau Service Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Doug Powell announced that Janet Caylor will be his new alternate. Bill Neve announced that Jo Karr Tedder will be his new alternate.
15. Public Comments – no public comments received.
16. Adjourn – the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30