

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting
Approved Minutes of the Wednesday, January 14, 2009 Regular Meeting
Aqua Water Supply Corporation
415 Old Austin Hwy.
Bastrop, Texas 78602
10:00 a.m.

Members Signing In

Jim Barho, Environment
John Burke, Water Utilities
Sandra Dannhardt, Electric Generating Utilities
David Deeds, Municipalities
Ron Fieseler, Water Districts
Ronald Gertson, Small Business
Barbara Johnson, Industries
James Kowis, River Authorities
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Laura Marbury, Public
Bill Miller, Agriculture
Bill Neve, Counties
Bob Pickens, Other
Billy Roeder, Counties
Haskell Simon, Agriculture
James Sultemeier, Counties
Paul Tybor, Water Districts
David A. Van Dresar, Fayette County GCD, alternate to Harold Streicher
Roy Varley, Counties
Jennifer Walker, Environment
Del Waters, Recreation

David Bradsby, TPWD, Non-voting
Richard Eyster, TDA, Non-voting
David Meesey, TWDB, Non-voting

Voting Members Absent:

Chris King, Counties
Harold Streicher, Small Business

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Others:

Karen Haschke, Public, alternate to Laura Marbury
Cole Rowland, City of Lakeway
Mike Dorsey, USGS
Pat Dixon, Lago Vista City Council
Mimi Wallace, USGS
James Miller, City of Bastrop
Jason Murry, Bastrop County WCID #2
Finley deGraffenried, City of Llano
Robert Ruggiero, Ruggiero, LLC, alternate to David Deeds
Cynthia Braendle, alternate to John Burke
Steve Box, Env. Stewardship
Kris Martinez, LCRA

Jamie Burke, AECOM
Mark Lowry, AECOM
Bill Thaman, AECOM
David Parkhill, AECOM
Joe Cooper, LPGCD
John Dupnik, BSEACD, alternate to Ron Fieseler
Terry Fisher, alternate to Roy Varley
Ann Mesrobian, LPGCD
Brian Cook, LCRA

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members, or alternates representing voting members, present: 21

Number required for quorum per current membership of 22: 11

FORMAL ACTIONS TAKEN:

- 1) Approved the following members as voting members for a 5-year term (term expiring 2014): Jim Barho, John Burke, Sandra Dannhardt, Ronald Gertson, William (Bill) Miller, and Roy Varley.
- 2) Approved the following Executive Committee for 2009, based on the Nomination Committee's recommended nominees:

John Burke, Chair
Haskell Simon, Vice-Chair
Teresa Lutes, Secretary
Jim Barho, At-Large
Sandra Dannhardt, At-Large
Ron Fieseler, At-Large

- 3) Elected the following four new members as voting members, with terms expiring in 2014:

Finley deGraffenried, Municipalities, Llano County
Robert Ruggiero, P.G., Small Business, Travis County
David Van Dresar, Water Districts, Fayette County
Doug Powell, Recreation, Travis County

- 4) Approved Chris King's resignation as a voting member from Wharton County representing Counties.
- 5) The minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting were approved with minor edits.
- 6) Approved authorization of the Executive Committee to approve the Draft Final Environmental Impacts of Water Management Strategies (Task 2) Study Report for submittal to TWDB to meet the submittal deadline of January 30, 2009.

ADDITIONAL NOTABLE ITEMS:

1) John Burke will send a letter on the LCRWPG's behalf to the Chairman of the Natural Resources and Finance Committees of both the Texas State Senate and House requesting Legislative support for continued regional water planning funding.

2) A Population and Water Demand Committee was formed. Members include:

- James Kowis - Chair
- Jim Barho
- John Burke
- David Van Draser

- Barbara Johnson
- Teresa Lutes
- James Sultemeier
- Jennifer Walker
- Laura Marbury

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1) Call to Order: Chairman Burke called meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am
- 2) Welcome and Introductions: conducted by Chairman Burke
- 3) Discuss and take action on reappointment of voting members with expiring terms:

Del Waters expressed thanks to the group for their hardwork, dedication, and knowledge. Del introduced Doug Powell whom Del recommended as his replacement in the Recreation interest category.

David Deeds also thanked the planning group members for the experience of serving on the committee and recommended Robert Ruggiero for his replacement due to his interest in the group and in the future of Lake Travis. Mr. Deeds expressed that it was his pleasure to serve on the group.

The following members decided not to seek reappointment: David Deeds, Harold Streicher, and Del Waters.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the following members as voting members for a 5-year term (term expiring 2014): Jim Barho, John Burke, Sandra Dannhardt, Ronald Gertson, William (Bill) Miller, and Roy Varley.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 4) Discuss and take action on annual Executive Committee election including officers:

James Kowis, Chair of the Nomination Committee presented the committee's recommended Executive Committee Nominees for 2009:

John Burke, Chair
 Haskell Simon, Vice-Chair
 Teresa Lutes, Secretary
 Jim Barho, At-Large
 Sandra Dannhardt, At-Large
 Ron Fieseler, At-Large

Motion to approve the committee's recommended 2009 Executive Committee nominees was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5) Discuss and take action on election on new voting members:

The following were elected as new voting members one at a time:

Finley deGraffenried, Municipalities, Llano County
 Robert Ruggiero, P.G., Small Business, Travis County
 David Van Dresar, Water Districts, Fayette County
 Doug Powell, Recreation, Travis County

These new members will have terms expiring in 2014. In the Municipalities category, Finley deGraffenried was elected by having the vast majority of votes as compared to Judy Miller and Michael D. Thane, P.E., the

other two municipal category candidates. Robert Ruggiero was elected unopposed to the Small Business interest category. David Van Dresar was elected unopposed to the Water Districts (Groundwater) interest category and Doug Powell was elected unopposed to the Recreation interest category. It was noted that in the group of new elected voting members, that one of the voting members seats that was held by a member from Wharton County (downstream area of the region) is now held by a member from Llano County (upstream area of the region).

It was noted that Chris King had been a Wharton County voting members representing Counties as a voting member. Mr. King officially resigned and the LCRWPG voted to approve his resignation.

6) Updated presentation and discussion on long-term weather forecast:

Mr. Bob Rose, LCRA Meteorologist, presented his long-term weather forecast for the region. The presentation is available on the Region K web-site at www.RegionK.org

7) Attendance Report: Secretary Teresa Lutes asked that LCRWPG members review the attendance report and make Secretary aware of any corrections.

8) Consent Agenda:

- a) Approval of Minutes for the November 12, 2008 meeting: Motion to approve minutes with minor edits was seconded and passed.
- b) Financial / Budget Report: James Kowis presented updated financial report materials. Mr. Kowis' report also included information about the Region K web-site activity through the end of 2008..
- c) Public Comments Meeting and Submittal of Task 1 and 3 Draft Final Reports to TWDB: James Kowis reported that the draft final Task 1 and 3 reports were submitted to the TWDB on time.

9) Committee Reports:

- a. Environmental Flows Committee
- b. Modeling Committee
- c. Public Information and Participation

There were no committee reports at this time.

It was raised that John Burke to send a letter on the LCRWPG's behalf to the Chairman of the Natural Resources and Finance Committees of both the Texas State Senate and House requesting Legislative support for continued regional water planning funding. David Meeseey agreed to let Chairman Burke know if regional water planning funding is planned to be discussed at committee meetings so Chairman Burke can testify as needed.

10) Draft Final Environmental Impacts of Water Management Strategies (Task 2) Study Reports:

- a. Consultant presentation and discussion of comments received from LCRWPG

A joint Environmental Flows and Modeling Committee meeting was held in December at AECOM in Austin to discuss the draft Task 2 report. Before the holidays AECOM made changes that could readily be done to address report issues raised at the meeting. Comments and responses were provided in the LCRWPG member meeting packets.

James Kowis suggested that in the next planning cycle that AECOM should work with the two committees early on in the process before getting to the results stage so that methodology issues can be worked out jointly ahead of time to ensure increased group confidence in the results.

Jaime Burke reviewed with the group the presentation handout provided (also available online at www.RegionK.org).

Bob Pickens made some suggestions on capturing the right assumptions more on the up-front side of the planning process in future. There needs to be sufficient time and resources left to address complex issues as the group works through understating what the modeling results are predicting. For example, the issue of meeting critical vs. target environmental flows is key and is complicated since the definition is somewhat changing over time. It needs to be better understood how strategies do or do not meet these critical and target environmental flows. It is not always clear if a strategy made the situation better or worse. Strategies are not always set up to address environmental flow needs.

It was noted by AECOM that the scope for the environmental flow analysis for the current planning cycle has already been submitted and there is limited funding going toward the portion of the planning process in this round. David Meesey noted that there is potential to get supplemental funding from some additional funding set aside for the whole state to be used as issues arise through the process. However, it is not clear to what extent this funding would be available for the purpose of more in depth environmental flow studies for Region K this planning round. The group would need to submit the request and it would be considered along with other requests. The group will need to be clear on what additional output (scope) is needed.

Jennifer Walker asked for clarification because it appeared that further environmental flows evaluation of strategies was part of the scope. Mark Lowery clarified that environmental flow impact analyses would only be done if strategies change. To revisit this issue for existing strategies would require supplemental funding.

Jennifer Walker and others expressed concern over various issues with the Task 2 report methodology and results. The group decided that it would work with the joint Environmental Flows and Modeling Committee to prepare wording to be incorporated into the report which captures these concerns. James Kowis agreed to take the lead on developing the language to be inserted into the report in time for submittal by the January 30th deadline.

- b. Receive public comments on Task 2 Study Report:
- c. Consider and discuss any public comments received:

John Dupnik (Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District) stated that Strategy #4 – Onion Creek Recharge Structures – is not a feasible or effective strategy and should not be part of the plan. In addition, there are issues with Strategy #3 related to water discharging from Plum Creek generated from a Buda Plant, which goes into the Guadalupe Basin. These strategies should be revisited in this planning round.

Steve Box stated that he would like to submit written comments on the draft by Friday. The group indicated that yes the comments could be submitted in writing.

- d. Discuss and take action on approval of Draft Final Environmental Impacts of Water Management Strategies (Task 2) Study Report for submittal to TWDB:

A motion was made for the LCRWPG to authorize the Executive Committee to approve the Draft Final Environmental Impacts of Water Management Strategies (Task 2) Study Report for submittal to TWDB to meet the submittal deadline of January 30, 2009. This motion was approved.

AECOM will incorporate comments received during the public comment period including comments from planning group members and will send a revised version to the LCRWPG. This will be the version that the Executive Committee considers for approval for submittal to the TWDB by January 30th.

11) Consultant Status Report (Phase I and Phase II)

Jaime Burke (AECOM) reviewed the Consultant report handout provided. On the population and water demand projection information needed for this current planning cycle, Haskell Simon suggested that the LCRA water supply plan data be considered to be incorporated into the Region K plan. David Meeseey indicated that this could be considered since the information will likely be verifiable and thus can be considered by the TWDB for use in the plan. It was reiterated that Region K is growing faster than previous projections indicated. It is therefore anticipated that the planning group will ask for the figures to be changed upward.

Steam-electric demands are been looked at state-wide. It was also indicated by David Meeseey that Steam-Electric demand revisions will be considered and that incorporating new known location information will be beneficial for the planning process.

MAG (Managed available groundwater) figures may be available but the submittal deadline was extended to March so all information has not yet been submitted to the TWDB at this time. Haskell Simon suggested that, in general, if new figures are not made available to Region K in time, the group will probably need to plan to default to the existing 2006 plan figures for availability numbers.

Jennifer Walker requested that group members be able to weigh in on what methods the consultants will use on developing the population and water demand figures before the consultants go to work on developing the updated figures. It was noted that getting public input early on the in the process is key.

In order to complete the plan on the required accelerated schedule, it is anticipated that the meeting months will be: January 2009, March 2009, April 2009, June 2009, September 2009, October 2009, November 2009, and January 2010 – on the second Wednesday of the month.

Laura Marbury suggested that for meeting locations, LCRWPG should plan one of the meetings to be in the upper part of the basin and one in the lower part of the basin. Ronald Gertson suggested that one of the meetings could be held in Wharton County – in June. And Jim Barho said that a meeting could be held in Burnet in April.

It will be the group's goal to interact with the adjacent regions and identify potential demand issues early in the process.

John Burke asked for volunteers for a Population and Water Demand Committee. The committee will be the following:

- James Kowis - Chair
- Jim Barho

- John Burke
- David Van Draser
- Barbara Johnson
- Teresa Lutes
- James Sultemeier
- Jennifer Walker
- Laura Marbury

The group will plan to meet in early February

12) Presentation and discussion on Water Demand Projections for LCRA's Water Supply Resource Plan:

James Kowis made a presentation on water demand projections for LCRA's water supply resource plan. LCRA's Board has reviewed and considered these new demand projections and have adopted them for use in the water supply resource plan. James noted that it is not LCRA's intent to circumvent Region K – but to advance LCRA's work on determining what level of water demand LCRA might be asked to provide in the 100-year time-frame. LCRA sought out considerable levels of information for this effort.

Bill Miller asked when the region would close the door on population growth since it is growing so rapidly. It was addressed that there is nothing specific the region can do to limit growth but the group can look at developing plans to meet the needs in a comprehensive way to the extent possible.

Bill Neve asked how the new (generally higher) demands will impact the LCRA-SAWS Water Project and James indicated that the modeling runs have not been completed on this yet and that new measures adopted by the LCRA Board (see agenda Item #13 below) will likely have an impact – these technical analyses are underway.

13) Discussion on recent policy guidance from LCRA Board in relation to the LCRA-SAWS Water Project:

James Kowis provided information to the group on the LCRA Board's recent passage of four resolutions related to the LCRA-SAWS Water Project – these are:

- Demand Projections
- Irrigation water reliability
- Groundwater
- 50,000 AF reserve

The LCRA board recently reviewed the LCRA-SAWS Water Project assumptions and subsequently passed these related resolutions. These resolutions are available on-line at www.RegionK.org and at www.LCRA.org.

Bill Neve asked if the 50,000 AF reserve was in the mix of available water supplies for the project and James Kowis clarified that it was not specifically in the water supplies going to San Antonio included but that it was included in the modeling of availability for the project. The resolution clarifies that this reserve can not be used to benefit the project. James Kowis indicated that the modeling analysis is now being done to determine any impacts. It is anticipated that this modeling will be completed by the end of February.

For irrigation water reliability, the 100% reliability assumption was confirmed by the Board. For groundwater, the amount of groundwater to be used for the project was clarified.

Jennifer Walker noted that there are LCRA-SAWS Water Project advisory committee meetings planned for February (El Campo –February 3, 2009). There is also a meeting planned for February 5, 2009 in Burnet.

However, it was noted by James Kowis that it is not expected that the technical analysis of the impacts of the resolutions will be completed by then.

Haskell Simon reminded the group that the concept of the LCRA-SAWS Water Sharing Project came out of the first planning cycle in which Region K was short on water for irrigation and Region L was looking to the Colorado River basin for at least 12 strategies to meet shortages in that region. At that time, it was projected that the project's \$800 million estimated cost would be funded by San Antonio to address SAWS's shortages and also address Region K's irrigation shortages.

Bill Neve indicated concern over lake levels and making sure that they do not get impacted by new assumptions on the 50,000 AF reserve or other project assumptions.

It was noted that estimated cost of the project is now \$2.2 billion with an availability level in the range of 90,000 AF/yr.

The question was raised as to what the LCRWPG would do without the LCRA-SAWS water sharing plan. The LCRA Board makes the determination on whether there are Lower Colorado River Basin benefits or not. David Meesey suggested that the project and plan may need to be re-scoped. There are many assumptions in the plan and Region K may need to develop new plans if and when conditions/assumptions change. James Kowis suggested that depending on the outcome of further studies, etc., the re-tooling of the plan may be need.

14) Presentation and discussion on the Colorado River Gravel Shoals

Terry Fisher gave presentation on the Colorado River gravel shoals area in the upper part of the basin. The slideshow presentation showed rocky shoals in dry areas where mother nature puts in channel dams in river essentially every summer. These in-channel natural dams provide pools of water in the summer – whereas if these gravel shoals were not formed – the river may likely go dry if the shoals did not pool up the water. Roy Varley added that has a place below this area where the river is not running typically during the dry summer periods. Brian Cook of LCRA added that the shoals help protect fish by creating natural in-channel dams. Laura Marbury asked if Mr. Fisher thought that the base flow would possibly come from an aquifer, but Mr. Fisher indicated that it did not – that the flow there comes from the Colorado River.

15) New/Other Business:

- Jim Barho noted that for the benefit of the new members it would be helpful to hold a Water 101 workshop like was previously held. It could perhaps take place later in the spring. It could be an all day event with elected officials being invited. Group members including James Kowis, David Meesey, Jim Barho, Teresa Lutes, and others could work on updating the presentation materials from the previously held Water 101 work session (held at LCRA's Riverside Conference Center in Bastrop).
- Jim Barho pointed out that the City of Austin has recently been in the news with information about Austin's water loss and aging water main issues. Jim requested a presentation on the issues from the City of Austin at the March LCRWPG meeting.
- Regarding the LCRA/SAWS water sharing project, it was noted that regular updates would be helpful, especially during times when SAWS is considering funding additional studies, which has been done thus far to date. Significant project changes in may require changes in Region K's planning.

16) Calendar:

- Next regular meeting: March 11, 2009, 10:00 am, Aqua Water Supply Corp.

17) Agenda Items for upcoming meetings:

- Request City of Austin presentation on water loss and leaks at March meeting.

18) Public Comments: none

19) Adjourn

Thank you to Aqua Water Supply for providing lunch.

Meeting minutes prepared by Teresa Lutes, Secretary, Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group. These minutes were approved in a motion passed at the March 11, 2009 Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group meeting.

<u>Signature on File</u>	<u>3/12/2009</u>
TERESA LUTES, SECRETARY	DATE
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group	