

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

**April 9, 2014
LCRA Dalchau Service Center
3505 Montopolis Drive
Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m.**

Members Signing In

Jim Barho, Environmental
Jim Brasher, GMA 15
John Burke, Water Utilities
John Dupnik, GMA 10
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Ronald Gertson, Small Business
Brenton Lewis, Municipalities
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Bill Neve, Counties
Doug Powell, Recreation
Billy Roeder, Agriculture
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Haskell Simon, Agriculture
James Sulzemeier, Counties

Jim Totten, GMA 12
Byron Theodosios, Counties
Paul Tybor, GMA 7
David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Jennifer Walker, Environmental
David Wheelock, River Authorities
David Bradsby, Non-voting, TPWD
David Kercheval, Non-Voting, TDA
David Meeseey, Non-voting, TWDB
Peggy Travis, Alternate, Electric Utilities
Lauri Gillam, Alternate, Municipalities
Terry Bray, Alternate, Industries
Charles Shell, Alternate, GMA 8

Voting Members Absent

Joe King, Electric Utilities, alternate attended
Karen Haschke, Public Interest
Barbara Johnson, Industries, alternate attended

Bill Luedecke, GMA 8, alternate attended
Brandon Wade, Municipalities, alternate attended

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other

Jeff Fox, COA, Municipalities Alternate
Danielle Martin, Austin Water
Jaime Burke, Region K Consultant AECOM
Brent Batchelor, Agriculture Alternate
Sarah Backhouse, TWDB
Tom Barnett, TWDB
James Kowis, AECOM
Mitchell Sodek, CTGCD
Michael Suming, LPGCD
Krystal Cantu, LCRA
Chris Hoelter, LCRA
Cecilia Green, Blanton & Associates
Ed Yanoshita, CORIX

Jeremy B Mazur, Rep. Callyan
Stefan Schuster, MWH
David Lindsay, Recreation Alternate
Charlie Flatten, Hill Country Alliance
Velma Davidson, Blanton & Associates
Stephanie Jenkins, FNI
Dawn Capra, Johnson City Mayor
Robert Howard, Bluebonnet Electric
Bri Sherrill
Izzy Hauss, CTWC
Kodi Sawin, SAWIN Group
Karen Huber, UT LBJ School
Brad Hunemullek, Hawson

Quorum

Quorum: Yes
Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 24
Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 25: 13

Formal Actions Taken

1. Motion to adopt the minutes with no changes approved.
2. Motion to adopt the Prioritization Committee's recommendations, with a provision that the Committee be allowed to make changes recommended by TWDB, approved.
3. Motion to submit the presented letter to TWDB with changes discussed approved.
4. Motion for AECOM to proceed with surface water availability draft numbers, and, as needed, for the Modeling Committee to make and recommend changes to the numbers to be presented in the future approved.
5. Motion made to authorize Consultants to submit the supplemental Scope of Work (SOW) including the City of Austin water management strategies discussed during the meeting approved.

Regular Meeting:

1. Call to Order – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order.
2. Welcome and Introductions – Peggy Travis introduced herself as Joe King's Alternate, and Haskell Simon introduced his alternate, Brent Batchelor.
3. Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes drew the group's attention to the attendance report which includes updated term dates for members whose terms were reappointed at the January meeting.
4. Consent Agenda:
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the January 8, 2014 meeting – Motion to adopt the minutes with no changes approved.
 - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported that the balance in the main scope of work account is \$47,586 (TWDB funding), and in the Region K group account the balance is \$1,685 (funding from amounts collected when Region K was initially formed from various regional stakeholders).
5. Texas Water Development Board Communications – David Meesey introduced new TWDB Project Managers, Sarah Backhouse and Tom Barnett. David Meesey reviewed the timeline; the draft project prioritizations are due June 1, with the final due September 1, 2014. The draft initially prepared plan is due May 1, 2015. David Wheelock reported that, for LCRA's current off-channel reservoir project, the TWDB has confirmed that LCRA is eligible for any funding programs that require projects to be included in the 2011 Plan, including SWIFT. Meesey noted that TWDB offers funding options and flexibility and noted that TWDB also has funding programs other than SWIFT currently available, that could be rolled into SWIFT once more funding is available through that program.
6. Drought Status and Drought Relief Actions – LCRA / David Wheelock presented an update on the drought, and stated that to the region could be in a Drought Worse than the Drought of Record (DWDR) condition by this summer. The Highland Lakes inflows have been at historic lows during this drought, and combined storage levels in Lakes Travis and Buchanan have continued to drop each year (currently at approximately 750k acre-feet). LCRA has responded by seeking emergency relief from the LCRA's Water Management Plan, which has resulted in cutting off most interruptible stored water and asking firm customers to cut back use. In addition, LCRA sought authority to use Gulf Coast Irrigation Division water rights upstream, and to reduce certain environmental flow requirements, as well as taking other Drought Contingency Plan actions. LCRA is also

pursuing new water supplies including groundwater and off-channel reservoirs. John Dupnik asked if LCRA is considering brackish water as a new water source; Wheelock responded that it was considered, and listed in the Water Supply Resource Plan, and could feasibly be pursued.

7. Region K WMS Prioritization Committee Update –Jennifer Walker, Committee Chair, reported that the committee has decided on scoring criteria which Jaime Burke (AECOM) has applied to the strategies. The team also compiled questions and comments about the prioritization process in a draft letter to send to TWDB. Jaime Burke called the group’s attention to the two handouts members received in their packets. TWDB provided a spreadsheet template for the regions to apply uniform standards for scoring to projects statewide. One handout is this populated spreadsheet; the other lists each strategy in order of ranking. Jaime then presented the five criteria with weighting for scoring: decade of need (1 A-B, 40%), feasibility (2 A-D, 10%), viability (3 A-D, 25%), sustainability (4 A-B, 15%), and cost effectiveness (5 A, 10%). Points granted for scoring are detailed in the column headers for each criteria sub-category on the spreadsheet. (For additional detail, please refer to the meeting materials packet.)
 - a. Discuss and take action as necessary on Committee recommendations – Jennifer Walker reminded the group that there is funding set aside for rural and conservation project categories. David Meesey stated that competition need not be too fierce, since funding is in the form of loans. It is likely that will be sufficient available funding for qualified projects. Ronald Gertson, Jennifer Walker, and David Meesey discussed the relatively low ranking of LCRA’s off-channel reservoir project, which doesn’t completely reflect current reality because of the current drought and the prioritization process is based on the 2011 Plan. Ronald Gertson moved to adopt the Prioritization Committee’s recommendation with a provision that the Committee be allowed to make changes recommended by TWDB, the motion was approved.
 - b. Discuss and take action as necessary on comments to TWDB on prioritization criteria - Ron Fieseler and the group discussed statewide competition for funding and the need for TWDB to make sure that scoring is done the same way statewide. The committee drafted a letter to TWDB to express potential concerns and describe Region K’s approach. TWDB will review the draft submittal and score normalization procedures and scores before final submittal. Jennifer Walker moved to submit the letter to TWDB with minor typographical changes and add the Region K approach to a few bullet points, the motion passed.
 - c. Set possible follow-up meeting in May – appears to not be needed based on the results of the discussion at the meeting.
8. Other Committee Updates/Reports, as needed. Take action as necessary.
 - a. Water Modeling Committee
 1. Presentation of draft surface water supply availability modeling results (table of Firm Yield Breakdown of the LCRA Highland Lakes System and Table 3.3 Major Run-of-River Rights in the Colorado Basin) and general surface water availability analysis approach – Jaime Burke presented two handouts, and refreshed the group’s memory on the presentation given at the January meeting on surface water modeling. Teresa Lutes, Modeling Committee Chair pointed out that the period of record for this exercise goes through 2009 and doesn’t include the worst years of the current drought. It will likely be necessary to add additional modeling and analysis when the TCEQ has updated data for modeling current drought conditions. Jaime presented the Run-of-River (ROR) availabilities. Terry Bray

asked why the availability for the three decades of ROR is constant and different than the permitted amount. Jaime responded that it is because it is based on a minimum year.

2. Discuss and take action on Consultant moving forward with the draft water needs analysis using draft surface water availability numbers - Teresa Lutes moved to approve the consultants to proceed with the surface water availability draft numbers, and, as needed, for the Modeling Committee to make and recommend changes to the numbers to be presented in the future. The motion was approved. Others Committee Reports, as needed – On behalf of Barbara Johnson, Ronald Gertson announced that the Legislative and Policy Committee will be meeting for the first time, and asked if anyone would like to join the committee. The group discussed ecological unique stream segments and reservoir sites noting that during previous planning cycles Region K did extensive study of these components and has not made changes to that section since that time. It was decided that unless something is specifically identified that needs to be addressed in the arena of ecological unique stream segments and reservoir sites; the group will likely not be making any modifications to this section for this planning cycle.

9. Consultant Status Report – AECOM

- a. Summary of Major Items at January Region K Meeting – Elections were held; TWDB guest speakers attended; HB4 Chair update, City of Austin Conservation presentation; Weather outlook; off-channel reservoir (OCR) update; Modeling Committee Report; Population and Demand update; Drought and Conservation Survey update; Potential water Management Strategies request; Burnet County supply strategies; and CTWC presentation were communicated.
- b. Work Progress Since Last Meeting – Consultants have continued progress on 2011 Plan project prioritization, Region K Cutoff modeling analysis, and water supply updates. Two Chairs' conference calls were held.
- c. Schedule and Upcoming Work – Task 4D Scope of Work due July 1; draft prioritization of 2011 Plan projects due June 1, final due September; Technical Memo due August 1, initially prepared Plan due May 1, 2015, final Plan due November 2, 2015. Upcoming work includes: completing water needs analysis and entering it into TWDB database for use in the Technical Memo, submitting supplemental Task D Scope of Work, continued evaluation of water management strategies, supporting Legislative and Policy Committee activities, and attending the SWIFT info session.

10. Present Additional Partial Draft Scope of Work (SOW) for potential water management strategy evaluation (Task 4D) to RWPG for discussion and consideration. – Jaime Burke ,reviewed Region K's work to date on Task 4D and the four strategies that were submitted to and authorized by TWDB. She called the group's attention to a handout and presented additional strategies for considered inclusion in the supplemental SOW which included Reuse, Groundwater, Surface Water, and Other categories.

- Reuse – requests received from LCRA and Johnson City. For SOW, specific requests will be evaluated, as well as considered as a general category for other projects to possibly fall into. Indirect reuse request received from City of Austin and LCRA for City of Austin return flows strategy from 2011 plan (City of Austin and LCRA joint reuse application).
- Groundwater – Development of new groundwater water management strategy would capture many requests by LCRA and other WUGs. Requests also received

from Lee County WSC and Texas Water Alliance for groundwater importation. LCRA's request included enhanced recharge and conjunctive use, ASR, brackish groundwater and desalination which could be used by other WUGs and providers and in different aquifers and are in the 2011 plan. Jennifer Walker asked for more information on the request from LCRA for supplementing bay and estuary inflows with brackish groundwater. David Wheelock explained that it appears to be a good use of otherwise potentially unusable water to offset releases from the Highland Lakes with brackish water more local to the Matagorda Bay area. David Bradsby, Ron Fieseler, and David Wheelock discussed groundwater regulations. Haskell Simon, David Meeseay, and John Dupnik discussed brackish water development and various groundwater planning parameters including Desired Future Conditions (DFC's) and Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG's).

- Surface Water – several individual requests received from LCRA, Goldthwaite, Burnet County, and City of Volente. City of Austin water management strategies also include use of surface water. Additional analysis of these will be done by AECOM.
- Other – Requests for rainwater harvesting as a water management strategy and a commercial and institutional condensate capture strategy from LCRA; these strategies have not been evaluated before by Region K. Other strategy requests are expected from WUGs in Region K including other 2011 Plan strategies.

Teresa Lutes called attention to an email printout sent to the group that included the City of Austin water management strategies from previous planning cycles that the City of Austin plans to include in the 2016 Plan. These are: water conservation, direct reuse (municipal, manufacturing, steam electric), City of Austin return flows, indirect reuse, and water supply contracts. It was noted too that there will likely be additional new potential water management strategies for this planning cycle to follow based on City of Austin drought response options analysis work that is currently underway.

11. Receive public input on Additional Partial Draft Scope of Work for Task 4D. - David Lindsay, Central Texas Water Coalition (CTWC), expressed concern about the assumptions being made for water availability and firm yield and that they need to be more conservative in light of ongoing drought conditions.
12. Take Action as Necessary: Finalize and Approve Additional Partial Task 4D Scope of Work and its submittal to TWDB for review and approval to obtain a "Notice-to-Proceed" - This will be revisited and added to in future meetings, as needed. Motion was made to authorize Consultants to submit the supplemental SOW including the City of Austin requests discussed today. Motion was approved.
13. Agenda items for next meeting – Dupnik requested an item on the agenda to discuss funding for Groundwater Management Area (GMA) planning activity. Ronald Gertson suggested the Legislative and Policy Committee consider this issue.
14. New / Other Business – Jaime Burke will send out water needs analysis spreadsheet for consideration by the group before inclusion in the Technical Memorandum. If there is a need to meet before the Technical Memo is discussed at the July meeting, the next meeting may be May 14th. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 9th.
15. Public Comments – none
16. Adjourn