

## Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

July 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  
 Karen Haschke, Public Interest  
 Barbara Johnson, Industries  
 Brenton Lewis, Municipalités  
 Bill Luedecke, GMA 8  
 Teresa Lutes, Municipalities  
 Robert Ruggiero, Small Business  
 Haskell Simon, Agriculture

James Sultemeier, Counties  
 Jim Totten, GMA 12  
 Byron Theodosios, Counties  
 Paul Tybor, GMA 7  
 Jennifer Walker, Environmental  
 David Wheelock, River Authorities  
 David Bradsby, Non-voting, TPWD  
 David Kercheval, Non-Voting, TDA  
 David Meeseey, Non-voting, TWDB  
 Lauri Gillam, Alternate, Municipalities  
 John Hoffman, Alternate, Electric Utilities  
 David Lindsay, Alternate, Recreation

### Voting Members Absent:

Ronald Gertson, Small Business  
 Joe King, Electric Utilities, alternate attended  
 Bill Neve, Counties  
 Doug Powell, Recreation, alternate attended

Billy Roeder, Agriculture  
 David Van Dresar, Water Districts  
 Brandon Wade, Municipalities, alternate attended

### Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Jaime Burke, Region K Consultant AECOM  
 Virginia Wilkinson, Reg. K Consultant, AECOM  
 Joan Portillo, AECOM  
 Jeff Fox, Austin Water, Municipalities Alternate  
 Danielle Martin, Austin Water  
 Clay Schultz, TWDB  
 Doug Shaw, TWDB  
 Carissa Shelley, Pape Dawson  
 David Villarreal, TDA  
 Brian Koch, TSSWCB  
 Roman Grijama, Brown & Gay

Rob Harris, Brown & Gay  
 Charlie Flatth, HCA  
 Jasmine Gordner, Blanton & Associates  
 Michael J Simmanz, Lost Pines  
 Heather Cooke, Austin Water  
 Wes Birdwell, Half Associates  
 Bill Jerron, LCRA  
 Lauren Graber, TWDB  
 Kathleen Jackson, TWDB Board Member  
 Bech Bruun, TWDB Board Member  
 Chris Hoelter, LCRA

### Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

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

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 25: 13

### Formal Actions Taken:

1. Motion approved to adopt the April 9, 2014 minutes, without changes.
2. Motion approved to authorize the Legislative and Policy Committee to draft a letter to send to the Legislature to encourage alignment of groundwater and regional planning timelines, and to re-establish funding, to then be approved by the Executive Committee for submittal.
3. Motion approved to authorize the Prioritization Committee to work with the TWDB on Region K's behalf to submit the final prioritization deliverable prior to the September 1, 2014 deadline.
4. Motion approved to authorize consultants to complete and submit Technical Memorandum to TWDB by August 1, 2014 with the understanding that the RWPG will need to approve the Technical

Memorandum at the October Region K meeting. Technical Memorandum will be submitted with a cover letter stating that it is draft and that the group can potentially adjust the numbers at any time prior to final plan adoption.

5. Motion approved to finalize the Final Supplemental Task 4D Scope of Work based on the requests received and those discussed at the meeting, and to authorize Consultants to submit the Scope of Work to TWDB for review and issuance of a "Notice-to-Proceed".

### **Regular Meeting:**

1. Call to Order – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order.
2. Welcome and Introductions – David Meesey introduced Kathleen Jackson, TWDB Board Member. Ms. Jackson spoke to the group about her background in engineering, as well as future plans for the TWDB. Haskell Simon and Ms. Jackson complemented David Meesey on his excellent work for Region K.
3. Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes called attention to the report in the members' packet and asked for any revisions.
4. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Minutes from the April 9, 2014 meeting – Motion approved to adopt minutes without changes.
  - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported that the current balance in the planning group's account is \$1,575.64 and the balance in the TWDB grant funded account is \$131,303.66. John Burke suggested raising more funds for the planning group's account.
5. Texas Water Development Board Communications – David Meesey informed the group that TWDB has received an application for funding from LCRA for the construction on the Lane City Off-Channel Reservoir (OCR) project. If approved, TWDB will likely be able to close on the loan in early September. Jennifer Walker asked about the funding source for this loan since HB4 money is not yet available; Meesey replied that TWDB refers to it as the "D-Fund", which is short for Development Fund and is a State, rather than Federal, program with funding from selling bonds, not the "revolving fund". John Dupnik asked if there may be consideration for refinancing once SWIFT funds become available. David Meesey and Kathleen Jackson responded that it will depend on which program is involved and is not known yet and that the financial model for the HB4 funds loan program is still being determined.
6. Highland Lakes Drought Update – David Wheelock reported that inflows to the Highland Lakes increased slightly in May and June, filling them to about 40%, which is about 60,000 acre-feet higher (3%) than a year ago. Year-to-date inflows are still only at 19% of average, and models show that the 600,000 acre-foot Drought Worse than the Drought of Record trigger could be reached as early as this fall. David Wheelock outlined 8 key actions LCRA has taken recently for drought relief, as follows: 1) Emergency Orders to operate outside of the 2010 LCRA Water Management Plan which have resulted in the cutoff of interruptible agricultural irrigation water to customers for the third year in a row, 2) temporary use of water rights from irrigation division areas for municipal and industrial use downstream of Austin, 3) conversion of the Lost Pines Power Plant from surface water to a groundwater supply, 4) implementing once a week watering for municipal customers, 5) enforcing watering restrictions on domestic users, 6) requesting TCEQ not to issue temporary permits for non-essential water use, 7) increased communication with customers, and 8) planning for supplemental supplies.
7. LCRA Water Management Plan Revision Update – David Wheelock updated the group on the Water Management Plan (WMP) updates from TCEQ. Hydrology through 2013 is included in the TCEQ report issued in May, as well as a comprehensive framework for the Plan. LCRA is analyzing the effects of this framework on water management and plans to reply to TCEQ by late August. Haskell Simon asked Wheelock to characterize what has been published. Wheelock responded that there are three main components: 1) updated hydrology, 2) avoid hitting 600,000 acre-feet, and 3) avoid the need for Emergency Orders. Also included is a more sophisticated set of three curtailment curves. David Lindsay

asked if there will be a process to update the hydrology as the drought continues; David Wheelock replied that it is something they have in mind, but it is too early to work on incorporating until more full data sets are available. Haskell reminded all of the importance of everyone following this issue.

8. City of Austin Drought Planning Update including summary of potential water management strategy options - Teresa Lutes called attention to a letter included in the members' packet regarding this subject. Teresa then presented a drought update from the City of Austin (COA), including several records set during the current drought for lowest inflows and comparisons to the Drought of Record. Due to Austin's drought response and water conservation efforts, the City's municipal diversions have been declining over the last several years at the same time population has been growing. John Dupnik asked if the historical per capita data was calculated in a uniform way; Teresa responded yes, and agreed that a breakdown by use sector would be beneficial in future reports. COA has a multi-faceted drought response plan, including water conservation, water management strategies, and participation in the LCRA WMP revision process. A Council-appointed Task Force (Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force) recently convened and delivered a report with recommendations for water management planning for Austin. The COA plans to continue to include water management strategies from previous planning cycles and to also include a number of new strategies in this planning round, possibly including Task Force recommendations for demand-side management, operational enhancements, and supply augmentation. John Dupnik asked for definition of decentralized concepts and a general overview of conceptual elements was provided by Teresa. The Task Force recommended exploring desalination of brackish groundwater as an option, but at this stage, prior to potential future direction by Council, etc., the City would like to include all potential options in the 2016 Plan development process. Barbara Johnson, Jennifer Walker (a Task Force member), Teresa Lutes, and John Dupnik discussed why the Task Force recommended brackish groundwater, which is generally more expensive than fresh groundwater. It was expressed by Jennifer that the Task Force chose to recommend studying brackish groundwater as a potential temporary and local source as opposed to accessing long distance fresh water sources which would require permanent infrastructure.

9. Committee Updates/Reports:

- a. Legislative and Policy Committee – Barbara Johnson reported updates to the group.
  - i. Summary of Efforts to Date: Committee met twice, made edits to Chapter 8, and identified major policy revisions.
  - ii. Highlights of Policy Discussions: alignment of modeled available groundwater (MAG) and Regional planning timelines for groundwater; LCRA staff will make recommendations for the conservation section; Austin will make edits for City of Austin reuse in the reuse section; linking surface and ground water models; and considering the impact of growth on water use.
  - iii. Moving Forward: Committee will continue to meet until the May 2015 initially prepared Plan deadline. Jim Barho motioned to authorize the committee to draft a letter to send to the legislature to encourage the alignment of groundwater and regional planning timelines, and to re-establish funding, to then be approved by the Executive Committee for submittal. The motion was approved.
- b. Prioritization Committee – Jaime Burke recapped the Committee's past work, and called attention to a comment packet from TWDB to Region K.
  - i. Comments from TWDB on draft prioritization: suggestions were made to increase consistency across the state and would impact scoring for criteria 2D and 5A; TWDB provided guidance recommendations, which are not required to be followed at this time.
  - ii. HB4 Stakeholder Committee Update: Jennifer Walker reported that during the Stakeholder Committee conference call it was determined that the group is not required to update criteria based on TWDB guidance due to time constraints. However, the Region K consultants had time to adjust some of the scoring based on the TWDB

recommendations, which the group could decide to adopt. Ron Fieseler, Jim Barho, and David Meeseey commented in favor of statewide consistency. John Dupnik commented on the relative weighting of regional prioritization in overall project scoring; Director Bruun responded that regional prioritization is heavily weighted, even though it is only given 15 points in the overall criteria matrix.

- iii. Jim Barho motioned to authorize the Prioritization Committee to work with the TWDB on Region K's behalf to submit the final deliverable prior to the September 1, 2014 deadline. The motion was approved.

#### 10. Consultant Status Report – Virginia Wilkinson and Jaime Burke, AECOM

- a. Summary of Major Items at April Region K meeting – Virginia Wilkinson summarized major items from the April meeting including TWDB and LCRA updates, The Prioritization and Modeling Committees reported on continuing work. (see AECOM handout from July 9, 2014 Region K meeting for additional details)
- b. Work Progress since last meeting – Jaime Burke and Virginia Wilkinson reviewed draft prioritization submitted to TWDB, Legislative and Policy Committee support, Chairs' conference call held, water supply updates entered in database DB17, water management strategies evaluated, and chapter development.
  - i. Drought Chapter Update – template provided by TWDB. Requirements include a definition of the drought of record, drought preparedness summary, emergency interconnects, and drought water management strategies. AECOM recommends creating a Drought Committee to collect emergency interconnect information in a confidential and closed meeting, due to safety concerns. David Wheelock will chair, Lauri Gillam, David Meeseey, Barbara Johnson, Jim Barho, Doug Powell, Teresa Lutes, John Burke, John Hoffman, Haskell Simon, Karen Hashke, Jim Barho, David Van Dresar, and Jennifer Walker will be members.
  - ii. Update on Strategy Evaluation – consultants are evaluating several strategies, including conservation, drought management, groundwater expansion and importation, and Burnet County regional projects before meeting with the committee.
- c. Schedule and Upcoming Work/Deliverables – Task 4D Scope of Work (SOW) submittal date passed; Technical Memo due August 1; Final prioritization due September 1; Initially Prepared Plan due May 1, 2015; Final Plan due November 2, 2015. Upcoming work includes completing DB17 entry and technical memo; submittal of final Task 4D; Legislative and Policy, Drought, and Prioritization Committee support; completing draft chapters after committee review.

#### 11. Draft Water Needs Analysis – AECOM

- a. Presentation of draft water supplies and shortages – Virginia Wilkinson called attention to the handout table which identifies water supplies with elements in place to be accessible to a WUG. Virginia presented the needs analysis by county; the counties with large municipal shortages are: Bastrop, Burnet, Hays, and Llano. The largest needs for the region are agricultural and municipal. Teresa Lutes expressed concern over data for surface water modeling and suggested having the modeling committee discuss including more recent data and the firm yield.
- b. Technical Memorandum deliverable: Barbara Johnson motioned to authorize the Region K consultants to complete and submit the required Technical Memorandum to TWDB by August 1, 2014, with the understanding that the RWPG will need to approve the Technical Memorandum

at the October Region K meeting. John Dupnik, Teresa Lutes and Jim Barho discussed adding a transmittal letter to the Memo with language suggesting that the group can potentially adjust the numbers at any time prior to final plan adoption. The motion was approved.

12. Jaime Burke presented additional items for inclusion in Final Supplemental Draft Scope of Work for potential water management strategy evaluation (Task 4D) to RWPG for discussion and consideration. Jaime referred to the handout with the submitted partial 4D and draft proposed 4D SOW. The four submitted strategies with notice to proceed are Drought Management, Conservation, LCRA OCR, and Expansion of Groundwater. 24 other strategies have been submitted but have not received notice to proceed. Remaining strategies to be included in the final submittal are requests from COA, BSEACD, STP, 2011 Plan strategies, which had not previously been scoped, and various modifications to already submitted strategies. Some of these may fall under already scoped general strategies.
13. Receive public input on Final Supplemental Draft Scope of Work for Task 4D – no public comment.
14. Jim Barho motioned to finalize and approve the Final Supplemental Task 4D Scope of Work based on the requests received and those discussed at the meeting and authorize consultants to submit the Scope of Work to TWDB for review and issuance of a “Notice-to-Proceed”.
15. Agenda items for next meeting:
  - a. Location of next meeting – October 8<sup>th</sup>, LCRA Dalchau Service Center
  - b. LCRA update, Bob Rose weather update
16. New / Other Business (time permitting) - none
17. Public Comments – none