

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

March 11, 2015
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
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Ronald Gertson, Small Business
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities
Karen Haschke, Public Interest
John Hoffman, Electric Utilities
Barbara Johnson, Industries
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Doug Powell, Recreation

Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
James Sultemeier, Counties
Jim Totten, GMA 12
Paul Tybor, GMA 7
David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Jennifer Walker, Environmental
David Wheelock, River Authorities
David Bradsby, Non-voting, TPWD
David Meeseey, Non-voting, TWDB
David Villarreal, Non-Voting, TDA
Robin Gary, GMA 10, Alternate
Cindy Smiley, Counties, Alternate

Voting Members Absent:

John Dupnik, GMA 10, alternate attended
Donna Klaeger, Counties, alternate attended
Brenton Lewis, Municipalities
Bill Luedecke, GMA 8

Billy Roeder, Agriculture
Haskell Simon, Agriculture
Byron Theodosis, Counties

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Robert Howard, Bluebonnet Electric
Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB
David Lindsay, Recreation, Alternate
Charlie Flatten, HCA
Kay Phillips, Sunset Valley
Nora Mullarkey, LCRA

Jaime Burke, AECOM
James Kowis, AECOM
Jeff Fox, Municipalities, Alternate
Danielle Martin, COA
Gary Gold, COA

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

Formal Actions Taken:

- 1. Motion passed approving Chapter 2 of the Initially Prepared Plan with changes, as discussed in the meeting (Agenda item 9.b.).
2. Motion to approve recommended and alternative water management strategies from presented list of potentially feasible water management strategies, as selected by the RWPG, subject to revision at the April 8th Region K meeting, passed with one opposed (Agenda item 9.c.).

Regular Meeting:

- 1. Call to Order – Chairman John Burke
2. Welcome and Introductions – John Burke
3. Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes called attention to the member attendance report, and noted corrections for Bill Luedecke’s attendance.

4. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported that \$159,140 remains in the grant account and \$4,272 remains in the planning group account, which is funded through donations from various entities in the region and used for other expenses not covered by the TWDB regional water planning grant. Teresa Lutes noted that expenses associated with the scope of work tasks conducted by AECOM to update the water availability modeling results to include hydrological data through the year 2013 have now been paid to the Consultant out of the planning group account.
5. Texas Water Development Board Communications – David Meeseey reported that the total dollar amount of SWIFT applications received now exceeds available funding and that TWDB is continuing to work through the SWIFT loan process. Mr. Meeseey reviewed deadlines for the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP), public hearings, and 5<sup>th</sup> cycle planning. Mr. Meeseey updated the group on the implementation survey and regional planning socio-economic information development.
6. Highland Lakes Drought Update – David Wheelock announced that analysis of preliminary data for 2014 inflows shows that the basin is in a hydrologically critical drought period. Mr. Wheelock gave an overview report on supplies using 2011 as a base year for run of river rights rather than 1956, this was a key factor in LCRA's system firm supply volume, which is estimated to have been reduced from 600,000 to 500,000 ac-ft. Mr. Wheelock noted that the amount of water contracted is less than that reduced total amount and the amount of current firm water use is significantly less. Jennifer Walker and David Wheelock discussed the difference between a hydrologic drought of record and a DWDR as defined in the Water Management Plan. Teresa Lutes suggested incorporating into the draft Initially Prepared Plan language used in the LCRA Board announcement on LCRA's preliminary system firm yield reduction estimates, particularly because of the ongoing historic drought.
7. LCRA Water Management Plan (WMP) Update – David Wheelock stated that TCEQ has issued an Emergency Order granting relief from the LCRA 2010 WMP for the fourth year in a row. LCRA's application to amend the WMP is currently in technical review at TCEQ and TCEQ action on the application is expected in the next several months.
8. Committee Updates/Reports: John Burke announced that the Department of Homeland Security will attend the Region K meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup> and, due to homeland security concerns, have requested a closed session after the meeting.
  - a. Legislative and Policy Committee – Jaime Burke stated that the Committee met to review draft Chapter 8 and will be ready to present the final draft Chapter 8 sections to Region K and receive comments in April. Barbara Johnson, Committee Chair, stated she plans to convene the committee one more time and will follow-up with some suggested dates. David Villarreal noted that he will confirm with the Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner about language to support brush control.
  - b. Water Modeling Committee – Teresa Lutes announced that there will possibly be a joint meeting with Water Management Strategies Committee later this month.
  - c. Water Management Strategies Committee – Jim Barho noted that the Committee met on March 5<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Drought Committee – David Wheelock announced that the Committee met last week and will meet again today to look at emergency interconnects and emergency supplies.
9. Consultant Status Report:
  - a. Chapter Update and Status – Jaime Burke reviewed the current status of draft Initially Prepared Plan Chapters 1 through 11.
  - b. Present RWPG edits on Chapter 2 for consideration.

Jaime Burke presented draft edits to Chapter 2, including minor language changes. The group reviewed and discussed Chapter 2 and provided edits. Ron Fieseler made a motion to approve Chapter 2 of the Initially Prepared Plan with changes, as discussed in the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Presentation of Water Management Strategies for consideration by RWPG.

Jaime Burke presented potential water management strategies ready for consideration by the RWPG, and handed out a table document and a screening matrix document. Ms. Burke updated the group on the Committee meeting that was held on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Categories of strategies presented for consideration included drought management, municipal conservation, expansion and development of groundwater supply and importation, Burnet County regional projects, aquifer storage and recovery, brush control, and reuse. The group discussed further exploring costing for municipal conservation after submittal of the IPP and in the Legislative Policy section. Ron Fieseler made a motion to approve recommended and alternative water management strategies from the presented list of potentially feasible water management strategies, as selected by the RWPG, subject to revision at the April 8<sup>th</sup> Region K meeting. The motion passed with one opposed.

Final determinations on selected and remaining strategies will be made at the April 8<sup>th</sup> Region K meeting. Jaime Burke presented water management strategies not ready for consideration today in preparation for the April 8<sup>th</sup> regular planning group meeting; categories include non-wholesale water provider strategies, LCRA strategies, and City of Austin strategies. Jim Barho suggested posting the March 30<sup>th</sup> combined Water Modeling and Water Management Strategies committees meeting as a public meeting workshop for planning group members to review the strategies not being considered for action today.

d. Schedule and Upcoming Work/Deliverables: Finalize strategies and some chapters for IPP by April 8<sup>th</sup>; authorize consultant to submit IPP to TWDB on April 22<sup>nd</sup>; IPP due May 1, DB17 due July 1, final adopted plan and 2016 prioritization due December 1.

10. Agenda items for next meeting: none noted

- a. Location of next meeting – 10:00 am March 30<sup>th</sup> Open Joint Water Modeling and Water Management Strategies Committee meeting/workshop at Dalchau Service Center, the next regular meeting is at 10:00 am at Dalchau Service Center on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

11. New / Other Business: none

12. Public Comments: none

13. Adjourn