

Minutes

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

April 8, 2015
LCRA Dalchau Service Center
3505 Montopolis Drive
Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m.

Members Signing In:

Jim Barho, Environmental
John Burke, Water Utilities
John Dupnik, GMA 10
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9
Ronald Gertson, Small Business
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities
Karen Haschke, Public Interest
Barbara Johnson, Industries
Donna Klaeger, Counties
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities
Doug Powell, Recreation
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business

Haskell Simon, Agriculture
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 Meeseey, Non-voting, TWDB
David Villarreal, Non-Voting, TDA
Peggy Travis, Electric Utilities Alternate
Charles Shell, GMA 8 Alternate

Voting Members Absent:

Jim Brasher, GMA 15
John Hoffman, Electric Utilities, alternate attended
Brenton Lewis, Municipalities

Bill Luedecke, GMA 8, alternate attended
Billy Roeder, Agriculture
James Sultemeier, Counties

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Joe Trungale, Consultant
Rudi Rosengarten, Council City of Sunset Valley
Ron Anderson, LCRA
Melissa Grote, TSSWCB
Steve Coonan APAI
Stefan Schuster, MWH
Karen Bondy, LCRA
Tommy Koch, Consultant
Robert Howard, Bluebonnet Electric
Bob Rose, LCRA

Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB
David Lindsay, Recreation Alternate
Cindy Smiley, Alternate for Donna Klaeger
Charlie Flatten, HCA
Nora Mullarkey, LCRA
Jaime Burke, AECOM
James Kowis, AECOM
Jeff Fox, Municipalities Alternate
Danielle Martin, COA

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. Approved motion to recommend alternative water management strategies from presented list of remaining potentially feasible water management strategies, as presented and including edits suggested today. (See item 8.a.)
2. Approved motion to accept final edits to Chapters 9 and 10 of the Initially Prepared Plan as presented today. (See item 8.f.)

Regular Meeting:

1. Call to Order – Chairman John Burke
2. Welcome and Introductions – John Burke

3. Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes called attention to the attendance report that was included in the member’s packet.
4. Consent Agenda – none
5. Texas Water Development Board Communications – David Meeseey reviewed the timeline for the Region K Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) and public hearing. After the final plan is submitted, due on December 1st, there will be a public meeting to hear comments on what should be included in the next Plan.
6. Highland Lakes Drought Update and Presentation – David Wheelock stated that the Highland Lakes are gaining water, as opposed to last year at this time when the levels were falling, however inflows remain low. Bob Rose presented his weather outlook. In March, rainfall was normal west of I-35, and above normal east of I-35. Mr. Rose reported that the weather pattern for spring and summer looks to be wet. Ocean temperatures indicate that an El Nino has developed, which will likely lead to more rainfall through the summer, temperatures are forecast to be normal. Hurricane season looks to be quiet.
7. Committee Updates/Reports
 - a. Legislative and Policy Committee – Barbara Johnson, Committee Chair, gave an update on Chapter 8 and invited comments from the group.
 - b. Water Modeling Committee – Teresa Lutes, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee met in a joint committee meeting. In Agenda Item #8, Consultant Status Report, Jaime Burke (AECOM) will include an outcome summary from the joint committee meeting (Water Management Strategies Committee and Water Modeling Committee) discussions.
 - c. Water Management Strategies Committee – Jim Barho, Committee Chair, noted the joint committee meeting and had no other announcements.
 - d. Drought Committee – David Wheelock, Committee Chair, stated that comments on the draft Drought Chapter are due today, and the revised draft will soon be submitted to the consultant.
8. Consultant Status Report
 - a. James Kowis (Consultant) presented remaining Water Management Strategies for consideration by the Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG), which included an update on Conservation Costs, Goldthwaite, Sunset Valley, Water Purchases, South Texas Project (STP), City of Austin, Return Flows, Lower Colorado River Authority, and Irrigation. Jennifer Walker suggested including a section addressing environmental flows to provide additional context. Ron Fieseler moved to recommend alternative water management strategies from presented list of remaining potentially feasible water management strategies, as presented and including edits suggested today; the motion was approved. Ronald Gertson expressed concern over the speed at which the group was expected to take action for this and hoped to plan better for the next cycle. Discussion on the comment period and time allowed for editing after the IPP is submitted followed. Jennifer Walker expressed concern over including more strategies in the Plan than indicated by the standard planning process comparison of water availability to projected demand.
 - b. Jaime Burke (AECOM) presented LCRWPG edits on Chapter 1 (Regional Planning Area Description) for consideration and handed out the chapter edits with track changes. Items discussed included a proposed appendix 1B (TWDB database, DB17, reports), which will not be included in the IPP, but will be addressed for the final plan. Teresa Lutes suggested

also adding a section on the current drought and water supply to this Chapter for the final plan. Chapter 1 will be considered for approval with the rest of the IPP in June.

- c. Jaime Burke presented LCRWPG edits on Chapter 3 (Water Availability and Supplies) for consideration and handed out the chapter edits with track changes. The group discussed comments previously received from Donna Klaeger and Jim Brasher, among others.
 - d. It was decided to postpone until the April 22nd LCRWPG meeting discussion of edits on Chapter 4 (Water Needs).
 - e. Jaime Burke presented minor edits to Chapter 9 (Water Infrastructure Financing Recommendations) for consideration.
 - f. Jaime Burke presented minor edits on Chapter 10 (Public Involvement Activities) for consideration. Jim Barho moved to approve final edits to Chapters 9 and 10 of the Initially Prepared Plan as presented today, the motion passed.
 - g. Jaime Burke updated the group on the remaining chapters in the Initially Prepared Plan. Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 11 will be sent out for LCRWPG review next week. Edits and comments can be made between submitting the IPP and the Final Plan.
 - h. Jaime Burke reviewed the schedule and upcoming work/deliverables. On April 22nd, the LCRWPG to consider approval of submittal of the IPP to TWDB on May 1st. Public hearing and public meetings will take place in June and July, comments from state agencies are expected in September. Final adopted plan and 2016 plan water management strategy prioritizations are due December 1, 2015.
9. Discussion and possible action on Chapter 4 revisions – Discussion and action postponed until the April 22nd LCRWPG meeting (see 8d. above).
10. Agenda items for next meeting
- a. Date and location of next meeting – April 22, 2015 to be held in Austin. Public meetings will take place at locations upstream and downstream in the basin, and one public hearing will take place in Austin on July 8, 2015. The LCRWPG will plan to also hold a regular meeting on that same day, upon conclusion of the public hearing.
11. New / Other Business - none
12. Public Comments – none
13. Adjournment