

Minutes

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

April 22, 2015
LCRA Dalchau Service Center
3505 Montopolis Drive
Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m.

Members Signing In:

Jim Barho, Environmental	James Sultemeier, Counties
Jim Brasher, GMA 15	Jim Totten, GMA 12
John Burke, Water Utilities	Byron Theodosis, Counties
John Dupnik, GMA 10	Paul Tybor, GMA 7
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9	David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Ronald Gertson, Small Business	Jennifer Walker, Environmental
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities	David Wheelock, River Authorities
Karen Haschke, Public Interest	David Bradsby, Non-voting, TPWD
Barbara Johnson, Industries	Lorenzo Danielson, Non-Voting, TDA
Donna Klaeger, Counties	David Meeseey, Non-voting, TWDB
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities	David Lindsay, Recreation Alternate
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business	Peggy Travis, Electric Utilities Alternate
Haskell Simon, Agriculture	

Voting Members Absent:

John Hoffman, Electric Utilities, alternate attended	Bill Luedecke, GMA8
Brenton Lewis, Municipalities	Billy Roeder, Agriculture

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Cindy Smiley, Alternate for Donna Klaeger	Augusto Villalon, Freese and Nichols
Katy Phillips, City of Sunset Valley	Ann McElroy
Ron Anderson, LCRA	Reagan Burnham
Aaron Wendt, TSSWCB	Jeff Fox, Municipalities Alternate
Lorenzo Danielson, TDA	Danielle Martin, COA
Charlie Flatten, HCA	

Quorum:

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 22

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

Formal Actions Taken:

1. Approved motion to adopt the Region K Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) and authorized submittal to TWDB.

Regular Meeting:

1. Call to Order – Chairman John Burke
2. Welcome and Introductions – John Burke offered a reminder to all that the Initially Prepared Plan would be reviewed. Chairman Burke reminded everyone of the timeline for comments. Jennifer Walker reminded all that there will be more time to suggest revisions during summer. Donna Klaeger indicated that she plans to abstain from voting on approval of the IPP because she has not had sufficient time to review the IPP in full.
3. Attendance Report – Teresa Lutes called attention to the attendance report that was included in the member's packet. John Burke reminded all that, according to the LCRWPG bylaws, voting members are considered to have excessive absenteeism if they are absent for more than half of the meetings over the prior 12-month period.
4. Consent Agenda –
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the February 18, 2015 meeting –. Consideration of approval of these minutes will be postponed to next meeting because of delays in the distribution of the draft minutes for review prior to the meeting.
 - b. Financial/Budget Report – David Wheelock reported that the balance for the Members' Account is \$4,284 and the balance for the Grant Account is \$76,406. The remaining budget for the current planning cycle is \$161,481, as reported by an AECOM invoice.
5. Texas Water Development Board Communications – David Meesey gave a reminder that each planning group must certify that the Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) is complete in accordance with all statutes. David gave a schedule update on when the draft IPP is due and approximate time periods of when public meetings will be held. David also announced that he is retiring and the current planning cycle will be his final one as a TWDB employee.
6. Lane City Off-Channel Reservoir (OCR) and other LCRA OCRs – David Wheelock introduced Ron Anderson of LCRA to give a presentation on the Lane City OCR. Mr. Anderson summarized that a key goal of LCRA's is to increase firm yield. To meet this goal, Mr. Anderson explained that LCRA is pursuing the Bastrop Groundwater Project and the Lane City OCR which in combination can potentially increase firm supply by 100,000 acre feet. Mr. Anderson provided an overview of information on the Lane City OCR project. Chairman Burke asked for the presentation to be provided for posting on the Region K web-site.
7. Review and finalize Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group (LCRWPG) edits to remaining draft chapters of the Initially Prepared Plan, as applicable – Donna Klaeger made a comment that, during the period between the submittal of the IPP to TWDB and the approval of the final plan, she would like to continue to work with other members on potential edits to Chapter 4. Ronald Gertson made a comment to confirm that all edits currently in the draft IPP will go into the IPP unless members object and changes are made during today's meeting. Jaime Burke confirmed this procedure. Ronald Gertson clarified a distinction being made between "commitment" and "demand". David Wheelock affirmed that the distinction should be made so that the wording in Chapter 4 will be "projected demand and commitment" rather than simply "projected demand". There was a discussion regarding the distinction between the words "demand" and "commitment" in Chapter 4. It was decided that the wording should use both ("demand and commitment") for the time being and the issue should be revisited if needed. Haskell Simon asked for clarification on how return flows will be utilized and how that will influence the deficit. Teresa Lutes clarified that strategies relating to return flows to meet water needs are included in Chapter 5 (Water Management Strategies). Teresa explained that use of return flows are listed as water management strategies to meet COA needs and, for the remainder, where applicable, for downstream needs in Chapter 5. David Wheelock indicated that for calculations in Chapter 4, consistent with standard procedure, it is assumed that there are no return flows, for baseline water availability determination.

Jaime Burke announced the beginning of Chapter 5 edit discussion and explained the contents of the section. David Lindsay said the presentation of information in the draft

Chapter 5 section on the proposed Goldthwaite dam appears to be confusing. There was discussion on who requested the strategy and it was indicated that City of Goldthwaite had requested it to be considered. Jennifer Walker asked is this strategy is linked to the OP Leonard application. Donna Klaeger expressed concerns about the proposed project and the draft write-up in the IPP. Public comments were given from Reagan Burnham who came from San Saba on behalf of downstream landowners. Mr. Burnham expressed concerns over river flow and property values and indicated that it is confusing that the proposed in-channel dam may be thought by some to have become somehow linked with the OP Leonard water rights permit application. Ronald Gertson and Jim Barho indicated that the reference to OP Leonard application should be removed. It was determined that the strategy should be confirmed with the City of Goldthwaite before the next round of public meetings and the reference to the OP Leonard water right application should be removed. It was decided that the City of Goldthwaite should be contacted via a written letter. Jaime Burke (AECOM) agreed to prepare the letter to the City of Goldthwaite and the city would have the opportunity to respond and confirm the consideration of inclusion of the Goldthwaite Channel Dam in the regional plan.

David Lindsay recommended that the effect of water pricing on conservation should be considered in the plan. It was recommended that the discussion be moved to another time. David Lindsay stated that all options, including pricing, should be on the table. Haskell Simon made a comment that a planning group should not make allocation recommendations because that is the purview of the TCEQ. Jennifer Walker indicated that she has started drafting a document discussion environmental flow needs for later consideration for inclusion in Chapter 5.

The group moved on to discuss edits to Chapter 6. John Dupnik brought up the issue of production from brackish groundwater zones potentially affecting freshwater zones and indicated that there should be a reference to this issue in the plan. It was decided that the language could be developed for consideration after the IPP was submitted. John Dupnik agreed to work on the language for submittal and possible approval by the group.

The group moved on the discuss edits to Chapter 7. Jaime Burke indicated comments from City of Austin and Donna Klaeger were submitted and these comments were discussed by the planning group. There was a public comment from the City of Sunset Valley to request that they are added to the list in Chapter 7 titled "Municipal Region K WUGs under 7,500 in population (2010) and with a sole-source of water". Haskell Simon brought up the wording of Table 7.3 and there was discussion to clarify wording on "Table 7.3: Summary of LCRA Recommended Drought Triggers and Responses" so the description of the table is accurate and consistent with what the table represents. Ronald Gertson said that in some regards he considers the plan to be an incomplete plan and that is should be thoroughly reviewed after the IPP is submitted. There was subsequent discussion and Teresa Lutes suggested that the plan should be presented for consideration for approval by the LCRWPG as a complete draft IPP that is ready for public comment.

8. Consider approval to adopt the Region K Initially Prepared Plan (IPP) and authorize submittal of the IPP to TWDB by the May 1, 2015 deadline – Jim Barho moved to approve this motion. Donna Klaeger and David Lindsay abstained from the vote. The motion was approved with a count of 19 in favor, 0 not in favor, and 2 abstentions (note that one member previously in attendance left the meeting prior to the vote on this agenda item).
9. Agenda items for next meeting -- Chairman Burke stated the next meeting would be July 8th in Austin and suggested additional comments on the IPP by the planning group should be submitted by June 15th.
10. New / Other Business – A deadline of June 1st was set for the City of Wharton to submit recommended and alternate water management strategies.
11. Public Comments – none
12. Adjourn