

Minutes
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting
July 8, 2015
LCRA Dalchau Service Center
3505 Montopolis Drive
Austin, Texas
10:00 a.m.

Members Signing In:

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
Donna Klaeger, Counties
Brenton Lewis, Municipalities
Doug Powell, Recreation
Billy Roeder, Agriculture
Robert Ruggiero, Small Business

Haskell Simon, Agriculture
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 Villarreal, Non-voting, TDA
Lann Bookout, Non-voting, TWDB
Jeff Fox, Municipalities Alternate
Charles Shell, GMA 8 Alternate

Voting Members Absent:

Jim Barho, Environmental
John Dupnik, GMA 10
Bill Luedecke, GMA8, alternate attended

Teresa Lutes, Municipalities, alternate attended
Byron Theodosis, Counties

Consultants/Support/Visitors/Other:

Leonard Leinfelder, Kingsland Water
Ward Wyatt, CTWC
Tom Weber, Travis County
Ron Anderson, LCRA
Stephen Dickman, Kelly Hart
Jeffrey Hershey, Farmer
Sam Brannon, Texas Impact
Charlotte Gilman, LIV and Texas Impact
James McElroy
David Lindsay, Alternate for Doug Powell
Nan Marley
Leigh McElroy
Shana Horton, Smiley Law Firm
Debbie Taff
Mary Cunningham
Augusto Villalon, Freese and Nichols
Katy Phillips, City of Sunset Valley
David Meeseay
Charlie Flatten, Hill Country Alliance
Reagan Burnham
Richard Galloway
Andres Garza, Jr., City of Wharton
Wes Birdwell
Kodi Sawin
Kyle Jenson
Ann McElroy
Patricia Warren

Lamar Johanson
Henry Warren
Marilynn Johanson
Rudi Rosengarten, City of Sunset Valley
Cindy Smiley, Alternate for Donna Klaeger
Brian Lillibridge, City of Buda
Nora Mullarky, LCRA
Robert Howard, Bluebonnet Electric
Annie L. Harton, P.E.C.
Heather Howard, H2O4TEXAS
Heather Cooke, City of Austin
Shelby Eckols, AECOM
Andrew Backus
Jim Cherole
Tina Petersen, CDM Smith
Patrick Oliver
Stacy Oliver
Shana Horton, Smiley Law Firm
Sarah Eastman, Black and Veatch
Kira Iles, Black and Veatch
Lann Bookout, TWDB
Dedra Reinert
Robert Lindsay, City of Goldthwaite
Russell Johnson
Jonathon Kleinman, AQUEOUS
Lorenzo Danielson, Non-voting, TDA Alternate

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 March 11, 2015 meeting minutes with edits incorporated.
2. Approved motion for the Bylaws Committee to review the bylaws with feedback from the group and make update recommendations on updates to the bylaws.
3. Approved motion to include a brief write up (half page) of the City of Wharton “Sustainable Water” system as a separate item that was considered in the process but it is not a recommended strategy.
4. Approved motion to adopt revised additions to Chapter 5 regarding environmental flows.

Regular Meeting:

1. Call to Order – Chairman John Burke called the meeting to order.
2. Welcome and Introductions – Chairman John Burke welcomed all to the meeting.
3. Attendance Report – Jeff Fox called attention to the attendance report that was included in the member’s packet.
4. Consent Agenda –
 - a. Approval of Minutes from the March 11, 2015 meeting – Haskell Simon had a correction to the March 11th minutes and gave the correction to Jeff Fox. Barbara Johnson had a wording correction. The March 11th minutes were approved with edits incorporated.
 - b. Financial/Budget Report – No financial report was given at this meeting.
5. Texas Water Development Board Communications – Lann Bookout gave an update on timeline for the SWIFT applications, information related to interregional conflicts, and the TWDB process in reviewing the Initially Prepared Plans (IPPs).
6. Discuss and take action as necessary on process for replacing planning group members – Ronald Gertson said the process for replacing members needs to be clarified and that the group should strengthen efforts to adhere to the bylaws which were provided in the packets for this meeting. Mr. Gertson urged the group to ensure that recommendations for all replacements go through the Executive Committee. There was a discussion on the role of the Executive Committee in selecting members and on the public notification procedure.
7. Discuss the role of planning group members – Chairman John Burke read to the group a letter from TWDB regarding the role of planning group members. Haskell Simon added that a role of planning group members is also to keep their respective entities informed.
8. Discuss the role and qualifications of alternates – Ronald Gertson asked if the bylaws should state that the alternate should be able to represent the same interest

group that the member they are replacing represents. Mr. Gertson also brought up an issue of an alternate being involved with a committee, even if the member they are replacing is not involved in that committee. Ronald Fiesler made a motion for the bylaws committee to review the bylaws with feedback from the group and make recommendations on updates to the bylaws. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Discuss and take action as necessary on Chapter 8 revisions – Barbara Johnson called attention to redline edits of Chapter 8 which were provided as a handout. Ms. Johnson explained some of these changes. There was discussion on items included in Chapter 8 including revisions to address environmental flows. It was clarified that the proposed changes would be posted on the Region K website and incorporated for consideration in the Draft Final Plan.

10. Discuss and take action as necessary on City of Wharton water supply strategies – Wes Birdwell presented on the proposed City of Wharton Sustainable Water System. Birdwell said the purpose of the system is to create 20,000 acre feet of water under existing permits, develop a new well field, and develop mitigation water possibly through Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR). The consultant's presentation is posted with the other meeting materials on the Region K web-site. Ronald Gertson suggested a number of language changes regarding the City of Wharton proposed projects. Jim Brasher asked about the timing of the project. Wes Birdwell said it is a long term project and he appreciates the comments. John Hoffman expressed concern that there is no discussion in the proposal on the impacts on downstream users. Ronald Gertson made a motion to include a brief write up (half page) of the City of Wharton "Sustainable Water" system as a separate item that was considered in the process but it is not a recommended strategy. The motion was approved unanimously.

11. Discuss and take action as necessary on City of Goldthwaite channel dam project – Russ Johnson representing the City of Goldthwaite spoke on behalf of the Goldthwaite Channel Dam project. Mr. Johnson said the project does not seek any additional authorization to divert additional water from the Colorado River by the City of Goldthwaite or the applicant OP Leonard and said that the project will only impound water during times of excess flow. Ronald Gertson said the IPP indicates there is no firm yield associated with the dam and asked how the City of Goldthwaite plans to make use of the dam if it does not provide firm yield. Russ Johnson represented that the project would help improve the reliability of the water supply.

Haskell Simon asked how many examples there are of in-channel dams in Texas. Russ Johnson said he did not know but the City of Llano currently has an in-channel dam. David Wheelock asked about the partnership between City of Goldthwaite and the applicant, OP Leonard. Russ Johnson said the City of Goldthwaite has committed to cost sharing with the applicant but that the city has not dedicated any of its existing water rights to the dam and is therefore not listed as an applicant. David Wheelock pointed out that it looks like the dam would require active management and asked who would manage the dam. Russ Johnson said he does not yet know who would actively manage the proposed dam but that the City of Goldthwaite hopes to be actively involved in its management. Donna Klaeger asked if the project as it is presented has been approved by the planning group because it appears there were changes to the project over the years. Russ Johnson said he did not know the answer, but that the

engineering work was done over past the several years. Russ Johnson said the differences over the past years have to do with the conversion of a diversion authorization to an impoundment authorization.

Jennifer Walker asked about downstream impacts of the channel dam strategy. Mr. Johnson said the goal of the project is to not have adverse effects downstream for any users. David Wheelock indicated that LCRA has asked for a contested case hearing on the project. Ronald Gertson asked if the location of the dam would back water up to the City of Goldthwaite's existing infrastructure. Russ Johnson said the answer is yes and that the water would back up in the channel upstream. Ronald Gertson asked if there would be restrictions on when the intake could be operated based on river conditions. Russ Johnson indicated that the answer could be yes. Donna Klaeger asked if the strategy that is being identified is to meet an increase of needs that are not being identified in the plan. Mr. Johnson said the project is intended to "firm up" supply and provide reliability to meet existing demand and future demand. Mr. Johnson said that the strategy has been active since 2007. Donna Klaeger asked Jamie Burke what has been approved in the previous plans. Ms. Burke indicated that the previous plans have included a smaller version of the proposed project. It was noted that the City of Goldthwaite requested that the project be included in the plan in a timely manner.

Donna Klaeger motioned to remove the project from the plan and the motion was seconded by Jennifer Walker. There was further discussion regarding how the dam relates to the OP Leonard water right permit. Chairman Burke suggested that TCEQ is the appropriate agency to speak to and make rulings on issues associated with the proposed OP Leonard project and permit. There was a question on when the OP Leonard permit application began and Russ Johnson said it was started in 2012 or earlier and that the City of Goldthwaite is not named in that permit. Donna Klaeger withdrew her motion to remove the project from the plan and Jennifer Walker withdrew her second of the motion. Barbara Johnson suggested the Water Management Strategy Committee reconvene and discuss the issue further and that suggestion was accepted.

12. Evaporation Suppression Technology presentation – A representative of Flexible Solutions presented information about an evaporation suppression product and asked for it to be considered as a part of the "water conservation toolbox".

13. Committee Updates/Reports

- a. Drought Committee - David Wheelock presented an update on the drought and inflows into the Highland Lakes. Mr. Wheelock gave an update regarding TCEQ's Emergency Order and LCRA's application to amend the Water Management Plan.

14. Consultant Status Report

- a. Status Update and Schedule - Jaime Burke gave a status update on the Initially Prepared Plan, public meetings, committee meetings, and work being conducted by the consultant. It was decided that the Water Management Strategy Committee would meet in the near future. Jaime Burke gave an update regarding dates for upcoming meetings.

- b. Presentation for discussion of LCRWPG chapter edits received since IPP – Jennifer Walker presented potential additions to Chapter 5 that discuss attainment frequencies of recommended environmental flows. The additions that Ms. Walker presented include information regarding the SB3 recommended flows and results from computer modeling. Ms. Walker explained these additions and discussion followed. There were proposed changes that were captured by Jaime Burke to be reflected in the Draft Final Plan. Jennifer Walker made a motion to accept the revised additions to Chapter 5 regarding environmental flows. The motion was approved unanimously.

15. Agenda items for next meeting – None discussed.

16. New / Other Business – None.

17. Public Comments – Reagan Burnham expressed concerns about the proposed City of Goldthwaite channel dam project. Dedra Reinert expressed concerns about the proposed City of Goldthwaite channel dam project.

18. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm.