

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting**  
**July 27, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

***Hybrid Meeting – conducted over Zoom and In-Person***

LCRA Dalchau Service Center  
3505 Montopolis Drive  
Austin, TX

**Members Signed in:**

Daniel Berglund, Small Business	Mike Reagor, Municipalities
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utilities	Tim Loftus (Alternate for Michael Redman), GMA 10
Ron Fieseler, GMA 9	Emil Uecker, Counties
Lauri Gillam, Municipalities	Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8
David Lindsay, Recreation	Paul Sliva, Agriculture
Barbara Johnson, Industries	Jim Totten, GMA 12
Jason Ludwig, Electric Gen. Utilities	Byron Theodosis, Counties
Jim Luther, Counties	Kay Wischkaemper (Alternate for Paul Tybor),GMA 7
Marisa Flores Gonzalez (Alternate for Teresa Lutes), Municipalities	Marcus Richardson (Alternate for Robert Ruggiero), Small Business
Jason Homan (Alternate for Ann McElroy), Environmental	Monica Masters (Alternate for David Wheelock), River Authorities
Carol Olewin, Public	Jennifer Walker, Environmental

**Voting Members Absent**

Jim Brasher, GMA 15	Charles Olfers, Agriculture
David Van Dresar, Water Districts	

**Support/Consultants/Visitors**

Stephanie Moore, INTERA	Jamie Burke, Black & Veatch
Annette Keaveny, LCRA	Alicia Smiley, Black & Veatch
Jennifer Bassett, LCRA	Helen Gerlach, Austin Water
Lann Bookout, TWDB	Sara Eatman, Austin Water
Stacy Pandey, LCRA	Sarah Hoes, Austin Water
Sarah Backhouse, TWDB	Lauren Mayes
Jack Jones	Josh Becker
David T. Villareal	Sue Thornton, Alternate
Jason Afinowitz, FNI	Dianne Wassenich, Region L
Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda	Robert Adams, Plummer
Andy Wier, SAWDF	Paul Babb, GMA 9-8
Carol Eckelkamp, LWV Austin Area	Laurence Brown, TSSWCB
Earl L. Foster, LMUD	David Bradsby

## **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

Number of voting members required for 2/3 vote: 17

## **Formal Actions Taken:**

1. Monica Masters, Vice President of Water Resources at LCRA (River Authorities alternate) was approved as voting member in the River Authorities interest category (replacing David Wheelock, LCRA, who recently resigned from the planning group)
2. Monica Masters was approved to serve as Vice Chair for the planning group (replacing David Wheelock)
3. The minutes from the April 27, 2022 were approved as presented.
4. Revisions to the draft Water User Group list were approved for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).
5. A motion was approved for the October 26, 2022 LCRWPG, the next meeting, to be held in-person at the LCRA Dalchau Center in Austin.

## **Minutes:**

1. Call to Order – Daniel Berglund, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
2. Welcome and Introductions – Acting Chair Berglund welcomed attendees.
3. Public Comment:
  - Andy Wier, Executive Director for Simsboro Aquifer Water Defense Fund (SAWDF):

Mr. Wier described the work that SAWDF does to protect the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer and private property rights. The speaker expressed that, in Bastrop, the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer intersects the Colorado River and contributes inflows that sustain the river in drought. The speaker shared that, in terms of current drought conditions and due to the intersection of the Carrizo Wilcox Aquifer and the Colorado River, SAWDF echoes the request made by the Central Texas Water Coalition (CTWC), the Travis County Commissioners Court, and the Burnet County Commissioners Court that the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) accelerate update of its Water Management Plan (WMP). The speaker expressed that conditions have changed since the 2020 passage of the LCRA WMP and that the LCRA WMP should be updated as other demand and supply projections are also updated. Mr. Wier said that SAWDF encourages use of reuse, conservation, and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and that sustainable use of groundwater can protect surface water.
4. Planning Group Membership
  - a. Roll Call Attendance - Marisa Flores Gonzalez conducted the attendance roll call.

b. Attendance report - Ms. Flores Gonzalez called attention to the attendance report and reminded members that the goal is to attend at least 50% of the meetings per year.

c. River Authorities interest category

i. Acting Chair Berglund acknowledged the resignation of David Wheelock, LCRA, who retired after 9 years of service on the planning group. A plaque will be presented in recognition of his service.

The relevant bylaws were referenced, which allow for public posting of vacant positions but do not require it. The group determined that a public posting was not needed and decided to consider nomination of Mr. Wheelock's alternate to replace him.

*Laurie Gillam made a motion, seconded by Christianne Castleberry, to nominate Monica Masters, Vice President of Water Resources at LCRA (River Authorities alternate) as a voting member in the River Authorities interest category; motion passes.*

d. The LCRWPG accepted a nomination from the floor, per the bylaws, for Monica Masters to fill the Vice Chair position on the Executive Committee vacated by David Wheelock.

*Motion by Christianne Castleberry for Monica Masters to serve as Vice Chair, seconded by Barbara Johnson; motion passes.*

5. Consider approval of Minutes – Acting Chair

*A motion to approve the April 27, 2022 minutes as presented was made by Lauri Gillam, seconded by Christianne Castleberry; motion passes.*

6. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Report

a. Update on regional water planning activities and schedules – Lann Bookout, TWDB

Mr. Bookout reported that contract amendments for additional funding are due to the TWDB soon. Projection data for irrigation and mining are still on target for delivery in August 2022. In February 2023, population and demand data will be delivered to planning groups. Mr. Bookout shared that the Board approved the Interregional Planning Group nominees, and the first meeting will be held soon.

b. Demand Projections presentation– Katie Dalberg, TWDB

Via a prerecorded video presentation, Katie Dalberg provided an overview of the process by which TWDB develops projections, the schedule for data to be released, and specific projection methodologies for non-municipal water demands, population, and municipal water demand.

Carol Olewin asked if the presentation would be part of the minutes— The presentation materials were provided in packets, will be summarized in the minutes, and the full video is posted online ([Sixth Cycle Regional Water Planning Documents | Texas Water Development Board](#)).

Marisa Flores Gonzalez asked about Census 2020 population undercounts. Lann Bookout recommended reaching out to Katie Dalberg for clarification.

## 7. Committee Reports

### a. Population and Demand Projections Committee Report – Lauri Gillam, Committee Chair

Ms. Gillam reported that the group met in the Spring and the morning of the LCRWPG meeting and indicated that Stephanie Moore, INTERA, would be providing a presentation to cover discussion and recommendations.

Ms. Moore presented slides to the committee and reported that revisions to the Water User Group (WUG) list would be due to TWDB the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. Consultant Report – Stephanie Moore, INTERA

### a. Ms. Moore reviewed the projection and review process outlined by Ms. Dalberg as a brief Regional Water Planning 101.

### b. Progress to date

i. Ms. Moore reported that TWDB released Draft Livestock, Manufacturing and Steam Electric Projections January 2022, and requests for revisions are due July 2023. Ms. Moore provided a brief review of the methodology and Region K data.

ii. Ms. Moore reported that the recommendations for changes to the Municipal WUG list was due to TWDB by July 29<sup>th</sup>. Water User Groups (WUGs) are either a retail public utility providing over 100 Acre-Feet per Year (AFY) and owned by political subdivision, or a private, state, or federal utility providing over 100 AFY. Municipal demands that are not included as WUGs are planned for as “County Other.” INTERA’s review of the WUGs, performed at the Population and Demand Projection Committee’s request, indicates that five additional private water utilities meet the threshold to be included as WUGs in the 2026 Regional Water Plan, and a request will be submitted to TWDB.

Potential additional WUGs for inclusion in 2026 are: the Headwaters at Barton Creek, La Ventana, Lakeside MUD 3, The Colony MUD 1A, and Wilbarger Creek MUD 1.

### c. Upcoming efforts

#### i. Draft Mining and Irrigation demand projections

Ms. Moore reported that the draft Mining and Irrigation demand projections will be released in August 2022 and revisions will be requested by July 2023.

ii. Draft Municipal demand projections

Ms. Moore reported that the draft municipal demand projections will be released in February 2023 and revisions will be requested by August 2023.

Ms. Moore noted that the consultant schedule is available in the meeting packet.

8. The recommendations from the Population and Demand Projections Committee regarding Water User Group designations were considered.

*Lauri Gillam made a motion to approve and submit to TWDB the presented Water User Group (WUG) list with draft revisions; Barbara Johnson seconds; motion passes.*

10. Interregional Coordination Activities – Acting Chair

a. Acting Chair Berglund called for updates as part of the Interregional Planning Council report; no meeting had occurred.

b. Acting Chair Berglund called for updates from liaisons to neighboring planning regions.

i. Liaison to Region G: Tim Loftus, alternate for Michael Redman, will serve as the GMA10 representative in light of Mr. Redman's retirement. He will not be able to serve as the Region G liaison. Barbara Johnson noted that her alternate, Terry Bray, has expressed interest in serving in that role.

ii. Liaison to Region J: Kay Wischkaemper, alternate for Paul Tybor, did not have an update.

iii. Liaison to Region L: Ron Fieseler noted that there will be a Region L meeting August 4<sup>th</sup> and Ron will attend; only meeting once a quarter.

iv. Liaison to Region P: Daniel Berglund had no news to report at this time regarding Region P

v. Liaison to Region F: vacant

vi. Liaison to Region H: vacant

11. Financial Report – Acting Chair

a. Acting Chair Berglund noted that the financial report is included in the packets for members to review.

12. Upcoming meetings:

a. The location and date of the next Regional Water Planning Group meeting was discussed.

Ron Fieseler made a motion to hold meetings in person from now on; Emil Uecker seconded the motion. Other members expressed their support for the

motion. The motion was withdrawn. The RWPG agreed to add the item to the next agenda for possible action.

Carol Olewin noted that finding an alternate was challenging because folks did not want to make the trip to Austin and she made a request for continued hybrid meetings with the possibility that presenters could be asked to present in person.

David Lindsay noted that broader ability to participate is a consideration when making this decision as well.

*Ron Fieseler made a Motion for the October 26, 2022 to be the next meeting and for it to be held in-person at LCRA's Dalchau Center in Austin, Monica Masters seconded; motion passes.*

13. New / Other Business (time permitting)

None

14. Public Comments

- a. David Bradsby, who had been the non-voting member representing TPWD, is no longer with TPWD, and is now with Blanton and Associates.

15. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 11:29 am