

MINUTES
Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group
Population and Demand Committee Meeting
May 22, 2023

INTERA Incorporated Offices
9600 Great Hills Plaza, Suite 300W
Austin, TX 78759
9:00 A.M.

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call – Lauri Gillam, Committee Chair
Meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM.

Attendance:

Committee Members:

Lauri Gillam, Small Municipalities, Committee Chair

Christianne Castleberry, Water Utilities

Barbara Johnson, Industry

Monica Masters, River Authorities

Jennifer Walker, Environmental

David Lindsay, Recreation

Teresa Lutes, Municipalities

Jason Homan, Alternate for Environmental

Other Planning Group Members

None

Other attendees:

Earl Foster, Alternate for Small Municipalities

Sue Thornton, Alternate for Recreation

Lann Bookout, TWDB

Sara Eatman, Austin Water

Marisa Flores-Gonzalez, Austin Water

Stacy Pandey, LCRA

Robert Adams, Plummer, Consulting Team

Adam Conner, FNI, Consulting Team

Justin DuRant, FNI, Consulting Team

Neil Deeds, INTERA, Consulting Team

2. Receive public comments (Limit 3 minutes per person)

None.

3. Review and approve meeting minutes

David Lindsay has a question on the meeting minutes with respect to recorded comments from Teresa Lutes regarding where in the planning document environmental flows will be considered/accounted for. Discussion between Teresa and David followed, with some contributions by Sara Eatman. Teresa finally proposed some clarifying language for the previous minutes, and noted that additional discussion on this topic would be occurring soon in the Water Modeling Committee and at the next planning group meeting. The clarifying language [proposed edits to April 10 minutes completed by Sara Eatman] generally removed reference to specific chapters in the document.

Barbara Johnson moved to approve the minutes from April 10, seconded by Jennifer Walker. Passed by voice vote.

Neil Deeds noted that in the context of the previous minutes, Robert Adams has written a draft memo detailing the estimation of irrigation demands. Robert noted that during the creation of the memo, a minor 400 acre-foot per year discrepancy was found in the estimates and corrected. While not significant to the overall demands, this correction will be presented to the full planning group.

4. Introduction to “infeasible strategy” task

Neil Deeds introduced the topic of identification of infeasible strategies from the 2021 plan. There was general discussion on what strategies are the focus of the work, and the implications of an infeasible strategy being identified. Monica Masters noted that TWDB had previously reached out with respect to one or more of their projects, and Lann Bookout said that TWDB was seeking the current status of proposed reservoirs. Monica asked whether TWDB could provide a summary of the TWDB efforts. Lann indicated he would check.

Justin DuRant asked about the consequences of an infeasible strategy. Robert replied that the previous plan would have to be amended requiring significant effort. Lann noted the potential burden on the TWDB should all of the planning groups have to go back and amend their previous plans.

Lauri Gillam asked whether an infeasible strategy could go back into the next plan? Lann replied that the decade could be updated if the project was still viable. Lauri then asked whether there is a subcommittee dedicated to this task? Neil replied that there is not. Lann noted that a public hearing is required for amending the previous plan, so infeasible determinations need to be happening now. Lauri asked that this topic be on the agenda for the next full planning group meeting. Teresa added that the water management strategy committee should meet soon to discuss this topic.

Sue Thornton asked whether infeasible projects could still be implemented outside the plan. Lann noted that the project would not be eligible for certain types of state funding.

Sue Thornton asked how the balance between demand and supply would be affected by an infeasible strategy? Lann answered that the consultants will have to adjust the supply numbers. There was some discussion among David Lindsay, Sara Eatman, and Lann about how unmet needs for WUGs would be created or affected by strategies being deemed infeasible. Lann noted that some WUGs already had unmet needs, and so documentation/explanation was key.

Monica Masters asked whether we should convene the water management strategy committee regarding this topic, or should the whole planning group meet? Lauri offered to talk with Chair David Van Dressar to see if he had a preference on the path forward.

No action was taken on this item.

5. Municipal population and demands

a. Update on WUG survey responses

Adam Conner presented and led a discussion of the WUG survey responses. He noted that TWDB had revisited the plumbing code savings, and that this decreased the assumed savings by about 10%, thereby increasing demands beyond what TWDB originally provided in February 2023. Jennifer Walker clarified that this change is only in the “passive” conservation, while “active” conservation strategies are yet to be proposed.

Barbara Johnson asked who requests revisions to the population or demand numbers? Adam replied that the utility initiates the request nearly every time, and that the consulting team receives and processes any supporting documentation. Jennifer asked how non-responding WUGs will be treated? Adam replied that the TWDB numbers will be accepted without change in the absence of WUG feedback. Monica noted that Adam had reached out to the 5 largest WUGs, and that LCRA would help to make sure that these WUGs responded. David asked whether we are getting data from Region G, and Adam responded that we are coordinating with both Region G and Region L.

b. Update on revision requests

Adam discussed revision requests, as noted in the supporting materials. [these notes capture those revision requests that led to committee discussion/comments]

Adam noted that the details for revision requests up to this point are in the draft memo, and covered some examples of requests from particular WUGs. Monica asked whether when someone requests lower GPCD, do they provide supporting information? Adam replied yes, for example Buda has given us supporting numbers. He noted that TWDB draft GPCDs are based on reported utility production divided by Census estimate of population, but that population is not necessarily consistent with utility estimates. Some discussion of this followed by Jennifer and Lann. Christianne Castleberry asked whether the GPCD from prior plan was considered, and Adam answered that the prior plan used a similar strategy, but the new numbers are not based specifically on the prior plan.

Discussion occurred particular to Elgin, with comments on Elgin’s aggressive growth plans and their general reliance on groundwater from Aqua.

Adam introduced the concept of having to balance overall county populations using the “county-other” category as a pool from which to draw. Jennifer said that in previous planning cycles TWDB has been reluctant to change overall numbers by county, and especially by region. Lann noted that TWDB has faith in demand projections overall by region, and any changes have to be based on a good dataset, with the Census being a good dataset. That said, if the WUG can provide hard good evidence that can be used to justify, it will be acceptable.

David Lindsay asked who the “champion” is for the county-other and who provides data? Adam replied that there isn’t a single county-other representative, and we do not have the time or resources to reach out to the smaller entities that comprise the county-other category.

There was some discussion particular to Horseshoe Bay and the effect their request for increases over baseline could have on the county-other numbers. The discussion included comments on the difference between transient populations and permanent populations, and how transient populations will generally be reflected in a higher GPCD. Jennifer and David discussed the ratio driving this result, and Jennifer noted that while the denominator in the ratio [number of people] may be wrong, the important result is that the overall demand is correct. Christianne noted that we have to be mindful that the higher GPCD from transient populations is not a sign of wasting water. She also discussed how losses from wholesale water distribution can result in falsely high perception of loss in the retail water supplies, specifically using Lakeway MUD as an example.

Teresa Lutes went over several slides that were specific to the revision request being proposed by Austin Water (AW). She noted that AW will be requesting the addition of population for AW in Hays County and an increase for the AW WUG total. Their requests will be consistent with the analyses supporting AW’s Water Forward plan, with projections through 2120.

Specifically in Hays County, Teresa noted that TWDB draft data does not include retail service area in Hays County and that AW would be requesting that as a revision. The last planning cycle showed significant growth in that part of the WUG. Sara Eatman noted that the requested population in Hays County this cycle is based on the current service area, and the high growth in the previous cycle may have included some assumptions about extension of the existing service area.

Teresa discussed their likely request for a population increase of >300,000 people in 2080 for the combined area. Adam said that Travis “county-other” could not make up that difference, so we would need to request an overall county increase. Teresa noted that we have had a similar experience in previous rounds, asking for higher projection, and that Region K had previously asked for the TWDB to increase the region total. Adam said that this would likely be necessary, because we probably cannot balance the Travis County increase without an overall increase for the region.

Sara suggested that we are asked to plan conservatively and that our attempt to increase population projections may be successful, given the questions around the 2020 census. She went on to note that in the event we are not successful in asking for an increase, the 1.0 migration numbers are better than 0.5.

Additional discussion occurred with respect to Llano County and Horseshoe Bay, with Sue Thornton asking about the decreases in county-other shown for Llano County. Adam explained that those decreases are compensating for requested increases by Horseshoe Bay, and that the revisions requested by Horseshoe Bay may or may not be accepted by TWDB. David Lindsay asked how county-other is analyzed, and Adam explained that county-other is generally used as a pool that balances out WUG requests, in order to keep county totals the same. Discussion occurred about the growth along 281 between Marble Falls and Johnson City, and other sources of growth in the area.

Christianne noted that while there is little previous precedent for increasing county-other estimates, that the fast growth some of these areas are experiencing might warrant our requesting an increase if we could find the data to back it up, similar to how AW can justify an increase in Travis County.

Sara provided some context for the overall planning approach, where even if demands for county-other seem low, due to shifting population to accommodate WUG revisions requests, the planning group still

has the ability to account for growth on the supply side by accounting for the supplies that are going to meet the county-other demands, regardless of the demands shown in the county-other category. Additionally, that the smaller entities that aren't included as WUGs may be important water users, but often don't have the capacity to participate in planning, so the planning group and consultant need to balance where the planning effort goes.

David Lindsay expressed concern that golf course water use that isn't supplied by a utility is not fully accounted for. Jennifer Walker noted that SB2440 has changed some requirements with respect to water availability studies for new subdivision plats.

Discussion ended with Adam offering to keep the committee informed about updates to the memo in the coming weeks.

Lauri asked that if members of the committee had questions, they be sent to Sara for distribution, and that the earlier we handle questions, the better.

6. Review schedule

Action: Next P&WD committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 12 at INTERA offices at 9:00a.

7. Future Agenda Items

No new items, but we will consider revisions in next meeting and take possible action on recommendations for revisions.

8. Receive public comments (Limit 3 minutes per person)

None.

9. Adjourn

Adjourn at 10:38a.

June 12, 2023

9:00 AM

Population and Water Demand Committee Meeting



Agenda Item 4a

Municipal Population and Demands

Update on WUG Survey Responses



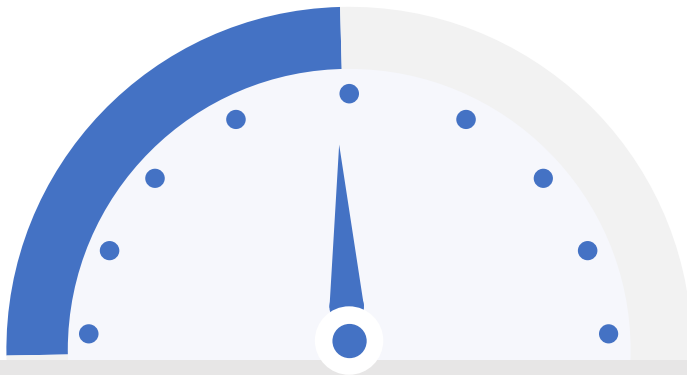
Agenda Item 4a

Municipal Population and Demand Update on WUG Survey Responses



As of 6/7/23

Completed Survey



50 out of 101
50%

Requested Revision(s)



22 out of 101

**Received Supporting
Documentation**



20 out of 101

Agenda Item 4a

Municipal Population and Demand Update on WUG Survey Responses



Received Feedback

1. Aqua WSC
2. Austin
3. Barton Creek West WSC
4. Barton Creek WSC
5. Bertram
6. Buda
7. Burnet
8. Cimarron Park Water
9. Cottonwood Creek MUD 1
10. Creedmoor-Maha WSC
11. Dripping Springs WSC
12. Elgin
13. Fayette WSC
14. Goldthwaite
15. Hays County WCID 1
16. Hays County WCID 2
17. Headwaters at Barton Creek
18. Hornsby Bend Utility
19. Horseshoe Bay
20. Hurst Creek MUD
21. Johnson City
22. Kingsland WSC
23. La Ventana WSC
24. Lago Vista
25. Lakeway MUD
26. Llano
27. Loop 360 WSC
28. Manor
29. Manville WSC
30. Marble Falls
31. Mid-Tex Utilities
32. Palacios
33. Pflugerville
34. Reunion Ranch WCID
35. Rough Hollow in Travis County
36. Ruby Ranch WSC
37. San Saba
38. Schulenburg
39. Senna Hills MUD
40. Sunset Valley
41. Travis County MUD 18
42. Travis County MUD 4
43. Travis County WCID 10
44. Travis County WCID 17
45. Travis County WCID 18
46. Travis County WCID 20
47. Travis County WCID Point Venture
48. Wells Branch MUD
49. West Travis County PUA
50. Windermere Utility

Requested Revision(s) Received Supporting Documentation

1. Austin
2. Buda
3. Cottonwood Creek MUD 1
4. Elgin
5. Goldthwaite
6. Hays County WCID 2
7. Horseshoe Bay
8. Hurst Creek MUD
9. Johnson City
10. La Ventana WSC
11. Lago Vista
12. Lakeway MUD
13. Manor
14. Marble Falls
15. Ruby Ranch WSC
16. San Saba
17. Schulenburg
18. Sunset Valley
19. Travis County MUD 18
20. Travis County WCID 17
21. Travis County WCID 18
22. Wells Branch MUD
1. Austin
2. Buda
3. Cottonwood Creek MUD 1
4. Elgin
5. Goldthwaite
6. Hays County WCID 2
7. Horseshoe Bay
8. Hurst Creek MUD
9. Johnson City
10. La Ventana WSC
11. Lago Vista
12. Lakeway MUD
13. Marble Falls
14. Ruby Ranch WSC
15. San Saba
16. Schulenburg
17. Sunset Valley
18. Travis County MUD 18
19. Travis County WCID 18
20. Wells Branch MUD

Agenda Item 4b

Municipal Population and Demands

Update on Revision Requests



Agenda Item 4b

Municipal Population and Demand Update on Revision Requests



Criteria for Adjustment

- Ongoing Census correction request
- Evidence of
 - Errors in projection
 - Different recent migration rates
 - Different near-future rates
- Changes to PWS service area
- Plans for new development or expansions
- Build-out conditions

Data Requirements

- Documentation of:
 - Data corrections
 - Different rates
 - Plans for facilities or other employment centers
 - New development
- Other data the RWPG feels supports changes

Agenda Item 4b

Municipal Population and Demand

Update on Revision Requests – Named WUGs



				Draft Demand Projections (ac-ft/yr)						Proposed Demand Projections (ac-ft/yr)					
WUG	County	Pop	GPCD	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080						
Austin	Hays	↑		-	-	-	-	-	-	22	26	30	34	38	42
	Travis	↑		179,520	199,497	222,560	248,290	276,994	309,017	198,677	231,308	264,957	298,409	329,465	361,985
	Williamson	↑		15,710	21,061	27,433	34,438	42,385	51,389	16,159	21,070	27,735	34,595	43,842	51,645
Buda	Hays	↕	↓	3,177	4,568	6,413	8,916	11,754	14,969	3,236	4,515	5,380	6,240	7,239	8,397
Cottonwood Creek MUD 1	Travis	↓		340	466	574	681	801	939	336	336	336	336	336	336
Elgin	Bastrop	↑		1,176	1,271	1,386	1,518	1,668	1,839	2,209	2,867	3,360	3,716	3,716	3,716
	Travis	↑		201	263	317	369	430	498	1,081	1,936	2,602	3,106	3,106	3,106
Goldthwaite	Mills	↑	↑	306	291	280	276	281	302	615	614	614	614	614	614
Hays County WCID 2	Hays	↓		1,146	1,650	2,317	3,223	4,250	5,413	777	775	775	775	775	775
Horseshoe Bay	Burnet	↑	↓	413	451	484	520	560	607	410	409	409	409	409	409
	Llano	↑	↓	1,707	1,783	1,826	1,978	2,149	2,342	1,694	1,690	1,690	1,690	1,690	1,690
Hurst Creek MUD	Travis	↓	↓	1,704	1,702	1,702	1,702	1,702	1,702	1,154	1,152	1,152	1,152	1,152	1,152

Agenda Item 4b

Municipal Population and Demand

Update on Revision Requests – Named WUGs (cont.)

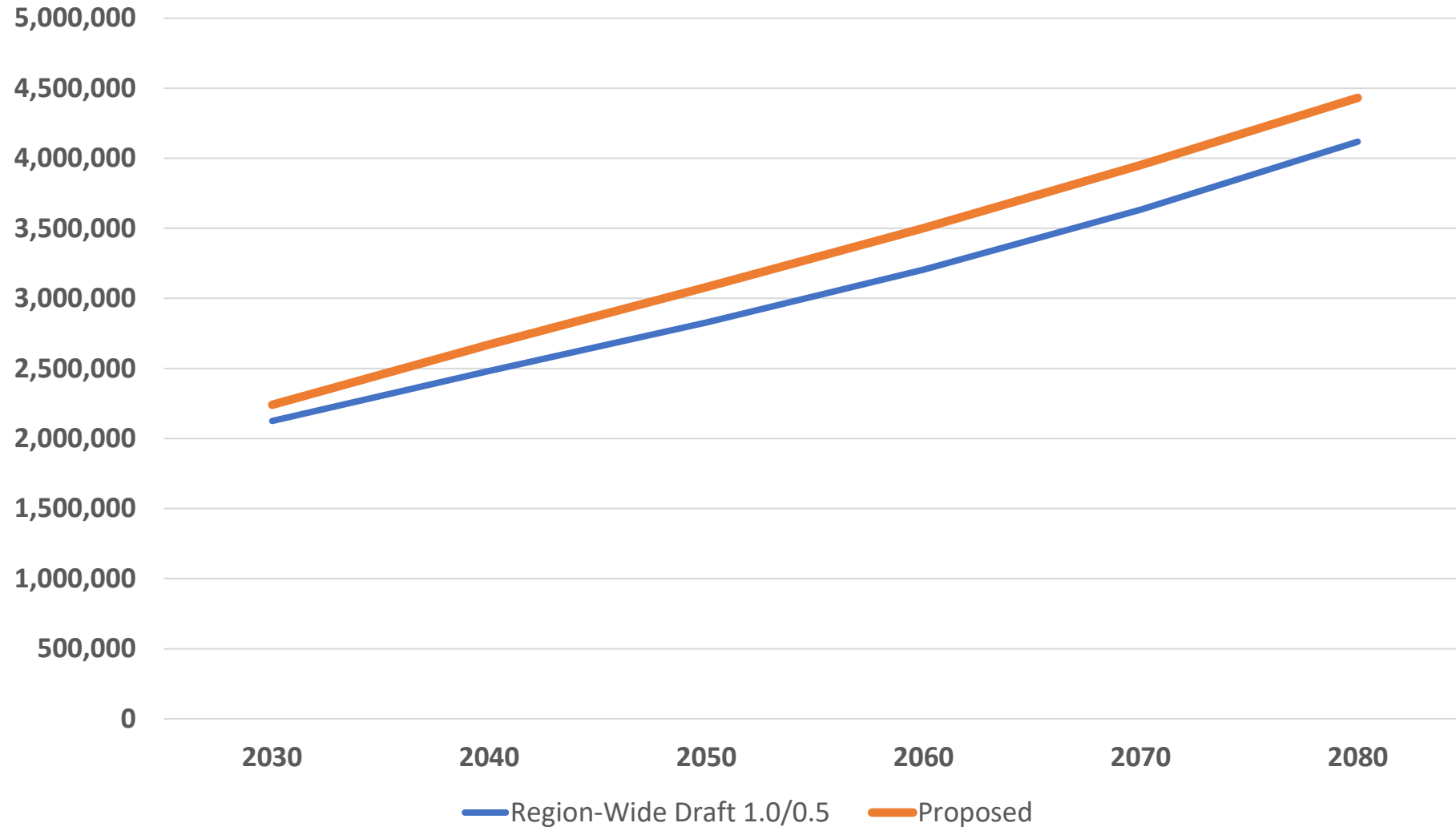


				Draft Demand Projections (ac-ft/yr)						Proposed Demand Projections (ac-ft/yr)					
WUG	County	Pop	GPCD	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080						
Lago Vista	Travis	↑		2,884	3,623	4,561	5,742	7,230	9,102	4,061	5,999	8,880	11,856	11,856	11,856
Lakeway MUD	Travis	↕	↑	2,425	2,666	2,878	3,077	3,223	3,223	2,984	3,081	3,122	3,122	3,122	3,122
La Ventana WSC	Hays	↓		138	198	278	387	510	649	138	137	137	137	137	137
Marble Falls	Burnet	↑		2,014	2,315	2,669	3,076	3,545	4,086	3,497	4,480	4,482	4,484	4,485	4,488
Ruby Ranch WSC	Hays	↓		143	206	289	402	529	674	143	142	142	142	142	142
San Saba	San Saba	↑		745	734	734	742	766	815	1,029	1,027	1,027	1,027	1,027	1,027
Schulenburg	Fayette	↑		532	520	510	508	505	503	654	652	652	652	652	652
Sunset Valley	Travis	↑		286	236	196	164	137	114	286	284	284	284	284	284
Travis County MUD 18	Travis	↓		389	535	663	787	928	1,089	230	229	229	229	229	229
Travis County WCID 18	Travis	↑		500	379	288	221	169	130	500	498	498	498	498	498
Wells Branch MUD	Travis	↑		1,068	1,179	1,281	1,293	1,293	1,293	1,464	1,511	1,511	1,511	1,511	1,511

Agenda Item 4b

Municipal Population and Demand

Update on Revision Requests – Region-Wide Population



Municipal Population and Demand

Update on Revision Requests – Region-Wide Demand

