

MEETING MINUTES

Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group Meeting

February 13, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

104 State Hwy 71, La Grange, TX

Meeting materials and an audio recording of the full meeting proceedings are available at regionk.org/all-meetings

Voting Members Signed in:

Jim Brasher, GMA 15	Sue Thornton, Alternate for Recreation
Jason Homan, Alternate for Environmental	Monica Masters, River Authorities
Christianne Castleberry, Water Utilities	Paul Tybor, GMA 7
Jennifer Walker, Environmental	Carol Olewin, Public Interest
Earl Foster, Alternate for Municipalities	Mike Reagor, Municipalities
Greg McGregor, Alternate for Counties	Robert Ruggiero, Small Business
Daniel Berglund, Small Business	David Van Dresar, Water Districts
Tim Loftus, GMA 10	Mitchell Sodek, GMA 8
Teresa Lutes, Municipalities	Paul Silva, Agriculture
Paul Babb, GMA 9	Robert Nies, Alternate for Electric Gen. Utilities

Voting Members Absent:

Barbara Johnson, Industries	Charles Olfers, Agriculture
Jim Luther, Counties	Jim Totten, GMA 12
Emil Uecker, Counties	

Non-Voting Members Signed-In:

Vanessa Chapman, Texas Department of Agriculture	Lawrence Brown, TSSWCB
Lann Bookout, TWDB	

Support/Consultants/Visitors:

Adam Conner, FNI	Helen Gerlach, Austin Water
Sara Eatman, Austin Water	Emily Rafferty, Austin Water

Annette Keaveny, LCRA	Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Austin Water
Josh Becker, Alternate for Mike Reagor	Robert Adams, Plummer
Earl Wood, Alternate for Christianne Castleberry	Neil Deeds, INTERA
Tom Hegemier, LCRA	Brandon Pritchett, City of Pflugerville
Jason Afinowicz, FNI	Richard Hoffpauir, City of Austin Consultant
Andy Wier, SAWDF	Sam Werner, Quiddity

Quorum

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: 20

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. A motion to approve the election of the Executive Committee and Officers for 2024 was approved.
 - i. Chair: David Van Dresar, Groundwater Districts, Fayette County
 - ii. Vice-Chair: Monica Masters, River Authority, Travis County
 - iii. Secretary: Teresa Lutes, Municipalities, City of Austin

Members at-large:

 - iv. Daniel Berglund, Small Business, Wharton County
 - v. Carol Olewin, Public Interest, Travis County
 - vi. Jim Luther, Counties, Burnet County
2. A motion to elect Robert Nies as Jason Ludwig’s replacement as Electric Generation Utilities voting member representing Matagorda County was approved.
3. A motion to extend the term limit another 5 years for Lauri Gillam, David Lindsey, Monica Masters, Mike Reagor, Robert Ruggiero, and David Van Dresar was approved.
4. The minutes from the December 1st, 2023, planning group meeting were approved with minor corrections.
5. A motion to approve Task 4C: Technical Memorandum for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board (TBWD) prior to the March 4, 2024, deadline, including minor modification to data appendices, if necessary, recognizing that the information in the memorandum is preliminary, and with the addition of the note on page 3 stating: “The planning group notes that the demands could be higher due to potential under-projecting of growth in the region.” was approved.
6. A motion to consider region-specific Task 5B: Water Management Strategies Task including the following: (A) Approval of region-specific Task 5B Scope of work, (B) Authorize consultant to work with Texas Water Development Board on minor clarifications, and (C) Authorize the Lower Colorado River Authority, as Region K administrative agent, to execute subsequent contract amendment, was approved.

Regular Meeting: (Time stamps match the audio recording that is available online)

1. Call to Order –Chair David Van Dresar called the meeting to order at 10am.
2. Chair Van Dresar welcomed all to the meeting and asked that members introduce themselves. (0:20 – 1:45)
3. Chair Van Dresar opened the floor to public comments and there were none. (1:48 – 2:30)
4. Report on Nominating Committee Recommendations – Secretary Teresa Lutes (2:30—4:20)
 - a. On behalf of Nominating Committee Chair Ann McElroy, Secretary Lutes presented the slate of Executive Committee members recommended by the Nominating Committee. The proposed slate of nominations for the Executive Committee positions for 2024:
 - i. Chair: David Van Dresar, Groundwater Districts, Fayette County
 - ii. Vice-Chair: Monica Masters, River Authority, Travis County
 - iii. Secretary: Teresa Lutes, Municipalities, City of AustinMembers at-large:
 - iv. Daniel Berglund, Small Business, Wharton County
 - v. Carol Olewin, Public Interest, Travis County
 - vi. Jim Luther, Counties, Burnet CountyJennifer Walker made a motion to approve the election of the Executive Committee and Officers for 2024. Christianne Castleberry seconded the motion. The motion was approved with none opposed.
5. Consider and take action on electing Robert Nies, Electric Generation Utilities alternate, to replace Jason Ludwig as Electric Generation Utilities voting member representing Matagorda County. – Chair David Van Dresar (4:20 – 5:35)
 - a. Daniel Berglund made a motion to elect Robert Nies as Jason Ludwig’s replacement as Electric Generation Utilities voting member representing Matagorda County. Secretary Teresa Lutes Seconded the motion. The motion was passed with none opposed.
6. Discuss term expiration for several member representatives and take action as needed – Chair David Van Dresar (5:35 – 8:40)
 - a. Chair David Van Dresar asked if Secretary Teresa Lutes had received memorandums or letters from members to serve another term for those with expiring terms. Secretary Lutes listed Lauri Gillam, Dave Lindsay, Monica Masters, Mike Reagor, Rob Ruggiero, and David Van Dresar as having submitted requests to extend their term. Charles Olfers did not respond and will not be continuing his term. Secretary Lutes made a motion to extend the term limit another 5 years for the 6 members who sent in written interest in continuing to serve. Christianne Castleberry seconded the motion. The motion was approved with none opposed.
7. Planning Group Membership – Secretary Teresa Lutes (9:25—10:15)
 - a. Secretary Teresa Lutes asked the group to review the attendance information provided in the packet.

8. Chair David Van Dresar asked the planning group to review the December 1st, 2023, LCRWPG regular meeting draft minutes. Teresa Lutes made a motion to approve the minutes with minor corrections to the attendance of the December 1st, 2023, LCRWPG regular meeting minutes. Daniel Berglund seconded the motion. The motion was approved with none opposed. (10:15 – 13:15)
9. Committee Reports (13:15 – 14:54)
 - a. Water Modeling Committee – Teresa Lutes, Committee Chair stated that the Water Modeling Committee has reviewed and recommended the surface water modeling results that are used in the Draft Technical Memorandum discussed in Item 10.
10. Neil Deeds, INTERA, presented Task 4C: Draft Technical Memorandum. (14:55 – 38:55)
 - a. Planning group member Greg McGregor expressed that the population projections for San Saba County in the Draft Technical Memorandum showed as decreasing over time, but they are seeing more people moving into the area. Mike Reagor commented that rural growth within the Region K area is increasing rapidly.
11. Discuss and take action on approval of Task 4C: Technical Memorandum for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) prior to the March 4, 2024, deadline, including minor modifications to data appendices, if necessary, recognizing that the information in the memorandum is preliminary – Chair David Van Dresar (39:00 – 53:15)
 - a. Paul Babb suggested that adding a footnote that the Water User Group (WUG) – Other category may be underrepresented due to the population growth being seen that is not reflected in the Technical Memorandum. The group discussed adding a note to the draft Technical Memorandum on page 3 under Demands to state: “The planning group notes that the demands could be higher due to potential under-projecting of growth in the region.”
 - b. Daniel Berglund made a motion to approve Task 4C: Technical Memorandum for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board (TBWD) prior to the March 4, 2024, deadline, including minor modification to data appendices, if necessary, recognizing that the information in the memorandum is preliminary, and with the addition of the note on page 3 stating: “The planning group notes that the demands could be higher due to potential under-projecting of growth in the region.” Sue Thornton seconded the motion. The motion was passed with none opposed.
12. Neil Deeds, INTERA, presented region-specific Task 5B: Water Management Strategies Task, Scope of work. (53:30 – 1:11:51)
13. Discuss and take action as needed on region-specific Task 5B: Water Management Strategies Task including the following: (A) Approval of region-specific Task 5B Scope of work, (B) Authorize consultant to work with Texas Water Development Board on minor clarifications, and (C) Authorize the Lower Colorado River Authority, as Region K administrative agent, to execute subsequent contract amendment. – Chair David Van Dresar (1:12:00 – 1:16:25)
 - a. Jennifer Walker suggested that under Task 5B, the proposed water management strategy #2 (Basic and advanced water conservation strategies) be separated into 2a and 2b so that water loss mitigation would be stated separately from water conservation strategies.
 - b. Secretary Teresa Lutes made a motion to approve task Item 5B: Water Management Strategies Task including the following: (A) Approval of region-specific Task 5B Scope of

work, (B) Authorize consultant to work with Texas Water Development Board on minor clarifications, and (C) Authorize the Lower Colorado River Authority, as Region K administrative agent, to execute subsequent contract amendment. Christianne Castleberry seconded the motion. The motion was passed with none opposed.

14. Consultant Report (1:16:36 – 1:20:35)

- a. Neil Deeds, INTERA, provided a summary of the consultant’s progress to date.
- b. Neil Deeds, INTERA, provided a summary of upcoming efforts and key dates.

15. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Report – Lann Bookout, TWDB (1:20:30 – 1:23:40)

- a. Lann Bookout, TWDB provided an update on regional water planning activities and schedules. Mr. Bookout mentioned that the Interregional Planning Council met last week and adopted a report of recommendations for regional planning groups to consider. The Texas Water Fund was passed in Prop 6 and they are seeking input and comments on rules for them to adopt regarding how to administer the funds.

16. Interregional Coordination Activities – Chair Van Dresar (1:23:40 – 1:24:10)

- a. Liaison reports – Tom Hegemier, Region L Liaison, mentioned he would report back at the next Region K meeting with a Region L update.

17. Chair David Van Dresar noted that the group is operating within the budget. (1:24:35)

18. Upcoming meetings, consider and take action as needed – Chair Van Dresar (1:25:25 – 1:29:10)

- a. The location and date of next RWPG meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at the LCRA Dalchau Service Center in Austin, Texas.
- b. Other committee meetings
 - i. A Water Management Strategies Committee meeting will need to be scheduled to occur before the April RWPG meeting.

19. Future Agenda Items (1:29:14)

- a. The planning group discussed having Bob Rose, LCRA, to give a presentation on the weather outlook at the April RWPG meeting.

20. Chair David Van Dresar asked if there were any public comments. There were none. (1:30:35)

21. Adjourn 11:33am. (1:32:20)