**MINUTES**

**Lower Colorado Regional Water Planning Group**

**Population and Demand Committee Meeting**

**June 12, 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 9:07 A.M.

**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

Daniel Berglund, Small Business

**Other attendees:**

Earl Foster, Alternate for Small Municipalities

Lann Bookout, TWDB

Sara Eatman, Austin Water

Marisa Flores-Gonzalez, Austin Water

Stacy Pandey, LCRA

Roland Adams, Crosswater Yacht Club

Robert Adams, Plummer, Consulting Team

Adam Conner, FNI, Consulting Team

Justin DuRant, FNI, Consulting Team

Cindy Smiley, Smiley Law Firm

Sue Thornton, CTWC

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

**None.**

1. Review and approve meeting minutes

Christianne Castleberry moved for approval. Barbara Jordan seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

1. Municipal population and demands
2. Presentation led by Adam Conner reviewed the status of the WUG survey process and developing the draft memo that would support Region K’s request for revisions to TWDB.

**Discussion**:

David Lindsay voiced concern about under-estimation of County Other demands. He has submitted separate information on utilities and golf courses in the Spicewood area to Neil, and is concerned about utilities, especially private utilities, that aren’t considered as individual WUGs in the planning process like Aqua-Texas and other developments. Additionally, David noted that there are at least 3 new golf courses in Travis County and reminded the group to be sure those demands are accounted for. Mr. Lindsay cautioned against pulling population from County Other in an effort to correct the WUG population projections.

Adam Conner noted that he’s open to receiving additional information, but data availability and budget constraints drive limitations on planning for County-Other.

Lann Bookout suggested that water use associated with golf courses and known development in County Other can be documented in the plan. The group discussed the value of including supplemental discussion about these demands in County Other in the Demands chapter, and recommended that the group continue to track these demands when the Availability and Supply are considered in later chapters.

Adam provided additional details on the memo development and conversations with neighboring regions. He mentioned that Region G will be requesting an increase for the Williamson County demands. Adam noted that 20 utilities are making revision requests at this point. He presented the draft memo with sections highlighted that may require additional information.

1. Present and consider recommendations for approval of revision requests. The Committee decided to review and vote on the revision requests that were considered straightforward and complete. Those population and GPCD revision requests would then be included in the recommended revisions for the full planning group to consider and submit to the Texas Water Development Board.

* Travis County. City of Austin requested an increase in population that exceeded the Travis County total, requires additional discussion. **No action.**
* Buda requested a near-term increase and long-term decrease in population. Lauri Gillam moved to recommend the revision, seconded by Daniel Berglund. **Motion passed**.
* Cottonwood Creek requested a decrease in population because they’re fully developed. Daniel Berglund moved to recommend the revisions, Laurie Gillam seconded. **Motion passed**.
* Elgin requested a population increase and provided ample documentation. Monica Masters noted that she has also seen the rapid growth in the area. David Lindsay moved to recommend the revision, Barbara Johnson seconded. **Motion passed.**
* Goldthwaite requested both a population and GPCD increase. The Committee requested more information on institutional demand, and to check water use.
  + Christianne Castleberry moved to recommend, Daniel Berglund seconded the population revision request. **Motion passed.**
  + Christianne Castleberry moved to recommend, Daniel Berglund seconded the GPCD revision request. **Motion passed.**
* Hays County WCID2 requested a significant reduction in population. Daniel Berglund moved to recommend the revision and Christianne Castleberry seconded. **Motion passed.**
* Horseshoe Bay requested an increase in population and a reduction in GPCD. The planning group discussed the impact of transient population, like second homes or vacation homes, on utility metrics. Lauri Gillam and Christianne Castleberry suggested that any WUGs where this seems to be a contributor to high GPCD should be noted in the plan, since it’s not necessarily reflective of high water use per residential unit, Earl Foster and others agreed. The Committee requested that the consultant provide some additional information. **No action.**
* Hurst Creek MUD requested to reduce population and GPCD and provided documentation. Christianne Castleberry moved to recommend the revision, Daniel Berglund seconded. **Motion passed.**
* La Ventana requested a decrease in population. Lauri Gillam moved to recommend the revisions, Barbara Johnson seconded. **Motion passed.**
* Lago Vista requested a near-term population increase based on their recent connection count growth rate, and a cap at 49,000 people. Barbara Johnson moved to recommend the revisions, David Lindsay seconded. **Motion passed.**
* Lakeway MUD requested a near-term increase and a reduction from the draft projections in later decades. Lauri Gillam moved to recommend the revisions, Daniel Berglund seconded. **Motion passed.**
* Marble Falls requested a near-term increase and a leveling of growth at about 17,000 people. Lauri Gillam moved to recommend the revisions, Daniel Berglund seconded. **Motion passed.**
* Ruby Ranch WSC requested a reduction to 1100. Christianne Castleberry moved to recommend, Barbara Johnson seconded. **Motion passed.**
* San Saba requested an increase in population held constant through the planning horizon. Lauri Gillam moved to recommend the revisions, Teresa Lutes seconded. **Motion passed.**
* Schulenberg requested an increase in population. Christianne Castleberry moved to recommend the revisions, seconded by Lauri Gillam. **Motion passed.**
* Sunset Valley requested their population be held constant. Monica Masters moved to recommend the revisions, seconded by Teresa Lutes. **Motion passed.**
* Travis County MUD #18 requested that their population be held steady. Daniel Berglund moved to recommend the revisions, second by Christianne Castleberry. **Motion passed.**
* TC WCID #18 initially requested a decrease in population. Barbara moved to recommend, however after further discussion it was noted additional documentation had been provided and the committee decided to **postpone action**.
* Well Branch MUD submitted a request but requires more information. **No action.**

The remaining WUG revision requests were tabled until the next committee meeting.

David Lindsay requested that a baseline total demand be shown for each WUG to provide comparison for the demand projections. Sara Eatman noted that there isn’t a baseline demand in the same way that there is a baseline WUG, but historical water use could provide some context for looking at the projections.

Action items included preparation of non-response list for next meeting, as well as a balance sheet showing additions and subtractions for the county-other category. The consultants requested that any committee members with contacts at the non-responsive WUGs reach out to them with a reminder.

1. **Review schedule**

Next meeting scheduled for June 22 at 1pm. Meeting location TBD.

1. **Future Agenda Items**

The same agenda will be used in the next meeting, with the goal to wrap up the revision recommendations.

**Receive public comments (Limit 3 minutes per person)**

None.

**9. Adjourn**

Adjourn at 10:45.