

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
MAY 6, 2009
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY OFFICE
LAKE CONROE DAM
1577 DAMSITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roosevelt Alexander, John R. Bartos, John Blount, Robert Bruner, Jun Chang, Reed Eichelberger, John Hofmann, John Howard, Robert Istre, Ted Long, James Morrison, Ronald J. Neighbors, William Teer, Steve Tyler, Danny Vance, C. Harold Wallace, Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Mike O'Connell for Bob Hebert, Tom Michel for Marvin Marcell, and Paul L. Nelson for Jimmie Schindewolf

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Evans, Glynn Leiper, and Mike Uhl

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Temple McKinnon and Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Ron Neighbors, Vice-Chair

CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING AT 10:05 A.M.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2009 MEETING

Motion was made by Danny Vance to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting; seconded by Harold Wallace. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 6 – 13

Dan Davis with Montgomery County MUD 8 and 9 gave an update on their recycled water project. He requested that a resolution be considered at the next Region H meeting in support of their efforts, which would allow for funding from the Texas Water Development Board and for their reuse project to be included in the planning for Region H.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE RESULTS OF THE POPULATION AND WATER DEMAND PROJECTION ANALYSIS (TASK 2) INCLUDING REVISED MUNICIPAL AND STEAM-ELECTRIC DEMANDS

Mike Reedy with AECOM reviewed the current schedule for preparing the 2011 Regional Water Plan. He then turned the presentation over to Jason Afinowicz with AECOM to present the results of the population and water demand projection analysis (Task 2), including the steam-electric demands, population projections, and municipal water demands.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 4

Brandt Mannchen commented on the proposed population and water demand projections that will be used in preparing the revised Region H Water Plan. He distributed a written summary of his comments and then briefly summarized his thoughts on the availability and clarity of the information, the public comment period, and the process in general. Mr. Mannchen encouraged the group to withdraw the submittal of revised population and water demand projections until the public policy issues of population growth and economic growth can be debated. Harold Wallace inquired as to what evidence was available to reflect that the information that the consultant provided was inaccurate, and Mr. Mannchen responded that more time was needed to evaluate the available information.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL OF REVISED POPULATION AND WATER DEMAND PROJECTIONS TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB)

Discussion ensued regarding questions and concerns related to the population projections for the City of Richmond, the City of Huntsville, and the information related to the demand projections for steam electric power. Ron Neighbors asked about the process for partially approving the population and water demand projections and approving the modifications in the future. Temple McKinnon stated that modifications would require the same process for approval if excluded. Ted Long commented on the steam electric power numbers for Fort Bend County and Galveston County; he will review historical records and get back with Mike Reedy with his findings. Robert Istre inquired as to the source of the information presented, and Temple McKinnon responded that the regional and county totals are based on the State Data Center's information. John Bartos encouraged the consultants to comment on Mr. Mannchen's questions and concerns, and Mike Reedy confirmed that this would be done. Steve Tyler inquired as to how the projected population and demand numbers compared to the availability of water. Carol Reed with the City of Huntsville briefly discussed the potential growth of the Huntsville area. She stated that Huntsville has already exceeded the 2010 projected water demand numbers and the per capita use is increasing.

Mike Reedy made the recommendation that approval be given for the submittal of revised population and water demand projections to the TWDB as presented, excluding those for the City of Huntsville, City of Richmond, and the steam electric demands. Motion was made by Roosevelt Alexander to approve the population and water demand projections as presented, excluding those for the City of Huntsville, City of Richmond, and steam electric demands for Fort Bend and Galveston counties; seconded by Robert Bruner. The motion was approved with one nay vote. Steve Tyler voted nay.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF WATER SUPPLY ANALYSIS (TASK 3), INCLUDING THE APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVES TO WAM 3 FIRM YIELDS FOR DETERMINING REGIONAL SUPPLIES

Mike Reedy continued the presentation on Task 3. Discussion on the Firm Yield Determinations was led by Danny Vance and Robert Istre. Robert Istre inquired as to why and when return

flows are taken into consideration. Mike Reedy responded that return flows have always been used. Danny Vance explained the potential effects of ignoring return flows, including outcomes that could reflect shortages of water. Robert Istre proposed that AECOM come back to the group with an analysis on the yield of the Brazos River with and without reuse.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE PROPOSED METHODOLOGY FOR SELECTION OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (WMS) (TASK 4)

Mike Reedy continued with the presentation on the Water Management Strategy Selection and criteria set for same. Robert Istre inquired as to the methodology used in Water Management Strategies (WMS) for new projects and the use of alternative strategies. John Bartos commented on alternative strategies and limitations of same. Temple McKinnon touched on new provisions that would allow for substitutions in the plan and the process for evaluating and identifying water management and alternative strategies.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION APPROVING THE WMS SELECTION APPROACH DESCRIBED UNDER ITEM 8

After discussion, motion was made by James Morrison to approve the WMS selection approach as presented; seconded by John Blount. The motion was approved with one nay vote. John Bartos voted nay.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM DAVID KASPER, HDR/CLAUNCH & MILLER, REGARDING THE CONSISTENCY OF THE 2006 REGIONAL WATER PLAN REGARDING HARRIS COUNTY WCID 21

David Kasper with HDR explained that the tables in the 2006 Regional Water Plan reflect Harris County WCID 21 as being on groundwater from the City of Houston. Jason Afinowicz with AECOM explained that another section of the 2006 Plan correctly reflects their usage as a mix of surface water and groundwater, and he recommended that a consistency waiver be requested.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION AS NECESSARY REGARDING ITEM 10

Motion was made by Tom Michel to recommend a consistency waiver for Harris County WCID 21; seconded by Paul Nelson. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE UPDATES BY LOCAL WATER AGENCIES OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES REGARDING ANY WATER-RELATED INITIATIVES OR PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR PLANNED

None.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Cindy Loeffler with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announced that she brought with her extra copies of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's documentary *Texas: The State of Flowing Water* that aired on PBS on February 12, 2009 for the members and audience.

Temple McKinnon updated everyone on the draft report and that formal communication is in the mail. She stated that final reports are due in July.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments received.

NEXT MEETING:

July 1, 2009
San Jacinto River Authority
Lake Conroe Dam
1577 Damsite Road
Conroe, Texas 77305

ADJOURNED AT 11:55 A.M.