

**MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
JULY 1, 2009
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY OFFICE
LAKE CONROE DAM
1577 DAMSITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John R. Bartos, John Blount, Robert Bruner, Reed Eichelberger, Mark Evans, Bob Hebert, John Hofmann, Robert Istre, Glynn Leiper, Ted Long, Marvin Marcell, James Morrison, Ron Neighbors, Jimmie Schindewolf, William Teer, Steve Tyler, Danny Vance, C. Harold Wallace, Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Lisa Lattu for Jun Chang, Lloyd Behm for John Howard, and Gena Leathers for Mike Uhl

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roosevelt Alexander

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Temple McKinnon and Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Chair

CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING AT 10:07 A.M.

MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2009 MEETING

Motion was made by Danny Vance to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2009 meeting; seconded by John Blount. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 4 – 18

Brandt Mannchen commented on the population and water demand projections (Item No. 10). Mr. Mannchen distributed a summary of his personal comments related to water planning and management. He urged Region H to reduce water demand through conservation, and he emphasized the need to determine the sustainable population in each watershed and to provide water for same.

David Parkhill, Vice-President of AECOM, introduced himself and commented on Mike Reedy's departure from AECOM. Mr. Parkhill updated the group on AECOM's transition plan and his involvement with the group. He discussed the roles of the various team members.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT REGARDING TWDB'S COMMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS STUDY DRAFT REPORT (AGENDA ITEM NO. 4), COMMENTS TO THE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT STUDY DRAFT REPORT (AGENDA ITEM NO. 6), AND COMMENTS TO THE INTERRUPTIBLE SUPPLY STUDY DRAFT REPORT (AGENDA ITEM NO. 8)

Jason Afinowicz presented the Texas Water Development Board's comments on the Specific Studies Reports related to environmental flows, drought management, and interruptible water supplies. Mr. Afinowicz distributed a summary of those comments, including TWDB's proposed changes to same.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS STUDY FINAL REPORT (AGENDA ITEM NO. 5), THE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT STUDY FINAL REPORT (AGENDA ITEM NO. 7), AND THE INTERRUPTIBLE SUPPLY STUDY FINAL REPORT (AGENDA ITEM NO. 9) FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2009

After discussion, motion was made by Ron Neighbors to approve the Environmental Flows Study Final Report, the Drought Management Study Final Report, and the Interruptible Supply Study Final Report for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board; seconded by Danny Vance. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT REGARDING UPDATES TO THE POPULATION AND WATER DEMAND PROJECTION ANALYSIS (TASK 2) AND THE COMPLETED CHAPTER 2

A presentation by Jason Afinowicz covered the revised population and demand projections for the City of Huntsville, the City of Richmond, North Fort Bend Water Authority, and steam-electric demands for Fort Bend County. Mr. Afinowicz discussed the outstanding issues with each and efforts made to address each of them. Discussion ensued regarding the Texas Water Development Board's consistent under-projection of population in Fort Bend County. Discussion was led by Ron Neighbors, Marvin Marcell, John Hofmann, and David Parkhill on the planning process and the need to be able to address concerns as part of the planning process. A suggestion was made by the group and confirmed by Mark Evans that language needed to be included in the Chapter 2 narrative to clearly state the group's reasons for preferring a higher number for Fort Bend's population and also to state the group's disagreement with the TWDB's required population number. An additional suggestion was made to include alternative management strategies to address the under-projections. Temple McKinnon commented that TWDB is bound to statewide numbers provided by the State Data Center, which does not allow for county increases. She continued to explain TWDB's approach and that 2010 will be the next opportunity for changes to be made. Mr. Afinowicz continued with his presentation by responding to Brandt Mannchen's previous request for more information related to population and water demand projections.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON REVISED WUG PROJECTIONS FROM ITEM 10

Brandt Mannchen stated that he was in agreement with Marvin Marcell's comments during the discussion related to population projections. He commented on the need to look back at previous projections and ways to improve in the future.

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

Motion was made by Ron Neighbors to approve the recommended population and water demand projections with direction to the consultant team to include the language as stated above (in Item No. 10) as a caveat on the Fort Bend numbers; seconded by Harold Wallace. The motion was approved with two nay votes. Marvin Marcell and Bob Hebert voted nay.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 2 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Jason Afinowicz explained the Draft Chapter 2 and the reason for early approval. He explained that the final language will come back to the group for additional review. Motion was made by John Hofmann to approve the Draft Chapter 2 with guidance to consultant to add the needed language. After further discussion Mr. Hofmann withdrew his motion. Discussions continued and motion was made by Danny Vance to direct consultant to continue in development of the Chapter 2 language as authorized; seconded by Lloyd Behm. Motion was approved.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF WATER SUPPLY ANALYSIS (TASK 3)

Jason Afinowicz introduced John Seifert to discuss the Water Supply Analysis (Task 3). Mr. Seifert discussed the current groundwater supplies and the availability of same. Karim El Kheishy continued with the presentation and discussed pre-modeling, post-modeling, and the major basins. He explained the firm yield determinations, general methodology, and WAM modeling used in the analysis. In summary he discussed the resource allocation, including counties with adequate and inadequate water supplies. He stated that the Draft Chapter 3 will be posted on Region H's website on July 8, 2009.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 3 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

No action taken. An informal approval of Draft Chapter 3 will be requested at the next Region H meeting.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (WMS) ANALYSIS (TASK 4) AND GATHER INPUT ON THE STATUS OF PROJECTS CONSIDERED IN THE 2006 RWP

Jason Afinowicz presented a general overview of Water Management Strategies (WMS) considered in the 2006 RWP. One core strategy he discussed was conservation, which can be utilized by municipal, irrigation, and industrial uses. Reservoir strategies from the 2006 plan included Allens Creek, Bedias, Little River, and Little River Off-Channel, of

which Allens Creek and Little River Off-Channel were still being considered for the current round of planning. Water rights strategies were presented, and included discussion of the Houston/SJRA Lake Houston Permit and utilization of Lake Houston Additional Yield, and Hosuton/SJRA Run-of-River Permit and the possibility of allowing for the use of interruptible water. Wastewater reclamation and reuse were presented as still-viable strategies in the current planning round. Jason then presented 2006 allocation and transfer strategies consisting of various contractual transfers, redistribution, and increasing current contracts to use non-allocated supplies. Finally, Jason briefly discussed other 2006 RWP strategies, including the BRA Systems Operations Permit, expanded use of groundwater, Freeport desalination, and the Brazos Salt Water Barrier.

Jason talked about the water provider survey which was sent to systems who were responsible for providing water to water users listed in the 2006 RWP, as well as parties that may play an important role in future water supplies within the region. Of the surveys which were sent, three responses were received, from Brazos River Authority, North Fort Bend Water Authority, and West Harris County Regional Water Authority. Jason encouraged participant input and stated that such input allows for the incorporation of strategies into the Regional Water Plan. Jason directed comments or questions to his email, Jason.Afinowicz@aecom.com.

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

None.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence from the Texas Water Development Board was presented regarding the Water Conservation Advisory Council nominations and appointment of same. Also, presented was a letter from the TWDB to acknowledge Region H's support of a consistency waiver for Harris County WCID No. 21.

The Dow Chemical Company submitted a request to TCEQ regarding the water shortage on the lower Brazos River. They are requesting that TCEQ take the necessary steps to ensure the availability of water under their water right.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Comments Received.

NEXT MEETING:

September 2, 2009
San Jacinto River Authority
Lake Conroe Dam
1577 Damsite Road
Conroe, Texas 77305

ADJOURNED AT 12:00 P.M.