

**MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
9:00 A.M.
NOVEMBER 4, 2009
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY OFFICE
LAKE CONROE DAM
1577 DAMSITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roosevelt Alexander, Reed Eichelberger, Mark Evans, Bob Hebert, John Hofmann, John Howard, Robert Istre, Gena Leathers, Ted Long, Marvin Marcell, Ron Neighbors, Jimmie Schindewolf, William Teer, Steve Tyler, Danny Vance, C. Harold Wallace, Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Reeves Gilmore for John Blount, Lisa Lattu for Jun Chang

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Bartos, Robert Bruner, Glynn Leiper, James Morrison

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Ahrens, Temple McKinnon, and Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Ron Neighbors, Vice-Chairman

CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING AT 10:08 A.M.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 MEETING

Motion was made by Danny Vance to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2009, meeting; seconded by Steve Tyler. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 4 – 10

None.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF JUDGE ART HENSON AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING COUNTIES

Consideration for this agenda item was deferred until the arrival of Mark Evans, Chairman of the group.

Item was discussed briefly by Mark Evans. Mr. Evans explained that the vacancy left from the retirement of Jack Harris needed to be filled, and the recommendation of the nominating committee, which included Jimmie Schindewolf, Marvin Marcell, and Robert Bruner, was to select Judge Art Henson as a voting member of the Region H Water Planning Group representing counties. Motion was made by C. Harold Wallace; seconded by Danny Vance. The

motion carried unanimously for the selection of Judge Art Henson as a voting member of the Region H Water Planning Group representing counties.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE ADOPTION OF THE SPECIAL RESOLUTION REGARDING POPULATION AND WATER DEMAND PROJECTIONS FOR FORT BEND COUNTY PRESENTED AT THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2009 MEETING

Jason Afinowicz with AECOM discussed the past population and water demand projections and comparisons for Fort Bend County. He discussed the under-estimation of population and future projections of same. Mr. Afinowicz presented a "Resolution by the Region H Regional Water Planning Group Regarding Population Projections for the 2011 Regional Water Planning Cycle Adoption Pending" for approval by the group. He stated that if approved, the resolution would be presented to the Texas Water Development Board with the 2011 plan. Motion was made by Bob Hebert to approve the resolution as presented; seconded by Roosevelt Alexander. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (WMS) ANALYSIS (TASK 4)

Jason Afinowicz stated that the subcommittee met last week to discuss water management strategies. He continued with his presentation by discussing the initial shortages by counties and basins and the initial water management strategies. He discussed the remaining shortages after the initial water management strategies and the major water management strategies in the Eastern Basins and Brazos and San Jacinto-Brazos Basins.

Discussion ensued on interim groundwater, and the redistribution and reallocation of existing supplies. Mr. Afinowicz stated that AECOM has gone through groundwater reduction plans and has included specific projects and strategies related to reuse. David Parkhill encouraged feedback on the major water management strategies and the reallocation of shortages. He discussed the shortages and how they came about, including a major power company's needs.

Ron Neighbors expressed concerns over prioritization of needs for water, including recent requests for water from the Brazos River Authorities pending system operations permit. John Hofmann commented on the pending contract with a power plant that is waiting to be permitted.

Mr. Parkhill addressed the concerns of the group related to the shortages and the change in the availability of water. He discussed the rating criteria for the water management strategies and currently selected major water management strategies, including Allens Creek Reservoir and the Brazos River Authority's systems operations permit. Discussion on these strategies, including the potential opposition to same, economic impact, and environmental flows followed. The group recognized the urgency to move forward with water management strategies. The consultants were requested to meet with Region G in an attempt to keep the 2006 allotment and to help coordinate between Region G and Region H.

Discussion continued on potential opportunities to address the shortages. David Parkhill spoke on new reservoirs and the typical issues when considering new reservoirs. Jace Houston

mentioned interbasin transfers and the need for project sponsors. Ron Neighbors commented on the City of Houston's involvement in the past to lead projects and the inability of other entities to do so because of the costs involved. Mr. Parkhill discussed the current timeline and the upcoming deadlines.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF ECOLOGICALLY UNIQUE STREAM SEGMENTS, UNIQUE RESERVOIR SITES, AND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS (TASK 8)

Chris Krueger with KBR proceeded with the presentation on the status of ecologically unique stream segments, unique reservoir sites, and legislative recommendations (Task 8). He discussed the regulatory and administrative recommendations.

Temple McKinnon with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) discussed alternate strategies and the consistency provisions in the 2011 Regional Water Plan. David Parkhill discussed how the consistency requirements impact development of the regional plan.

Mr. Krueger continued his presentation on TDPEs permitting and legislative recommendations. Discussion ensued on the legislative recommendations related to interbasin transfers and creation of groundwater districts. Mr. Parkhill suggested that a subcommittee be appointed to work on the recommendations for this round. Mr. Evans assigned a subcommittee to include: Danny Vance – Chair, Ron Neighbors, John Hofmann, Reed Eichelberger, John Bartos, and Robert Istre. Since a subcommittee was assigned to further develop the legislative recommendations, Mr. Parkhill recommended deferring further discussion on recommendations until a later date.

DISCUSS THE PLANNING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL AND SUBMITTAL OF THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN ON MARCH 1, 2010

Jason Afinowicz discussed planning the public meetings and what is required by law after the submittal of the initially prepared plan on March 1, 2010. Glenda Calloway explained that although in the past the meetings have been lightly attended, she did not believe that three meetings would be too many for a fifteen county area. She stated that in the past, the best turnout was in Walker County. Judge Henson stated that a meeting can be held in Brazos County or Madisonville and offered assistance in finding a location if needed. Ms. Calloway will come back to the group with recommended dates and locations.

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

Lloyd Behm, General Manager of the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District stated that they have recently adopted a Groundwater Management Plan. It has not yet been approved by Texas Water Development Board, but he will submit a copy to Jace Houston for planning purposes.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Temple McKinnon with Texas Water Development Board stated that Region H's population projections would be presented to their board on November 10, 2009.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING:

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

ADJOURNED AT 12:40 P.M.