

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, James Comin, Mark Evans, Bob Hebert, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Ivan Langford, Marvin Marcell, William Teer, Michael Turco, Kevin Ward, and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Alisa Max for John Blount, Mike Uhl for Glenn Lord, Veronica Osegueda for Yvonne Forrest, Ken Kramer for Carl Masterson, Zach Holland for James Morrison, and Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf

MEMBERS ABSENT: W.R. Baker and Robert Istre.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Lann Bookout

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2020

Mr. Brunett made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Langford and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 12

There were no public comments related to agenda items 5 through 12.

5. DISCUSS AND ELECT OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP (RHWPG)

Mr. Taucer stated that the current members of the Executive Committee are Mark Evans, Chair; Marvin Marcell, Vice-Chair; Jace Houston, Secretary; Pudge Willcox and John Bartos. Mr. Hebert made a motion to re-elect the current officers and members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Langford and carried unanimously.

6. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H RWP.

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the milestones for the development of the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan by reviewing upcoming deadlines related to the Initially Prepared Plan (“IPP”) public comment period and other dates related to same.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Mr. Taucer explained the various requirements for the IPP public hearings. He provided tentative dates, times, and locations for same. Mr. Taucer explained that the Texas Water Development Board rules require only one public hearing, however it has been their practice to provide more convenient public hearing locations throughout the region (Montgomery County, Madison County, and Fort Bend County) to ensure public participation.

8. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE FOR PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 REGION H INITIALLY PREPARED REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND AUTHORIZE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY AND THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO PREPARE AND MAIL NOTICES RELATED TO THE PUBLIC HEARINGS.

Mr. Taucer provided a tentative schedule for the public hearings. Mr. Chang made a motion to approve the public hearing schedule for the presentation of the 2021 Region H Initially Prepared Regional Water Plan and authorize the San Jacinto River Authority and the consultant team to prepare and mail notices related to the public hearings. Mr. Bartos amended the motion to provide the consultant team the flexibility to alter the dates based upon venue availability, etc. The amendment and original motion were seconded by Mr. Ward and carried unanimously.

9. REVIEW COMMENTS RECEIVED AND REVISIONS MADE TO THE DRAFT INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN.

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the various comments received and minor revisions made to the draft Initially Prepared Plan. He explained the addition of the Cedar Bayou Desalination Facility, the City of Houston Groundwater Expansion, the City of Houston GRP Transmission, the CWA Transmission Line, and the Lower Brazos Industrial Reuse projects. He then explained various adjustments made to the Brackish Groundwater Development, City of Houston Reuse, Neches-Trinity Water Purification Plant, Northeast Water Purification Plant, Southeast Transmission Line, and the West Water Purification System projects. Mr. Taucer provided information related to general adjustments which included drought of record for multi-region basins, the fine tuning of recent contracts, clarification of multi-region MWP summaries, and interregional concerns related to alluvial groundwater. Discussion ensued related to alluvial groundwater and it was determined that a joint committee of Region H and Region G should take place in the future to further discuss. Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the various changes to Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the IPP and reviewed the major deliverables.

10. CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE IPP AND APPROVE THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO PREPARE FINAL COPIES OF THE REVISED INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND SUBMIT TO TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD NO LATER THAN MARCH 3, 2020

Mr. Henson made a motion to adopt and approve the consultant team to prepare final copies of the revised IPP and supporting documentation and submit to the Texas Water Development Board no later than March 3, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marcell and carried unanimously.

11. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE RHWPG

Mr. Taucer provided information related to an upcoming Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium.

12. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Bookout stated that the SWIFT applications were due February 3, and that five were received from Region H.

13. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS. (PUBLIC COMMENTS LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

Ms. Susanne Allen and Mr. Erich Birch spoke about the seasonal lake lowering policy at Lake Conroe.

14. NEXT MEETING: JUNE 3, 2020

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting would take place on June 3, 2020.

15. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.