

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Ashmore, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Bob Hebert, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Glenn Lord, Carl Masterson, Mike Turco, Brandon Wade, Kevin Ward, and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Alisa Max for John Blount, Aaron Able for Brad Brunett, and Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf.

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Bailey, W.R. Baker, Carl Burch, Ivan Langford, Marvin Marcell, James Morrison, and William Teer.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2020 MEETING

Mr. Houston made a motion to approve the minutes of August 5, 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henson and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 15

There were no comments related to this item.

5. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN (RWP)

Mr. Taucer reported a slight extension to the cycle to allow the Texas Water Development staff adequate time to update databases. He stated that Region H completed said task and anticipate submitting the RWP ahead of the extended deadline.

6. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING REVISIONS MADE TO THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN IN PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT FINAL 2021 REGION H RWP

Mr. Taucer provided a recap of the revisions made to the Initially Prepared Plan of the draft Final 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIST OF PRIORITIZED PROJECTS FROM THE 2021 RWP AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION APPROVING THE LIST OF PRIORITIZED PROJECTS FOR SUBMITTAL TO TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. Taucer stated that there were no new requests for clarification related to the development of the list of prioritized projects from the 2021 RWP. He stated that there were, however minor updates for formal sponsor request. Mr. Lord made a motion to approve the list of prioritized project for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ward and carried unanimously.

8. REVIEW AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H RWP AND AUTHORIZING THE CONSULTANT TEAM AND SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO COORDINATE WITH TWDB AND EXECUTE THE SUBSEQUENT CONTRACT AMENDMENT ISSUED

Mr. Taucer explained the final budget adjustments related to development of the 2021 Region H RWP. He stated the budget amount did not change, however certain amounts were adjusted in various tasks, expense, and subconsultant categories. Mr. Masterson made a motion to authorize the consultant team and the San Jacinto River Authority to coordinate with the Texas Water Development Board and execute the subsequent contract amendment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

It was announced that items 9 and 10 would be considered together.

9. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION IN ADOPTING THE FINAL 2021 RWP AND AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF THE COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONTINGENT UPON INCORPORATION OF COMMENTS AND INCLUSIONS OF FINAL REQUIRED MATERIALS

10. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE APPROVED REGION H RWP, FINALIZE COMMENTS, AND TRANSMIT THE COMPLETED DOCUMENT AND REQUIRED MATERIALS TO TWDB

Mr. Henson made a motion to adopt the Final 2021 RWP and authorize submittal of the completed document to the Texas Water Development Board contingent upon incorporation of comments and inclusions of the final required materials and authorize the consultant team to make any necessary non-substantive changes to the approved Region H RWP, finalize comments, and transmit the completed documents and required materials to the Texas Water Development Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Max. Mr. Wade commented that reuse project number three, environmental rating of two is

incorrect due to no impact to instream return flows because return flows go directly into Galveston Bay instead of the Brazos River. He stated that the rating should be a four instead of a two. Mr. Taucer stated that the number does not directly impact the recommendation, cost, or allocation of the project, therefore, the change could be categorized as a non-substantive adjustment. After further discussion, Mr. Wade made a motion to amend the current motion to include the adjustment subject to verification by the consultant team whether or not the change was determined to be acceptable. Mr. Henson and Ms. Max accepted the amendment brought forth by Mr. Wade. The amended motion carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO SERVE AS THE REGION H POLITICAL SUBDIVISION FOR THE 6TH CYCLE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Mr. Chang made a motion to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to serve as the Region H political subdivision for the 6th Cycle of Regional Water Planning. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wade and carried unanimously.

12. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE REGION H POLITICAL SUBDIVISION TO PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTICE, SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TWDB, AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE TWDB ON BEHALF OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP FOR INITIAL FUNDING OF THE 6TH CYCLE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Mr. Masterson made a motion to authorize the Region H Political Subdivision to provide public notice, submit a grant application to the Texas Water Development Board, and execute a contract with the Texas Water Development Board on behalf of the Region H Water Planning Group for initial funding of the 6th Cycle of Regional Water Planning. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wade and carried unanimously.

13. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION AUTHORIZING THE REGION H POLITICAL SUBDIVISION TO USE FUNDS FROM THE REGION H LOCAL CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT TO PAY FOR PUBLIC NOTICE ACTIVITIES FOR THE 6TH CYCLE OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Mr. Evans explained the history of the Region H local contribution account. Mr. Chang made a motion to authorize the Region H political subdivision to use funds from the Region H local contribution account to pay for public notice activities for the 6th Cycle of Regional Water Planning. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abel and carried unanimously.

14. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP

Mr. Taucer stated that Jason Afinowicz would be presenting Planning Resilient Water Supply in Texas for the Next Fifty Years at the upcoming Gulf Coast Water Conservation Symposium on October 28, 2020.

15. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Bookout provided information related to the Texas Water Development Board's boundary review process for the regional planning group.

16. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

17. NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 3, 2021

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting will be held on February 3, 2021.

18. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.