

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2014
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, John Blount, Jun Chang, David Collinsworth, James Comin, Mark Evans, Gene Fisseler, Bob Hebert, Judge Art Henson, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Kathy Jones, Carl Masterson, Ronald J. Neighbors, Jimmie Schindewolf, J. Kevin Ward, and Pudge Wilcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Lisa Lattu, Paul Nelson, Glenn Lord, Mike Turco, Tom Michel, and Melinda Silva

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Bruner, John Howard, Gená Leathers, Marvin Marcell, James Morrison, and William Teer.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Hall, Temple McKinnon, and Dave Scholler.

PRESIDING: Judge Mark Evans, Chair

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m., and a quorum was present.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans welcomed Kathleen Jackson of the Texas Water Development Board as well as alternate voting members present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2014, MEETING

The minutes for the August 6, 2014, meeting were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Comin, seconded by Mr. Michel, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 17

Jill Savory commented on items 14 and 15, stating that she attended the water loss conference presented by Texas A&M. She spoke in regards to the measurement of water and thanked the Texas Water Development Board for standardization of measuring water usage in gallons versus acre feet.

4. RECOGNIZE AND WELCOME KATHLEEN JACKSON, MEMBER OF THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Chairman Evans welcomed Ms. Kathleen Jackson, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). She introduced James Bronikowski and Jennifer White from TWDB. Ms. Jackson reviewed the internal changes that will make processes more efficient for communities to apply for TWDB grants.

5. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE RESIGNATION OF GENÁ LEATHERS AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WPG REPRESENTING INDUSTRIES

Mr. Henson made a motion to accept the resignation of Gená Leathers as a voting member of the Region H WPG representing industries. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blount with all present voting aye.

6. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF GLENN LORD AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WPG REPRESENTING INDUSTRIES

Mr. Hebert made a motion to accept the recommendation of Glenn Lord as a voting member of the Region H WPG representing industries. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fisseler with all present voting aye.

7. RECEIVE PRESENTATION ON AND DISCUSS PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE 2011 REGION H WATER PLAN TO INCLUDE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES RELATED TO BRACKISH GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF SURFACE WATER TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE BY BRAZOSPORT WATER AUTHORITY

Jason Afinowicz, consultant with Freese and Nichols, presented information related to the draft amendment package that was submitted to the Texas Water Development Board. He went on to explain the process by which the amendment would be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board. Mr. Afinowicz then explained that Brazosport Water Authority has a fundamental purpose for developing resources. He stated that the conventional water plant expansion will serve existing service areas such as Angleton, Brazoria and Clute Counties.

8. CONSIDER ACTION TO AMEND THE 2011 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN TO INCLUDE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES RELATED TO BRACKISH GROUNDWATER DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF SURFACE WATER TREATMENT INFRASTRUCTURE BY BRAZOSPORT WATER AUTHORITY

Chairman Evans opened the public hearing at 10:37 a.m. Ms. Jill Savory commented on the environmental impacts and cost to the public. She then inquired if all information was posted on the website.

With no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 10:39 a.m.

Mr. Herbert made a motion to amend the 2011 Region H Water Plan to include water management strategies related to brackish groundwater development and expansion of surface water treatment infrastructure by Brazosport Water Authority. Mr. Houston seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

9. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM JEFF TAEBEL ON THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL 2040 REGIONAL PLAN

Mr. Taebel of the Houston-Galveston Area Council presented information regarding the Houston-Galveston Area Council 2040 Regional Plan. He discussed the long range plans for thirteen regions. He stated that the overall goal is to ensure the region's prosperity.

10. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING STATUS OF THE PROPOSED APPLICATION BY DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY TO AMEND THE 2011 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz stated that the amendment package was presented to the Texas Water Development Board for determination, reminding the group that the proposed application is related to the expansion of existing off-channel reservoir and pump station infrastructure by Dow Chemical.

11. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE PROPOSED APPLICATION BY GULF COAST WATER AUTHORITY TO AMEND THE 2011 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND CONSIDER APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE APPLICATION PACKAGE TO TWDB FOR THE DETERMINATION OF MINOR AMENDMENT STATUS

Mr. Afinowicz presented information regarding the proposed application by Gulf Coast Water Authority stating that the Texas Water Development Board will determine if the request is a major or minor amendment. This amendment will account for the addition of a reclaimed water supply for use by the customers of the Gulf Coast Water Authority. After further discussion, Mr. Fisseler made a motion to approve the submittal of the application package to the Texas Water Development Board for the determination of minor amendment status. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blount with all present voting aye.

12. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz spoke about the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2016 schedule including the tentative meeting scheduled for February to discuss legislative recommendations.

13. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT COPY OF CHAPTER 4: DESCRIPTION OF REGION FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz presented information regarding Chapter 4, Analysis of Needs, requesting comments to the chapter; the possibility of changes to the introduction, methodologies, needs, strategies, etc.

14. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT COPY OF CHAPTER 7: PROJECTED POPULATION AND WATER DEMANDS FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz presented information regarding Chapter 7, Drought Response, stating no action was needed today, but discussed how drought responses have created a greater focus on droughts of record and existing drought contingency plans which has been compiled into a summary reviewing triggers, etc.

15. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES COMMITTEE REGARDING STATUS OF THE IDENTIFICATION OF NEEDS AND POTENTIAL STRATEGIES FOR THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Hebert stated that the Water Management Strategies Committee met on September 15, 2014, and discussed issues relayed in a letter to the Texas Water Development Board. Temple McKinnon, Texas Water Development Board stated that plans cannot be in violation of the TWDB rules and stated that a response letter would be sent in the near future. Mr. Hebert explained that the Committee is working on gathering information regarding conservation, groundwater expansion, and other water management strategies.

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

Mr. Afinowicz stated that he will be presenting to the Houston-Galveston Area Council regarding water rights and reuse, and Chairman Evans stated he will be speaking to the North Houston Association Environmental Committee.

17. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Temple McKinnon stated that a minor amendment would be considered at December 11, 2014, meeting; Ms. Jackson commented on SWIFT rules; also mentioned was the extended deadline for the contract amendment, and Ms. Jackson was thanked for her attendance.

18. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ken Kramer spoke of upcoming participation efforts regarding groundwater legislation. Ms. Savory asked that her previous comments be changed from item 14 to item 13. She also

spoke in regards to the creation of uniform standard models, and reminded everyone to utilize 8-1-1 for pipeline identification before digging.

19. NEXT MEETING: DOW PLAN AMENDMENT HEARING – DECEMBER 10, 2014, 2:00 P.M., REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Mr. Houston announced that the primary purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments from the public with regard to the Dow Plan Amendment.

20. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.