

**MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
OCTOBER 07, 2015
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TX 77304**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Neighbors, Pudge Willcox, Gene Fisseler, John Bartos, Glenn Lord, Carl Masterson, Jimmie Schindewolf, Jace Houston, Mark Evans, David Bailey, Art Henson, John Howard, Robert Bruner, James Comin, James Morrison, Robert Istre, Kathy Turner Jones, Bob Hebert, John Blount

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Jim Simms for Kevin Ward, Tom Michel for Bill Teer, Michael Turco for Marvin Marcell, Lisa Lattu for Jun Chang, Brad Burnett for David Collinsworth

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Lann Bookout

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans announced the alternate members present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2015 MEETING

Ronald Neighbors made a motion to approve the minutes of July 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Judge Art Henson and carried unanimously.

3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 9

There were no comments.

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

Mr. Philip Taucer gave a brief overview of the remaining schedule for the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan. Mr. Taucer stated that the Texas Water Development Board will need to shut down the database in order to have adequate time to compile all of the summaries for inclusion in the final 2016 Initially Prepared Plan.

5. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING COMMENTS TO THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL REVISIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FINAL 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Taucer stated that fifteen Level 1 comments were received on the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan by the Texas Water Development Board. He went on to state that Level 2 comments related to readability of the plan and that no comments were received. Mr. Taucer went over comments that were received from the Texas Water Development Board relating to supply and water management strategies availability, cost estimates, water management strategies quantification, consideration of application of conservation, interbasin transfer considerations, water loss for water management strategies; he also explained recommendations for each comment received. Mr. Taucer went on to explain comments that

were received from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department including comments relating to quantitative impacts, freshwater inflows, DFC focus on SW/GW interaction, unique stream segments, impacts of invasive species, and recommendations regarding guidelines for WMS evaluation. Mr. Taucer went over public comments received relating to topics on conservation, drought management, environmental flows, Little River Off-Channel Reservoir, surplus strategies, and comments relating to other/general topics of the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan. A brief discussion ensued related to potential additional legislative recommendations related to Chapter 8, including expanding TWDB's Outreach to Municipal Water Utilities on the availability of financial assistance through SIFT/SWIRFT and encouraging the TWDB to use all of its financial assistance programs proactively to curb water loss by retail and wholesale public water utilities. After the discussion, it was decided that these two recommendations be removed from the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan. The next discussion pertained to the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir. Mr. Robert Bruner made a motion to remove the Little River Off-Channel Reservoir as a Unique Reservoir Site in the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Masterson and passed with 19 ayes (Mr. Willcox, Mr. Fisseler, Mr. Bartos, Mr. Masterson, Mr. Schindewolf, Mr. Houston, Mr. Evans, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Henson, Mr. Bruner, Mr. Comin, Mr. Morrison, Ms. Jones, Mr. Hebert, Mr. Blount, Mr. Michel, Mr. Turcco, Ms. Lattu, and Mr. Burnett) and 5 nays (Mr. Neighbors, Mr. Howard, Mr. Simms, Mr. Lord, and Mr. Istre) Mr. Taucer then briefly explained the remaining process for the finalization of the 2016 Initially Prepared Plan.

6. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF AND COLLECTION OF RESPONSES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING SURVEYS

Mr. Taucer explained that the Implementation Survey is a new addition to the planning process and that it is designed to allow the plans, planning groups, and the Board to get a more detailed handle on projects from the prior plan that have been implemented with an attempt to get more clear documentation on the recommendations from the previous plan. Mr. Taucer went on to say that 270 surveys were sent to all sponsors and that 10 responses were received in return. He then went on to explain the Infrastructure Financing Report Survey stating that there were 270 recipients of the survey and that 20 responses were returned.

7. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS OF NOT MEETING WATER NEEDS FOR THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Taucer explained that the Socioeconomic Impacts of Unmet Needs is prepared by the TWDB stating that this analysis is based on a single drought year. Mr. Taucer went on to explain the Socioeconomic Impacts including regional economic losses, financial transfer impacts, and social impacts.

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

Mr. Taucer stated that recently there have been several groups that have shown interest in the regional planning process including Texas Municipal League, HTAC's Clean Water Initiative Group Meeting and the Water Efficiency Network. Mr. Taucer went on to say that a presentation discussing the Regional Planning Process was given to the Texas Association of Environmental Professionals. He also stated that a presentation will be given to the Texas City Management Association prior to the next meeting.

9. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Lann Bookout with the Texas Water Development Board briefly stated that on July 23, 2015, the Texas Water Development Board approved 3.9 billion dollars in financial assistance distributed to the 21 applicants which includes a total of 32 projects. Mr. Bookout also explained that a second round of SWIFT funding will occur in December, 2015. He went on to say that the Texas Water Development Board has asked that the Regional Water Planning Group produce the 2017 State Water Plan in 2016 in order for new projects to be included in the plan that will be used for the approval of projects. Mr.

Bookout explained that the Texas Water Development Board will amend the 2012 state water plan to include the Central Harris County Regional Water Authority amendment. He went on to state that the board is taking comments on the planning boundary area which is done every 5 years. Mr. Evans gave a brief update on the process of procuring a consultant for the next planning cycle with a brief overview of the scoping committee.

10. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jill Savory relayed her opinion regarding groundwater. She stated that she would like the legislature to require water meter installation and reading standards for all water related districts to improve their water use calculations. Ms. Savory went on to say that she would like the legislature to hold Municipal Utility Districts accountable to notifications of upcoming elections, elected or appointed residency requirements, term limits and have a state agency responsible for enforcing these. Ms. Savory also stated that she would like the legislature to create an ethic standard to eliminate attorneys or individuals representing/consulting for multiple water districts from holding office on water planning regulation and control boards.

Dr. Matthew Berg with Save Water Company briefly explained that as a water conservation company, data is collected daily by going through apartment complexes, hotels, and office buildings. They record data related to inefficient fixtures within those dwellings. Dr. Berg stated that he would like to offer this data for the next regional water planning cycle.

11. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Evans announced that the next regular meeting will be held on November 4, 2015.

12. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.