

**MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
July 3, 2013
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John R. Bartos, Robert Bruner, Jun Chang, Judge Mark Evans, Judge Art Henson, John Hoffman, Jace Houston, John Howard, Robert Istre, Kathy Jones, Gena Leathers, Ted Long, Marvin Marcell, Carl Masterson, Ronald J Neighbors, Jimmie Schindewolf, J. Kevin Ward, and Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Mike O'Connell for Judge Bob Hebert, Tom Michel for William Teer, Charles Dean for John Blount

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Morrison, Steve Tyler, C. Harold Wallace, and Glynn Leiper

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Lann Bookout for Temple McKinnon, Scott Hall, Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Chair

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING AT 10:05 A.M.

A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Mark Evans welcomed everyone and alternates were announced.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2013 MEETING

The minutes for the April 3, 2013 meeting were presented. Motion was made by Mr. Robert Bruner, seconded by Mr. Jun Chang, to approve the minutes. Mr. Evans stated that a small change needed to be made on the third page of the minutes to reflect that the consultant team "spoke at" instead of "will speak." The motion carried unanimously with the change.

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

Mr. Ken Kramer, Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, presented a review of actions taken by the 83rd Texas Legislature in the regular session to advance water conservation, curb water loss, and respond to drought conditions. Mr. Kramer also discussed the schedule for revisiting the state's BMP guide for conservation and encouraged the group to carefully consider conservation when developing water management strategies.

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ACTION TO APPROVE SUPPORT FOR A CONSISTENCY WAIVER FOR THE CITY OF GROVETON'S PROJECT RELATED TO GROUNDWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Evans acknowledged Mr. Byron Richards, Mayor of the City of Groveton for his attendance along with his consultant, Mr. Draper.

Mr. Jason Afinowicz discussed letters received from the City of Groveton on project development to enhance their existing surface water supplies with groundwater. He further recommended that the Region H Water Planning Group submit a letter of support for the request, on behalf of the City of Groveton. Motion was made by Mr. Marvin Marcell to approve a waiver request for a water supply project with the City of Groveton, seconded by Judge Art Henson. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Afinowicz updated the group on the schedule and milestones. Also, he reminded the group of the August 16, 2013, deadline for submittal of population and water demand projections to TWDB and stated that the consultant team has continued the investigation of supply issues along with shortages of water to wholesale suppliers.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND *NON-POPULATION DEMANDS* COMMITTEE REGARDING DEMANDS FOR USE IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND CONSIDER APPROVAL

Mr. Afinowicz mentioned the non-population demands committee discussion. He presented final recommendations to adopt revised mining demands with the exception of Chambers County based on the BEG Revision and adopt the Texas Water Development Board recommended revision to Chambers County. It was recommended that Chambers County demands represent the values as developed by the RWPG with a minor amendment as made by TWDB.

Motion was made by Mr. John Hoffman to adopt the recommended non-population demands along with the revisions recommended by TWDB for Chambers County, seconded by Mr. Jace Houston. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND POPULATION DEMANDS COMMITTEE REGARDING DEMANDS FOR USE IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND CONSIDER APPROVAL

Mr. Afinowicz briefly reviewed the population demands timeline. He also discussed WUG populations, TWDB per-capita demand estimates, shifting per-capita demands, and revisions to original estimates. He stated that TWDB had tentatively approved all requests by WUGs to adjust population and demand projections with the exception of one (North Fort Bend Water Authority).

Motion was made by Mr. Marcell to approve the recommended population projections and per-capita estimates as reviewed by the population demands committee, including WUG requests by Harris County MUD 278, Harris County WCID 96, NHCRWA, and WHCRWA and including the WUG request by NFBWA contingent on TWDB and population demands committee approval of NFBWA's submission. The motion also stated that if TWDB does not approve the NFBWA's submission, approval defaults back to original numbers. Seconded by Mr. Houston. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES COMMITTEE REGARDING STATUS OF INVESTIGATION OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE STUDY OF STRATEGIES FROM THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. Afinowicz discussed the accelerated studies, presented funding to date, and gave scope and budget along with the key considerations for municipal, industrial, irrigation, and expanded use of groundwater. Mr. Jun Chang made a motion to approve recommendations from phase 2 WMS studies. Mr. Carl Masterson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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 there were no recent or upcoming efforts or related communications from the planning group.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD REGARDING AND DISCUSS NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL WATER PLANS FOR THE 2016 PLANNING CYCLE INCLUDING HOUSE BILL 3, SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1, AND HOUSE BILL 1025

Mr. Bookout presented the revised rules for regional water planning, summarizing the background, planning rules, and purpose of specific rule changes along with implementation and prioritization of the State Water Plan projects.

DISCUSS SCHEDULE FOR PLANNING GROUP EFFORTS AND MEETINGS FOR 2013-2014

Mr. Evans suggests a November 6th meeting schedule in place of the September meeting.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Ted Long made announcement that he will retire at the first of the year and notified the members of a need for his replacement.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Brandt Mannchen, Houston Sierra Club, gave commentary regarding Austin County with questions about a canal system within their region.

NEXT MEETING

November 6, 2013
San Jacinto River Authority
General & Administration
1577 Dam Site Road
Conroe, TX 77304

ADJOURNED AT 12:32 P.M.