

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
December 5, 2012
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, Robert Bruner, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Art Henson, John Hofmann, Jace Houston, John Howard, Robert Istre, Gena Leathers, Ted Long, Ron Neighbors, Jimmie Schindewolf, William Teer, Steve Tyler, and C. Harold Wallace

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Mary Carter for John Bartos, Charles Dean for John Blount, Paul Nelson for Kathy Jones, and Tom Michel for Marvin Marcell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Hebert, Glynn Leiper, Carl Masterson, James Morrison, J. Kevin Ward, and Pudge Willcox

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Hall, Temple McKinnon, and Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Chair

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING AT 10:08 A.M.

A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone and alternates were announced.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2012 MEETING

The minutes for the September 5, 2012, meeting were presented. Motion was made by Mr. Wallace, seconded by Mr. Neighbors, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 10

No public comments were received.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A REGION H LOCAL CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT GRANT POLICY AND A GRANT APPLICATION FROM THE TEXAS WATER FOUNDATION FOR A PROPOSED PILOT PROJECT TO QUANTIFY WATER CONSERVATION SAVINGS IN REGION H

Mr. Evans stated that the group would consider the policy first before moving on to the application. He mentioned that the executive committee participated in a conference call where they made minor technical changes to the policy. Mr. Houston walked the group through the policy. Discussion ensued regarding establishing a base amount to contribute, noting ownership of the work product, and creating an agreement to go along with an approved application.

Motion was made by Mr. Neighbors to approve the Region H Local Contribution Account Grant Policy. Mr. Houston seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Neighbors asked if an investor's steering committee would be formed with regard to the Texas Water Foundation project. Senator Kip Averitt advised the group that he agrees that a committee is a critical part of the process and would be looking for input from the stakeholders. It was suggested by the group that half of the funds would be paid upfront and the second half would be paid after progress reports were provided in one year.

Motion was made by Mr. Neighbors to approve a \$50,000 grant to the Texas Water Foundation from the Region H Local Contribution account for a proposed pilot project to quantify water conservation savings in Region H with the requirement that half of the grant be paid upon completion of an agreement and the other half to be paid upon receipt of a one-year progress report. The motion included authorization for the San Jacinto River Authority to complete the agreement and make the authorized payments. Mr. Chang seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Afinowicz updated the group on the schedule and milestones. He stated that funding was authorized by the Texas Water Development Board in October. Mr. Houston mentioned that the Contract Amendment would be taken to the SJRA Board of Directors this month for approval.

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

Mr. Reedy updated the group on county-wide projections, WUG-level projections, and per capita demands. He specified that the consultant team is going about the project differently due to the Regional Groundwater Update Project for the following five counties: Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Montgomery counties.

Mr. Chang stated that the US Census issued a correction for the City of Houston, from 2.0 to 2.1 million. He continued by asking the consultant team if the data will change based on this correction. Mr. Reedy confirmed that the data would be changed based on the correction.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE ROLE OF CONSERVATION IN PAST REGIONAL PLANNING CYCLES

Mr. Afinowicz gave the presentation, originally given at the Water Efficiency Network in September, on the role of conservation in the Region H Water Plan. He continued with basic information on population, available water, and how conservation is hard to plan for.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO APPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMITTAL OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE LUCE BAYOU INTERBASIN TRANSFER PROJECT

Mr. Reedy presented a proposed letter of support to the group. He stated that the letter was requested by the Coastal Water Authority to assist it in gaining approval of the necessary permits to complete the project. Discussion ensued regarding minor changes to the letter including adding the following statement: Region H respectfully requests that your agency complete its review of this permit in a timely manner as scheduled allowing this critical water supply project to be implemented for the benefit of our region.

Mr. Don Ripley, Coastal Water Authority, stated that the permit should be complete within 180 days.

Motion was made by Mr. Neighbors to approve the development and submittal of a letter of support for the Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer Project, with the inclusion of the sentence above. Mr. Bruner seconded the motion. Mr. Steve Tyler opposed. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Afinowicz discussed recent community outreach activities. He indicated that the consultant team spoke at the *Water Efficiency Network (09/20)*.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Ms. Temple McKinnon stated that a number of planning dates had changed significantly and mentioned that training would occur on new tasks for the planning group.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

NEXT MEETING

April 3, 2013
San Jacinto River Authority
General and Administration Building
1577 Dam Site Road

Conroe, Texas 77304

ADJOURNED AT 11:43 A.M.