

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
FEBRUARY 4, 2015
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, Mark Evans, Gene Fisseler, Bob Hebert, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Kathy Jones, Glenn Lord, Ronald Neighbors, Jimmie Schindewolf, William Teer, and Pudge Wilcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Lann Bookout for Temple McKinnon, Ken Kramer for Carl Masterson, Judge Danny Pierce for Robert Bruner, Abby Paben for John Howard, Jim Sims for J. Kevin Ward, and Michael Turco for Marvin Marcell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Bruner, James Comin, Judge Art Henson, Marvin Marcell, Carl Masterson, James Morrison, and J. Kevin Ward.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Bailey and Kristin Lambrecht.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans announced the alternate members present.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2014

No action was taken on this item.

3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 18

There were no comments.

4. RECEIVE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSS PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE 2011 REGION H WATER PLAN RELATED TO PROPOSED EXPANSION OF AN OFF-CHANNEL RESERVOIR AND PUMP STATION BY DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

Jason Afinowicz provided an update regarding the proposed amendment to the 2011 Region H Water Plan stating that a public hearing took place on December 10, 2014, with comment period through January 12, 2015. He stated that no comments have been received.

5. CONSIDER ACTION TO AMEND THE 2011 REGION H WATER PLAN TO REVISE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES RELATED TO PROPOSED EXPANSION OF AN OFF-CHANNEL RESERVOIR AND PUMP STATION BY DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

Mr. Houston made a motion to amend the 2011 Region H Water Plan to revise Water Management Strategies related to proposed expansion of an off-channel reservoir and pump station by Dow Chemical Company. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and carried unanimously.

6. RECEIVE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSS PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE 2011 REGION H WATER PLAN RELATED TO PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM BY GULF COAST WATER AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE RECLAIMED WASTEWATER EFFLUENTS FROM THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Mr. Afinowicz explained that upon submittal to the Texas Water Development Board, this amendment was considered to be a minor amendment by TWDB. He went on to say that it did not require a public hearing, however it did require a fourteen day comment period prior to this meeting.

7. CONSIDER ACTION TO AMEND THE 2011 REGION H WATER PLAN TO INCLUDE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES RELATED TO PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM BY GULF COAST WATER AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE RECLAIMED WASTEWATER EFFLUENT FROM THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Mr. Afinowicz overviewed the proposed amendment. After further discussion, Mr. Blount moved approval to amend the 2011 Region H Water Plan to include water management strategies related to proposed development of a system by Gulf Coast Water Authority to utilize reclaimed wastewater effluent from the City of Houston. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kramer and passed unanimously.

Mr. Houston requested that item nos. 8 and 9 be considered together.

8. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS FROM THE REGION H LOCAL CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT TO PAY FOR A SINGLE AUDIT REPORT ON 2014 REGION EXPENSES

Mr. Houston explained that a single audit occurred in conjunction with the comprehensive annual financial report of the San Jacinto River Authority because of the amount of funds expended by Region H within the year. He stated that the audit resulted in a good report by the auditor.

9. CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS FROM THE REGION H LOCAL CONTRIBUTION ACCOUNT TO PAY FOR RENEWAL OF DIRECTOR AND OFFICERS LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR REGION H PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS

Mr. Houston explained that this is an annual renewal for the Region H Planning Group members. After little discussion, Mr. Hebert made a motion to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to use funds from the Region H Local Contribution account to pay for the single audit report on 2015 Region H expenses in the amount of \$4,750 and to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to use funds from the Region H Local Contribution account to pay for renewal of Director and Officers liability insurance for Region H Planning Group in the amount of \$1,411. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Afinowicz gave an overview of the upcoming schedule for the 2016 Region H Water Plan related to WMS data collection, Region H database development, Water Management Strategies documentation, chapter development, and GIS development. He stated that a substantial amount of work still needs to occur. Mr. Evans explained that the next scheduled meeting on March 4, 2015, would be difficult for most members to attend. After further discussion, it was determined that the next scheduled meeting would be on March 11, 2015.

11. 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 WATER PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz reviewed WMS's ongoing activities related to groundwater availability disparity, application of WMS, and modeled available groundwater (MAGs). He briefly explained the letters received by TWDB in September and in November, stating that they will continue to work with and support groundwater management area 14, to develop desired future conditions that the groundwater districts in groundwater management area 14 consider most appropriate for all purposes, including regional water planning.

12. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM ON THE STATUS OF ECOLOGICALLY UNIQUE STREAM SEGMENTS, UNIQUE RESERVOIR SITES, AND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Afinowicz explained that Chapter 8 relates to unique stream segments, unique reservoir sites and legislative recommendations. He went on to recommend that Allens Creek Reservoir and Little River Off-Channel Reservoir be retained in the 2011 WMS sites. Mr. Afinowicz stated that these recommendations will be incorporated into Chapter 8 and will be available for review in March.

13. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR PRESENTATION OF THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN

Mr. Afinowicz explained that the Initially Prepared Plan is slated to be finalized on December 1, 2015. He stated that one public hearing is required, however they usually have it in three different locations to accommodate participation within Region H. Mr. Afinowicz went on to overview the comment period schedule and due dates for the Initially Prepared Plan.

14. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE FOR PRESENTATION OF THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN

It was stated that three meeting locations is preferable to ensure participation throughout Region H. After further discussion, Ms. Turner made a motion to schedule the public hearings in three different locations the last part of June with one public hearing to take place in conjunction with the Region H WPG meeting on July 1, with WPG meetings to also take place on March 11, 2015, April 1, 2015, July 1, 2015, October 7, 2015, and November 4, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lord and carried unanimously.

15. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD REGARDING THE PROCESS FOR AND PREPARATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GRANT FROM THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR FUNDING OF THE FIFTH ROUND REGIONAL WATER PLANNING FOR REGION H

Mr. Afinowicz overviewed the process for and preparation of an application for Regional Water Planning Grant from the Texas Water Development Board for funding the fifth round Regional Water Planning for Region H. He stated that the application is due on March 3, 2015, which includes a detailed scope of work, a schedule, and proof of notification. Mr. Afinowicz then discussed timing and logistics related to public notice for the next phase of funding.

16. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTICE AND SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO TWDB ON BEHALF OF REGION H FOR FUNDING THE FIFTH ROUND OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Mr. Afinowicz overviewed the necessity for the public notice and grant application submittal to TWDB for the fifth round of Regional Water Planning. Mr. Houston requested that Freese & Nichols prepare the application although not in their scope of work, however it would be reimbursed. It was discussed that a re-procurement process be implemented each cycle in order to fulfill the requirements of TWDB. After further discussion, Mr. Neighbors made a motion to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to provide public notice and submit a grant application to TWDB on behalf of Region H for funding the fifth round of Regional Water Planning. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hebert and carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Afinowicz reported that Mr. Evans delivered a presentation to the North Houston Association and Lone Star's Water Efficiency Network.

18. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Bookout stated that he brought a one-page fact sheet related to State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) at Mr. Kramer's request.

19. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

20. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on March 11, 2015, at San Jacinto River Authority

21. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.