

**MINUTES**  
**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**May 7, 2014**  
**SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY**  
**GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
**1577 DAM SITE ROAD**  
**CONROE, TEXAS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Bailey, John R. Bartos, John Blount, Robert Bruner, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Art Henson, Jace Houston, John Howard, Robert Istre, Kathy Jones, Gena Leathers, Carl Masterson, Ron Neighbors, Jimmie Schindewolf, William Teer, Steve Tyler, Pudge Willcox

**DESIGNATED ALTERNATES:** David Collinsworth for John Hofmann, Mike Turco for Marvin Marcell, Jim Sims for Kevin Ward, Mike O'Connell for Bob Hebert, Zac Holland for James Morrison

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gene Fisseler

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Temple McKinnon, Melinda Silva, Scott Hall, Wayne Ahrens

**PRESIDING:** Judge Mark Evans, Chair

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

A quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone and alternates were announced.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2014 MEETING**

The minutes for the February 5, 2014, meeting were presented. Motion was made by Mr. Schindewolf, seconded by Mr. Henson, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 14**

Don Ripley, Executive Director, Coastal Water Authority, gave an update on Luce Bayou Inter-Basin Transfer Project, reporting on its transition from years of planning into the final design of the project. He emphasized the importance of prioritization and construction funding with this project.

Susan Roth, an independent engineering consultant working with Brazosport Water Authority presented a minor amendment request for the 2011 Region H Water Plan. The request comes on behalf of BWA and supports their ability to gain eligibility for funding. The key issue is providing a reliable water supply and continued opportunities for regionalization.

**RECOGNIZE AND WELCOME BECH BRUUN, MEMBER OF THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Bech Bruun, Director, Texas Water Development Board, thanked members of the water planning group for their service and overviewed the regional prioritization timeline with regards to submission of the draft prioritization.

**RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM NANCY RICHARDS REGARDING THE STATUS OF TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD FUNDING PROGRAMS**

Nancy Richards, Team Manager, East Texas Region, Texas Water Development Board, discussed additional funding programs available outside of SWIFT, both state and federally funded.

**RECEIVE UPDATE FROM SENATOR KIP AVERITT REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE GOLDWATER PROJECT EXAMINING WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN REGION H**

Senator Kip Averitt and Mr. Stephen Cortes, Project Director, presented the first year report on the Goldwater Project concerning water conservation efforts within Region H. Mr. Cortes explained the two main goals are tracking and measuring municipal conservation and providing individual utilities with reports to assist them in meeting their own water conservation plans. Senator Averitt concluded with announcing an upcoming meeting of the Goldwater stakeholder committee on May 30, 2014, at the office of Freese & Nichols, which will begin the process of how to use the data and develop a core group that will start implementation.

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

Mr. Jason Afinowicz, consultant with Freese & Nichols overviewed the timeline for the prioritization schedule. The deadline for the submittal of the required technical memorandum to TWDB is August 1, 2014. Submission of the Initially Prepared Plan is required by May 1, 2015 and final, approved Regional Water Plan must be adopted by November 1, 2015. The submission deadline to TWDB is June 1, 2014, for the *draft* prioritization and September 1, 2014, for the *final* prioritization.

**RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES COMMITTEE REGARDING THE PRIORITIZATION OF WATER PLAN PROJECTS FOR USE BY THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD IN ADMINISTERING LOAN FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT WATER PROJECTS**

Mr. Afinowicz gave an overview of the prioritization process and the results of the 829 projects. A full list will be submitted to the TWDB including the shorter list showing only projects with capital funding needs.

**CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON AUTHORIZING THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO FINALIZE AND SUBMIT THE DRAFT TWDB PRIORITIZATION SCORING TEMPLATE FOR REGION H WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES INCLUDED IN THE 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND AUTHORIZE THE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES COMMITTEE AND CONSULTANT TEAM TO WORK TO ADDRESS COMMENTS RECEIVED AND DEVELOP FINAL PRIORITIZATION FOR REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP APPROVAL**

Mr. Afinowicz presented the draft prioritization, scoring template, and cover letter for submittal to the TWDB. Motion was made by Mr. Chang to submit the draft prioritization. Mr. Blount seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**AUTHORIZE THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT THE REQUIRED TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM PRIOR TO AUGUST 1, 2014 TO BE RATIFIED BY THE REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP FOLLOWING SUBMITTAL**

Mr. Afinowicz explained the submission of the technical memorandum prior to August 1, 2014, which

will then be ratified by the group shortly after at the August 6, 2014, meeting. Mr. Houston made the motion. Mr. Blount seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE STUDY OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FROM THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Mr. Afinowicz recommended consideration of a request for additional funding for the study of water management strategies. The amount of \$448,807.00 has been requested to date and \$351,600.00 still remains for potential funding. Mr. Masterson made the motion. Mr. Blount seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE TRINITY AND SAN JACINTO RIVERS AND GALVESTON BAY STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE**

John Bartos reported on the status of projects being implemented in creating work plans related to environmental flows in the river systems and bays. TWDB has awarded \$312,000.00 for scopes of work on three different studies to include: defining a bio-indicator for freshwater information needs, making a determination of freshwater inflow from the Trinity River to the Trinity Bay, and environmental flow standards in the Trinity River.

#### **RECEIVE UPDATE REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE BRAZOS RIVER AND ASSOCIATED BAY AND ESTUARY SYSTEM STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE**

Tom Michel reported on the Brazos BBAS Committee. The committee submitted flow recommendations and work plans for five projects.

#### **AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Temple McKinnon will be sending a link of the draft rules to be distributed.

#### **RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jill Savory, Fort Bend County resident, provided comments regarding water issues in Fort Bend County.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

August 6, 2014  
San Jacinto River Authority  
General & Administration Building  
1577 Dam Site Road  
Conroe, TX 77304

**ADJOURNED AT 12:00 P.M.**