

**MINUTES**  
**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP**  
**NOVEMBER 4, 2015**  
**SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY**  
**GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
**1577 DAM SITE ROAD**  
**CONROE, TX 77304**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Collinsworth, Robert Istre, Marvin Marcell, Ronald Neighbors, Art Henson, David Bailey, Mark Evans, Jace Houston, James Comin, Kathy Turner Jones, John Bartos, Glenn Lord, Gene Fisseler, Pudge Willcox, William Teer, Carl Masterson

**DESIGNATED ALTERNATES:** Paul Nelson for Jimmie Schindewolf, Charles Dean for John Blount, Mike O'Connell for Bob Hebert, Jim Sims for Kevin Ward, Lisa Lattu for Jun Chang

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** James Morrison, Robert Bruner, John Howard

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sarah Backhouse for Temple McKinnon

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the alternate members present.

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2015 MEETING**

John Bartos made a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2015. The motion was seconded by Gene Fisseler and carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Jill Savory spoke in reference to item number five, a presentation from Averitt and Associates regarding the final report for the Goldwater Project on Water Conservation in Region H. She provided comments related to the value of water conservation and its potential to help avoid large infrastructure costs.

**4. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD ON THE WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Aaron Wendt with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board gave a brief overview of their Water Supply Enhancement Program, which is also known as the Brush Control Program. Mr. Wendt described different types of brush and which areas are affected by it. Mr. Wendt stated that one of the main responsibilities of the program is related to water quality and working with farmers and ranchers to reduce potential pollution from their irrigated cropland operations or ranching operations. Mr. Wendt explained that they are also responsible for flood control, invasive species issues, and border security.

**5. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM AVERITT AND ASSOCIATES ON THE FINAL REPORT FOR THE GOLDWATER PROJECT ON WATER CONSERVATION IN REGION**

## H

Senator Averitt with Averitt and Associates gave a presentation on the final report for the Goldwater Project explaining the process of recruiting utilities to participate in the project and the quantifiable savings into the future. He went on to explain that Region H is currently saving 2,162 MG of water per year with its current water conservation strategies which represents 10.5% of the region's target. He went on to explain county-by-county progress and described the current savings profile for Region H. Senator Averitt introduced Steven Cortes who went on to explain the major strategies in water conservation. Mr. Cortes went over the WaterWise Take-Home Kits and how well those work with water conservation. He presented a chart showing the actual savings of all participating utilities in Region H, noting that Harris County, specifically the City of Houston's numbers align with their five and ten year goals that they initially set out in their water conservation plan. Next, Mr. Cortes presented information regarding most effective strategies. He relayed the challenges Region H is currently facing for water conservation. Senator Averitt concluded the presentation by explaining the recommendations for Region H Planners, State Water Planners, and the next steps of the Goldwater Project.

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

Mr. Afinowicz explained that December 1, 2015, is the due date for the Final Adopted Plan to the Texas Water Development Board, stating that it includes more than just the plan document, which was seen as the Initially Prepared Plan. He explained that this will include a prioritized list of Projects in the Regional Water Plan as well as a report on Emergency Interconnects in the Region H Water Planning Area which was approved by the Regional Water Planning Group and Executive Committee last November.

**7. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING REVISIONS MADE TO THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN IN PREPERATION OF THE DRAFT FINAL 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

Mr. Afinowicz explained that since the last meeting, they have been working to incorporate the comments received on the Initially Prepared Plan into the documents, which is an on-going process and that a response has also been prepared. He went on to say that some additional materials have been added which include ASR Strategy Analysis, Socioeconomic Analysis, IFR and Implementation survey results. Mr. Afinowicz gave a presentation on the plan revisions, briefly explaining revisions made to chapters one through eleven. He went on to explain that responses to comment letters addressing concerns have been prepared.

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

**8. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION IN ADOPTING THE FINAL 2016 REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND TRANSMITTING THE COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONTINGENT UPON INCORPORATION OF COMMENTS AND INCLUSION OF FINAL REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Ronald Neighbors made a motion to adopt the final 2016 Regional Water Plan and to transmit the completed document to the Texas Water Development Board contingent upon incorporation of comments and inclusion of final required materials. The motion was seconded by Mike O'Connell and carried unanimously.

**9. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE REGION H EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE**

**APPROVED REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN, FINALIZE COMMENTS AND TRANSMIT THE COMPLETED DOCUMENT TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Kathy Turner Jones made a motion to authorize the Region H Executive Committee to make any necessary non-substantive changes to the approved Region H Regional Water Plan, finalize comments, and transmit the completed document to the Texas Water Development Board. The motion was seconded by Glenn Lord and carried unanimously.

**10. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIST OF PRIORITIZED PROJECTS FROM THE 2016 REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

Mr. Afinowicz briefly explained the process of project prioritization, describing the priority scoring, methodology, background information, and full and short lists of projects. He went on to explain the criteria used for project prioritization and the categories they are broken into, as well as the scoring for key projects, opportunities for adjustments, and the next steps that will be taken.

**11. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION IN APPROVING THE LIST OF PRIORITIZED PROJECTS FROM THE 2016 REGIONAL WATER PLAN FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

Jace Houston made a motion to approve the list of prioritized projects from the 2016 Regional Water Plan for submittal to the Texas Water Development Board. The motion was seconded by Art Henson and carried unanimously.

**12. RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE REGION H SCOPING COMMITTEE REGARDING SUBMITTALS OF STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS RELATED TO CONSULTANTS FOR THE 2021 ROUND OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION TO SELECT A QUALIFIED CONSULTANT**

Mr. Evans briefly introduced the members of the Scoping Committee, which include Marvin Marcell, Jace Houston, Gene Fisseler, Pudge Willcox, and Jun Chang. Mr. Marcell noted that only one submittal was received and made a motion to select Freese and Nichols as the consultant for the 2021 Regional Water Plan. The motion was seconded by Ronald Neighbors and carried unanimously.

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

Jason Afinowicz stated that there was nothing to discuss related to this item.

**14. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Sarah Backhouse stated that the Bridged Application period for the 2016 SWIFT funding will be open from December 1, 2015, to February 5, 2016, which will be based on the projects from the 2016 Plan that will be included in the 2017 Plan which will be published in 2016. She also stated that per statute, the Texas Water Development Board has to revisit the Regional Water Planning boundaries every five years and that the Board met on October 13 and reaffirmed the current boundaries and no changes will take place. She also explained that there is a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) posted until November 9, 2015, looking for firms to review the Texas Water Development Board methodology for water demand projections for the manufacturing and steam electric power water user groups.

Ronald Neighbors submitted his resignation from the Region H Water Planning Group, recommending that Mike Turrco fill his position. Mr. Evans thanked Mr. Neighbors for his time spent with the Region H Water Planning Group, also stating that the February meeting will consist of electing officers, appointing executive committee members, and reappointing members of the planning group. Mr. Evans explained that there is a nominating committee that has been in place and is composed of Chairman Jimmie Shindewolf, and Members Bill Teer, Bob Hebert, Jun Chang, and John Blount.

Mr. Houston, Mr. Bartos, Mr. Marcell, and Ms. Callaway (who spoke on behalf of Mr. Kramer,) thanked Mr. Neighbors for his time with the Region H Regional Water Planning Group. A round of applause was given for Mr. Neighbors.

#### **15. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ivan Langford wanted to clarify Senator Averitt's information regarding Gulf Coast Water Authority Contracts. He stated that the largest city in Galveston County, the City of League City, is and has been on a pay for what you take contract plan for 20 years. In addition, every other city and water district in Galveston County, served by Gulf Coast Water Authority, is on a pay for what you take contract, implemented approximately two years ago. Mr. Langford clarified that raw water customer contracts and industrial contracts in Fort Bend and Brazoria Counties are take or pay contracts due to the fact that the largest expense of wholesale water is the cost of water purchased from the Brazos River Authority.

Ms. Jill Savory spoke in regards to Mr. Neighbors resignation from the Water Planning Group and Senator Averitt's presentation. She then thanked Allen, Boone & Humphries for providing statistical values for all the Municipal Utility Districts in Fort Bend County; and lastly she opined that the phrase "If it's Brown, Flush It Down; If It's Yellow, Let It Mellow", be added as the official slogan to the conservation plan.

#### **16. NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Evans announced that the next regular meeting will be held on February 3, 2016.

#### **17. ADJOURN**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.