

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
August 4, 2010
LONE STAR CONVENTION AND EXPO CENTER
9055 FM 1484
CONROE, TEXAS

MEMBERS PRESENT: John R. Bartos, Robert Bruner, Mark Evans, Bob Hebert, John Hofmann, John Howard, Gena Leathers, Glynn Leiper, Ted Long, Marvin Marcell, Jimmie Schindewolf, William Teer, Steve Tyler, Danny Vance, C. Harold Wallace, and Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Charles Dean for John Blount, Lisa Lattu for Jun Chang, Jace Houston for Reed Eichelberger, David M. Bailey for Art Henson, and Tom Michel for Ron Neighbors

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roosevelt Alexander, Robert Istre, and James Morrison

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Jaime Schubert, Temple McKinnon, and Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Chair

CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING AT 10:12 A.M.

MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2010 AND JULY 7, 2010 MEETINGS

Motion was made by Danny Vance to approve the minutes of April 7, 2010 and July 7, 2010; seconded by John Bartos. The motion carried.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5-8

No comments were made by the public. Mark Evans closed the public comment period at 10:19 a.m.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING CHANGES TO THE INITIALLY PREPARED PLAN IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE FINAL REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Jason Afinowicz explained the changes to the Regional Water Plan. He discussed the water management strategies, other changes and updates, and the IFR Survey. Mr. Afinowicz then outlined the next steps after adoption of the Plan by the group.

Harold Wallace suggested to the consultants that the acronyms should be spelled out in the beginning of the presentation to clarify things.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO ADOPT THE 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN FOR REGION H AND AUTHORIZE THE CONSULTANT TO TRANSMIT THE ADOPTED DOCUMENT TO TWDB

John Howard apologized for missing the last meeting. He questioned the sources of supply and voiced his concern about filling Allens Creek Reservoir with groundwater. Jason Afinowicz summarized the previous meeting to bring Mr. Howard up to speed on the desalinization and off-channel reservoirs.

Discussion ensued regarding the recommendations related to reservoir sites and water needs. John Hofmann suggested that more research is needed for projects currently on the table. Marvin Marcell commended remarks from Mr. Howard and Mr. Hofmann. He stated that serious planning is necessary to insure that a less expensive option is chosen.

Bob Hebert voiced his decision to abstain from the vote on the Plan. He mentioned that he did not have enough information regarding the off-channel reservoir in Fort Bend County to vote in support.

Further discussion ensued regarding supply, demand, and cost. John Howard mentioned that the majority of the group's discussions have been focused on demand and that hard studies are needed regarding supplies and the related costs. Danny Vance explained that the cost of all water projects is absorbed by the people who will benefit because the projects are built by local sponsors. He explained the history of regional water financing in Texas.

Motion was made by Danny Vance to consider and take action to adopt the 2011 Regional Water Plan for Region H and authorize the Consultant Team to transmit the adopted documents to the Texas Water Development Board; seconded by Steve Tyler. Bob Hebert abstained. The motion carried unanimously with the one abstention noted.

CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A LIST OF FOCUSED STUDY ITEMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2016 STUDY ROUND

Mark Evans discussed the appointment of a special committee to: (1) consider the scope for the next round of planning; (2) coordinate the development of a request for qualifications for selecting consultant services for the next round of planning; and (3) recommend any legislative issues for special support from the Region H Planning Group.

Mark Evans asked the group for volunteers to serve on the committee. Volunteers are as follows: Jimmie Schindewolf, Tom Michel for Ronald Neighbors, John Hofmann, Jun Chang, Jace Houston for Reed Eichelberger, and Gena Leathers.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Temple McKinnon stated that the TWDB was looking forward to receiving the regional plans and commended the Region H Consultant Team for its excellent work in processing and responding to comments on the IPP. She also explained the reason the TWDB was recommending that the various regional planning groups go through the exercise of reprocurring consultant services.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made by the public.

NEXT MEETING:

October 6, 2010
Lone Star Convention and Expo Center
9055 FM 1484
Conroe, Texas 77303

ADJOURNED AT 11:00 A.M.