

**MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
9:00 A.M.
SEPTEMBER 2, 2009
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY OFFICE
LAKE CONROE DAM
1577 DAMSITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roosevelt Alexander, John R. Bartos, John Blount, Robert Bruner, Jun Chang, Reed Eichelberger, Mark Evans, John Hofmann John Howard, Robert Istre, Glynn Leiper, Ted Long, Marvin Marcell, Ron Neighbors, Jimmie Schindewolf, William Teer, Steve Tyler, Danny Vance, C. Harold Wallace, Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Michael O'Connell for Bob Hebert, Gena Leathers for Mike Uhl

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Morrison

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Ahrens, Cindy Loeffler for Rebecca Hensley, Dave Scholler for Melinda Silva, and Temple McKinnon

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Chair

CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC MEETING AT 9:15 A.M.

MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2009 MEETING

Motion was made by Ron Neighbors to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2009 meeting; seconded by Danny Vance. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 4 – 19

None.

CONSIDER REAPPOINTMENT OF VOTING MEMBERS OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP WHOSE TERMS ARE EXPIRING

Jace Houston explained the terms for the group members and the need to reappoint voting members whose terms are expiring or that have already expired. The members up for reappointment include: John Bartos, Reed Eichelberger, Mark Evans, John Hofmann, John Howard, Robert Istre, Ted Long, James Morrison, Jimmie Schindewolf, and Steve Tyler.

Motion was made by C. Harold Wallace to reappoint the voting members of the Region H Water Planning Group as discussed; seconded by Danny Vance. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER ACCEPTING AND TAKE ACTION ON THE RESIGNATION OF MIKE UHL AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING INDUSTRY

Motion was made by Danny Vance to accept the resignation of Mike Uhl as a voting member of the Region H Water Planning Group representing industry; seconded by Ron Neighbors. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF GENA LEATHERS AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING INDUSTRY

After a brief discussion, Gena Leathers introduced herself to the group. Motion was made by John Hofmann to approve Gena Leathers as a voting member of the Region H Water Planning Group; seconded by Danny Vance. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY REGARDING ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR REGION H PLANNING GROUP

Jace Houston began his presentation by introducing Paulette Sokoya to the group and explained her role and involvement with Region H. Mr. Houston continued by explaining a report entitled Unaudited Sources and Uses of Funds through December 31, 2008. He stated that future financial reports will be submitted to the group annually.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON AMENDING THE PHASE 1 BUDGET FOR THE 2011 REGIONAL WATER PLAN CYCLE RELATED TO SPECIFIC STUDIES

Jason Afinowicz with AECOM discussed the amendment to the Phase 1 budget for the 2011 Regional Water Plan related to the specific studies contract. He explained that the budget was the same, but amended to move items around. Motion was made by Danny Vance to amend the Phase 1 budget; seconded by Marvin Marcell. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM GWEN RICHARDSON, ESPA CORP, REGARDING A CONSISTENCY ISSUE RELATED TO HARRIS COUNTY MUD 50 AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO RECOMMEND A CONSISTENCY WAIVER OR INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2006 REGION H WATER PLAN

This item was deferred to the end of the meeting.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF REGION DESCRIPTION (TASK 1)

Jason Afinowicz briefly covered the 2011 Regional Water Plan schedule and Task 1, which included a description of the planning area. He discussed the Texas Water Development Board's water loss audits and recommendations for updating Chapter 1. Mr. Afinowicz noted that Draft Chapter 1 was posted on the Region H website prior to the meeting on August 24th.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 1 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

After brief discussion, motion was made by Ron Neighbors to approve the Draft Chapter 1; seconded by Jimmie Schindewolf. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF POPULATION AND WATER DEMAND ANALYSIS (TASK 2)

Jason Afinowicz presented an update and status on the population and water demand projections. He addressed the concerns with Fort Bend County's population projections and continued by discussing a proposed resolution to address the population projections. Mr. Afinowicz suggested that the proposed resolution be considered at the next Region H meeting. Discussion led by Ron Neighbors, Marvin Marcell, and Danny Vance ensued on the need for a resolution.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF WATER SUPPLY ANALYSIS (TASK 3)

Jason Afinowicz presented an overview of the Water Supply Analysis and an update on the supply allocations and shortages. Discussion followed, and Mr. Afinowicz addressed Ted Long's questions regarding the allocations and shortages reflected. He continued by also responding to questions posed by John Howard on environmental flows and Tom Michel's questions on the data used for the analysis. A brief discussion followed regarding Mr. Michel's desire to incorporate and use updated information in the analysis.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 3 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Motion was made by Ron Neighbors to approve the Draft Chapter 3 subject to updated data being incorporated. Mr. Afinowicz agreed to work with Tom Michel to address this concern; seconded by Jimmie Schindewolf. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (WMS) ANALYSIS (TASK 4)

Jason Afinowicz presented the status of the Water Management Strategy (WMS) Analysis (Task 4), including the Environmental Flows Special Study, the location of identified shortages, and the next steps to be taken. Discussion led by John Bartos, Danny Vance, and Marvin Marcell ensued regarding the shortages and strategies that exist. David Parkhill with AECOM discussed return flows, conservation, and the risk of some strategies. Danny Vance continued by discussing Senate Bill 3, return flows, and blending waters. A workshop was recommended to explore the details of the strategies. Mark Evans stated he would designate a working group at the end of the Region H meeting.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (TASK 6)

Jason Afinowicz updated the group on the status of water conservation and drought management recommendations (Task 6). He discussed the water conservation surveys conducted, revised conservation strategies, and findings of the Drought Management Study.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 6 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

It was acknowledged that Dan Davis commented on the Draft Chapter 6 via email. After brief discussion, motion was made by Jimmie Schindewolf to approve the Draft Chapter 6; seconded by Robert Bruner. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE UPDATES BY LOCAL WATER AGENCIES OR OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES REGARDING ANY WATER RELATED INITIATIVES OR PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR PLANNED

None.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Cindy Loeffler with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department commented briefly on environmental flows and the slide presented earlier by Jason Afinowicz titled GBFIG Frequency of Target Attainment. She explained that Senate Bill 3 requires a new process, including a more in-depth look at water management strategies. In conclusion, she announced an upcoming conference entitled "Freshwater Inflows: 2010 and Beyond." The conference is scheduled for February 8-10 in Corpus Christi.

Temple McKinnon announced that the contract amendment to the specific studies contract should be delivered to Reed Eichelberger in the next couple of weeks for signature.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING:

November 4, 2009
San Jacinto River Authority
Lake Conroe Dam
1577 Damsite Road
Conroe, Texas 77305

To wrap up the meeting, Mark Evans announced the working group appointment for the workshop as discussed earlier in the meeting. He appointed the following to the group: Marvin Marcell as Chair, John Hofmann, Robert Istre, Gena Leathers, and Danny Vance.

Discussion then followed on agenda item No. 9. In Gwen Richardson's absence, Jace Houston and Jason Afinowicz gave an overview of Harris County MUD 50's need for a consistency waiver or amendment to the 2006 Region H Water Plan. Temple McKinnon discussed Harris County MUD 50's request for funds, and the possibility of a request for a consistency waiver from the Texas Water Development Board. John Bartos commented that the amount of water is minimal. Motion was made by Ron Neighbors to recommend approval for a consistency waiver for Harris County MUD 50; seconded by John Blount. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED AT 10:40 A.M.