

**MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
NOVEMBER 5, 2008
SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY OFFICE
LAKE CONROE DAM
1577 DAM SITE ROAD
CONROE, TEXAS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Roosevelt Alexander, John Bartos, John Blount, Robert Bruner, Reed Eichelberger, Mark Evans, Jack Harris, Bob Hebert, John Howard, Robert Istre, Ted Long, Glynn Leiper, Marvin Marcell, Jimmie Schindewolf, Jeff Taylor, William Teer, Steve Tyler, C. Harold Wallace, and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Tom Michel for Ron Neighbors, and Jim Sims for Danny Vance.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Baker, James Morrison, Ron Neighbors, Mike Uhl, and Danny Vance.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Temple McKinnon and Rebecca Hensley.

PRESIDING: Jeff Taylor, Chair

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

MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2008 MEETING

Reed Eichelberger with the San Jacinto River Authority requested revisions be made to the minutes of the meetings of May 28, 2008, and August 6, 2008, to reflect John Howard present at both meetings.

A vote was taken to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2008, meeting and to revise the May 28, 2008, minutes to reflect John Howard's presence. The vote passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 4 – 18

No public comments.

**ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JEFF TAYLOR AS A VOTING MEMBER AND
CHAIR OF THE REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP
REPRESENTING MUNICIPALITIES**

Jimmy Schindewolf commented on Jeff Taylor's hard work and leadership as both a consultant and chairman of Region H.

A motion was made by Jack Harris to accept the resignation of Jeff Taylor; seconded by Bob Hebert. The motion carried unanimously. Jeff Taylor commented briefly on his service with the Region H Water Planning Group and involvement with regional planning, and then he turned the meeting over to Mark Evans.

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Vice-Chair

A nominating committee was appointed to include: Jimmy Schindewolf, Marvin Marcell, and Robert Bruner.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF JUN CHANG AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLANNING GROUP REPRESENTING MUNICIPALITIES

After a brief introduction of Jun Chang, motion was made by Bob Hebert on the selection of Jun Chang to serve as a voting member on the Region H Regional Water Planning Group representing municipalities; seconded by Robert Istre. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE 2011 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mike Reedy updated everyone on the status and negotiations related to the 2011 scope of work. He discussed the Second Biennium Tasks and Texas Water Development Board funding for same. Mr. Reedy continued with the timeline. Temple McKinnon discussed preparation of the plan, public meeting requirements, and notice prior to the March due date.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONTRACT FOR COMPLETION OF THE 2011 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Harold Wallace to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to negotiate and execute the Texas Water Development Board grant contract for completion of the 2011 Region H Regional Water Plan; seconded by John Blount. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH CONSULTANT FOR COMPLETION OF THE 2011 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Motion was made by Tom Michel to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to execute a contract with AECOM for completion of the 2011 Region H Regional Water Plan; seconded by Jimmy Schindewolf. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE RESULTS OF THE DROUGHT MANAGEMENT STUDY DRAFT REPORT

Mike Personett with KBR presented the results of the Drought Management Study, which included the evaluation of impacts of drought management strategies on surface water reservoirs in Region H and the methodology of same. Chris Krueger with KBR continued with the modeling scenarios for Lake Livingston, Lake Conroe, Lake Houston, and Allens Creek Reservoir. Mr. Personett concluded the presentation with the key findings and observations of drought contingency planning within Region H. Marvin Marcell commented on the lack of feedback that would support one strategy over another. Mr. Marcell inquired as to the data available on pricing structures, including the inclining rate structure. Mike Personett addressed rate structures and the incentives for same. Mike Reedy explained that pricing may or may not have an impact in some areas due to the social and economic differences. Mr. Personett explained how education and pricing can trigger behavioral responses of individuals; he also addressed Harold Wallace's questions regarding planned retention areas for reuse. Discussion continued with Mr. Personett addressing Robert Istre's questions on the per capita per day water demand in various communities as stated in a previous presentation. Mr. Istre encouraged additional analysis of Region H's dependence on other reservoirs as it could impact the local region. Mike Personett concluded his remarks and stated that the drafted report would be available on the Region H website and comments should be addressed to Jason Afinowicz's attention no later than November 19, 2008.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE RESULTS OF THE INTERRUPTIBLE SUPPLY STUDY DRAFT REPORT

Mike Personett presented the results of the Interruptible Water Supply Study. He discussed the two phases of the study and the conclusions of same. He stated that the drafted report would be available on the Region H website and comments should be addressed to Jason Afinowicz's attention no later than November 19, 2008.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION AUTHORIZING SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO REQUEST A SCOPE AMENDMENT FROM THE TWDB RELATED TO THE INTERRUPTIBLE SUPPLY STUDY ALLOWING THE REMOVAL OF CERTAIN SCOPE ITEMS FROM THE SCOPE OF WORK

Mike Reedy stated that based on Mike Personett's previous presentation and conclusions, interruptible water supplies do not offer enough opportunity to justify completion of the remaining scope items. He requested approval to remove the related tasks from the scope of work with the understanding that the removal of unnecessary tasks may result in the return of funds to the Texas Water Development Board. Motion was made by Marvin Marcell to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to request a scope amendment from the Texas Water Development Board related to the Interruptible Supply Study; seconded by John Blount. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 9, 10, AND 11

Ken Kramer with the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club stated that he had not yet reviewed the Drought Management Study, but that he would be reviewing it and his comments would be forthcoming. He inquired as to the submittal of the study to the Texas Water Development Board by December 31, 2008, and the opportunity for public comments on same prior to the submittal. Mike Reedy addressed Mr. Kramer's concerns and stated that the guidelines had been followed; Temple McKinnon with the Texas Water Development Board confirmed the Group's decision. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Reedy emphasized that under the contract, reports are due by December 31, 2008. Robert Istre inquired as to the possibility of the Texas Water Development Board amending the contract to allow an extension. Jimmy Schindewolf and John Bartos inquired as to whether or not it is in the bylaws to allow the requested extension. After discussion it was determined a letter would be presented to the TWDB addressing the need for an extension and the RHWPG's ability to extend the deadline. The submittal of this request will determine whether or not a December meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group is needed.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING CONSULTANT TO SUBMIT DRAFT DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AND DRAFT INTERRUPTIBLE SUPPLY STUDY REPORTS TO TWDB ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2008

No action taken.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION AUTHORIZING SJRA TO REQUEST A CONTRACT AMENDMENT FROM THE TWDB TO EXTEND THE SUBMITTAL DATE FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS STUDY FROM DECEMBER 31, 2008 TO MARCH 31, 2009

After brief discussion, this action was amended to include the Draft Drought Management and Draft Interruptible Supply Study Reports. Motion was made by John Bartos to authorize SJRA to request an amendment from the TWDB to extend the submittal dates for the Draft Drought Management, Draft Interruptible Supply Study, and the Draft Environmental Flows Study from December 31, 2008, to March 31, 2009; seconded by Steve Tyler. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE CURRENT STATUS AND PROGRESS OF REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

Discussion ensued regarding the Environmental Flows Study. It was determined that further dissemination and discussion was needed. An Environmental Flows Committee was appointed to include: John Bartos as Chair, Jun Chang, Reed Eichelberger, Danny Vance, and Jimmy Schindewolf.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING A LETTER RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE TEXAS WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IN REGION H

After brief discussion, motion was made by John Howard to authorize a letter to the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council regarding water conservation management strategies in Region H; seconded by Jimmy Schindewolf. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON A PROPOSED CONSISTENCY WAIVER REQUESTED BY THE NORTH FORT BEND WATER AUTHORITY

Melinda Silva with Brown & Gay Engineers gave an update on the North Fort Bend Water Authority's loan application to the Texas Water Development Board for their infrastructure expenses. She explained that in order for NFBWA to receive TWDB loan funds they must be consistent with the Region H plan. Motion was made by John Blount to support a consistency waiver; seconded by Jimmy Schindewolf. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE UPDATE FROM PUDGE WILLCOX, GENERAL MANAGER, CHAMBERS LIBERTY COUNTY NAVIGATION DISTRICT, ON STATUS OF CURRENT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF A PROPOSED SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN WEST CHAMBERS COUNTY AND A PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT TO THE 2006 REGION H RWP

Pudge Willcox gave an update on the current activities related to the development of a proposed surface water treatment plant in West Chambers County and the need for an amendment to the 2006 Region H Regional Water Plan. Mr. Willcox stated that the Chambers-Liberty County Navigation District's Board approved payment of their consultant to provide additional data to the Region H Water Planning Group as needed.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION, IF NEEDED, ON THE PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT RELATED TO THE ABOVE ITEM

No action needed.

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

Temple McKinnon with Texas Water Development Board stated that water demand projection information was available on TWDB's website. She also discussed grant funding and application information.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Taylor stated that he has received calls from Madison County with concerns focused on the development of Bedias Reservoir. Temple McKinnon stated that an agency newsletter may have caused some confusion, however she stated that she had not heard from anyone concerning this issue.

Tom Michel commented on the Texas Water Development Board's letter regarding public water supply in Surfside Beach and Region H's involvement in the planning process. Temple McKinnon stated that the TWDB referred the Surfside resident to the Region H Water Planning Group as a source for information, but they would in the future refer them to local agencies as well.

Mark Evans referred everyone to a couple of letters in their meeting information regarding Madison County's request for representation on the Region H Water Planning Group. He also referred to a letter to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to address the successes and challenges facing Region H related to water funding.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

None

NEXT MEETING

It was determined that the next meeting will take place in February unless it is determined that a meeting is needed in December as discussed above.

Location of next meeting will remain the same:

San Jacinto River Authority
Lake Conroe Dam
1577 Dam Site Road
Conroe, Texas 77304

ADJOURNED AT 12:10 P.M.