

MINUTES
REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP MEETING
10:00 A.M.
DECEMBER 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, Art Henson, John Hofmann, John Howard, Robert Istre, Gena Leathers, Glynn Leiper, Ron Neighbors, William Teer, Steve Tyler, and Pudge Willcox

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Tom Michel for Marvin Marcell, Paul Nelson for Jimmie Schindewolf, Robert Stevens for Danny Vance, Jace Houston for C. Harold Wallace, and Mike O'Connell for Bob Hebert.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ted Long and James Morrison

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Ahrens, Temple McKinnon, and Melinda Silva

PRESIDING: Mark Evans, Chair

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

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009 MEETING

Motion was made by Ron Neighbors to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2009 meeting; seconded by John Blount. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 4 – 16

Mark Evans introduced Judge Alan B. Sadler, County Judge of Montgomery County. Judge Sadler discussed two proposed lakes for Montgomery County. He asked the Group to consider the two proposed lakes as viable alternatives in future planning and specifically to include the lake sites in Chapter 8 of the regional plan as recommended unique reservoir sites. Mr. Evans suggested that an item be included on the next agenda to discuss more extensively.

Dan Davis with MUD 8 was introduced and commented on Draft Chapter 4. He discussed the need to protect areas that are potential sites for lakes through unique reservoir legislation. Mr. Davis then introduced Mike Bleier, President of the Lake Conroe Association. Mr. Bleier explained his involvement with the Lake Conroe Association and asked for consideration to be given to the proposed lake sites as discussed by Judge Sadler.

Brandt Mannchen with the Houston Sierra Club commented on agenda Items 12 and 13. Mr. Mannchen discussed adding four streams as ecologically unique stream segments to the Region H Water Plan. He continued by discussing the positives and negatives of the proposal presented by Judge Sadler.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE SELECTION OF JOHN HOFMANN AS THE REGION H LIASON TO REGION G

After brief discussion, motion was made by Reed Eichelberger to select John Hofmann as the Region H liaison to Region G; seconded by Robert Bruner. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM DAVID DUNN, CONSULTANT TO REGION G, REGARDING WATER SUPPLIES FROM THE BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY SYSTEM

David Dunn with HDR and consultant to Region G presented information on the Brazos River Authority's System Operations Permit Application and the analysis conducted to determine the availability of water for Region H from the Brazos River Authority's system. David Parkhill with AECOM further discussed the analysis and clarified changes to the Region H plan. Tom Michel and Mr. Parkhill continued by discussing other possible strategies.

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

Jason Afinowicz with AECOM discussed the current schedule for preparing and submitting the regional water plan. He continued by presenting the status of the water management strategy analysis (Task 4), including recommended strategies and capital costs for same. Discussion ensued regarding potential and current alternate strategies. Temple McKinnon with the Texas Water Development Board explained the requirements for including additional alternate strategies. Mr. Afinowicz commented that the latest version of Draft Chapter 4 was posted on the Region H website on December 1, 2009. Jun Chang commented on the City of Houston's interest in pursuing a Houston to GCWA strategy as presented in the 2006 Regional Water Plan.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 4 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

After discussion regarding possible unique reservoir site designations, motion was made by Ron Neighbors to approve Draft Chapter 4; seconded by Art Henson. The motion carried.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF IMPACTS OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (TASK 5)

Chris Krueger with KBR gave a presentation regarding the impacts of management strategies on water quality. He continued by discussing third-party impacts of reduced levels in water supply reservoirs and the impacts of moving water from rural and agricultural areas (Task 5). Mr.

Krueger recommended approving Draft Chapter 5 with minor changes as presented. Mr. Parkhill stated that the latest version was posted to the Region H website on November 19, 2009.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 5 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Motion was made by Ron Neighbors to approve the Draft Chapter 5; seconded by John Bartos. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF LONG-TERM PROTECTION OF RESOURCES (TASK 7)

Chris Krueger continued with a brief presentation on the long-term protection of the state's water resources, agricultural resources, and natural resources. He discussed municipal return flows and reuse, along with the impacts on natural resources and on Galveston Bay. Mr. Krueger stated that the latest version was posted to the Region H website on November 19, 2009.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 7 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Mr. Krueger recommended approval of Draft Chapter 7 with minor changes as discussed. Motion was made by Ron Neighbors to approve Draft Chapter 7; seconded by John Blount. The motion carried unanimously.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF ECOLOGICALLY UNIQUE STREAM SEGMENTS, UNIQUE RESERVOIR SITES, AND LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS (TASK 8)

Chris Krueger gave an overview of the unique stream segments and reservoir sites. He continued by discussing the recommendations on unique stream segments, unique reservoir sites, and regulatory, administrative, and legislative recommendations related to same. Continued discussion related to the designation of unique stream segments followed. Mr. Parkhill explained the impact of designating unique stream segments.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 8 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

After further discussion related to Task 8, it was determined that representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department should be involved in reviewing the potential unique stream segment designations. The item was deferred until the next meeting. Mr. Parkhill stated that no changes would be made to Draft Chapter 8 at this time, but more information would be presented at the next meeting for consideration.

RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT ON THE STATUS OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING (TASK 9)

Jason Afinowicz summarized the capital costs for the 2011 Region H Water Plan and results of the water infrastructure financing survey. Potential public hearing dates and locations for same were discussed. Glenda Callaway will schedule three meetings at locations in Madisonville, southwest Houston, and in Conroe. Mr. Afinowicz continued by stating that the latest version of Draft Chapter 9 was posted to the Region H website on November 19, 2009. Discussion ranging from presenting and discussing the Initially Prepared Plan to the submittal of the final Regional Water Plan to the Texas Water Development Board followed.

CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVING THE DRAFT CHAPTER 9 MADE AVAILABLE ON THE REGION H WEBSITE PRIOR TO THE MEETING

This item was deferred due to the limited information made available prior to the meeting. A draft of Chapter 9 with place-holder text will be approved along with the Initially Prepared Plan.

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

Temple McKinnon stated that the Texas Water Development Board approved the Group's projection revisions related to Chapter 2 of the plan.

AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mark Evans recognized Dr. Karl Eschbach's presence at the meeting and explained his role as the state demographer, including his role related to population projections.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING:

January 6, 2010
San Jacinto River Authority
Lake Conroe Dam
1577 Damsite Road
Conroe, Texas 77305

ADJOURNED AT 1:10 P.M.