

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 4, 2022**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

David Bailey, John Bartos, Brad Brunett, Jun Chang, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, Ken Kramer, Ivan Langford, Marvin Marcell, Danny Pierce, Byron Ryder, Loyd Smith, and Michael Turco.

**ALTERNATES:**

Samantha Reiter for Gary Ashmore, Mike Uhl for Glenn Lord, Zach Holland for James Morrison, Tom Michel for William Teer, Jake Hollingsworth for Brandon Wade, and Jim Sims for Kevin Ward.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

W.R. Baker, Carl Burch, Caleb Cooper, Bob Hebert, and Robert Istre.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

Lann Bookout

**CONSULTANT TEAM:**

Philip Taucer and Jason Afinowicz

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2022 MEETING**

Mr. Brunett made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously with one correction to amend the name Judge Pierce related to item 5.

**4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 8**

There were no public comments.

## **5. PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

### **a. Review Region H Committee Assignments for Development of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP)**

Mr. Evans presented the slate of individuals assigned to serve on various Region H committees for development of the 2026 RWP and asked that members wishing to serve on a committee contact him for consideration. He stated that a chair will be named to the Water Management Strategies and Non-Population Demand Committees in the near future and reminded the group that committee meetings are open to the public and required to be posted. The committee assignments were presented as follows:

Executive Committee: John Bartos, Mark Evans (Chair), Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston, and Marvin Marcell.

Nominating Committee: Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, Jun Chang (Chair), Glenn Lord, and Mike Turco.

Non-Population Demand Committee: W.R. Baker, Carl Burch, James Comin, Robert Istre, and Glenn Lord.

Population Demand Committee: Robert Istre, Ivan Langford, Marvin Marcell (Chair), Byron Ryder, and Mike Turco.

Groundwater Supply Committee: Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, Yvonne Forrest, Ivan Langford, and Mike Turco (Chair).

Surface Water Supply Committee: Brad Brunett, Jun Chang, Yvonne Forrest, Jace Houston (Chair), Brandon Wade, and Kevin Ward.

Water Management Strategies Committee: John Bartos, Brad Brunett, Jun Chang, Yvonne Forrest, Bob Hebert, Jace Houston, Ken Kramer, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Mike Turco, Brandon Wade, and Kevin Ward.

## **6. SPECIAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **a. Receive presentation from Consultant Team regarding the proposed application by the City of Baytown to amend the 2021 Region H RWP and consider approving the submittal of the application package to TWDB for the determination of minor amendment status**

Mr. Taucer provided a high-level overview of the amendment process for an adopted RWP. He explained that the City of Baytown requested a proposed amendment to the 2021 Region H RWP to better capture their current infrastructure capacity and to facilitate inclusion of anticipated infrastructure expansion for consistency with upcoming State funding considerations. Following discussion, Mr. Langford made a motion to approve the submittal of the application package to TWDB for the determination of minor amendment status to the State water plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

## **7. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **a. Discuss and consider taking action to adopt proposed amendments to the Region H bylaws**

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of proposed amendments to the Region H Bylaws to include minor revisions to statute references, the length of time in which meeting notifications must be given to the public, changes to the posting requirements for the Raw Water Plan, as well as changes to the language pertaining to members serving in alternate positions. A brief discussion ensued after which Mr. Houston suggested the document be reviewed for grammatical errors prior to being brought back before the group for consideration. Mr. Evans then stated the item would be tabled until the August 3, 2022, Region H Water Planning Group meeting.

### **b. Discuss and consider taking action to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 RWP**

Mr. Taucer stated the initial phase of planning funding for the 2026 RWP has already been executed and that TWDB is currently working on contract amendments for the remainder of the planning cycle. He went on to explain that action needs to be taken to authorize SJRA as the local political subdivision to enter into and execute the contract and amendments on behalf of the planning group. Following discussion, Mr. Marcell motioned to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to negotiate and execute an amendment to the TWDB contract to incorporate the full scope of work and total project cost for the 2026 RWP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

### **c. Receive update from Consultant Team and Non-Population Demands Committee regarding draft non-municipal demand projections for the 2026 Region H RWP**

Mr. Taucer explained that a new study examining water usage by the mining industry is under development by the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) for the Texas Water Development Board. The study takes a fresh look at mining demands and is currently available in draft

format, with the final report anticipated for release in June. Mr. Taucer provided a link for those interested in taking a more detailed look at the study. He provided a high-level overview comparing methodologies used in the last cycle and this cycle, to include historical use by mining type, demand locations and water sources, industry and agency data and projections by mining type. Mr. Taucer stated the projections from the BEG Study are much lower than the projections from the 2016-2021 Plan and continued by explaining the new projections are much more in line with the recent historical Texas Water Development Board numbers for Region H counties and the change in conditions over the last ten (10) years. He reminded the group that these are draft numbers and that there may be some refinement moving forward.

**d. Receive report from Consultant Team and Population Demands Committee regarding preliminary water user group (WUG) data for the 2026 Region H RWP**

Mr. Taucer announced that the Texas Water Development Board recently released its draft list of the Water User Groups along with the supporting data on historical water use, connection counts, and recent population per capita. He stated the Texas Water Development Board has asked the planning groups to follow up with any comments or revisions by June. Mr. Taucer provided a high-level overview of Municipal Water User Group. Following discussion, Mr. Taucer stated that after preliminary review by the RWPG consultant team and members, preliminary recommendations include rolling non-member districts out of RWAs, rolling member districts into RWAs, and additional name updates.

**e. Consider taking action authorizing the Consultant Team and Population Demands Committee to develop and transmit recommendations to the Texas Water Development Board regarding WUG identification and data**

Mr. Houston made a motion to authorize the Consultant Team and Population Demands Committee to develop and transmit recommendations to TWDB regarding WUG identification and data. Following a brief discussion, the motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

**8. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH**

**a. Receive update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H RWP**

Mr. Taucer provided an overview related to the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan by providing dates of scheduled events/tasks.

**b. Receive update from liaisons to other groups**

There were no updates to report.

**c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the RHWPG**

Mr. Taucer reported on a recent meeting with the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District to discuss the overall planning process, Region H's background, local efforts, and a recap of the plan. He continued by stating the consultant team is willing to provide presentations to interests groups, etc., and reminded the group that the technical outreach portion of the plan will be starting soon.

**d. Agency communications and general information**

Mr. Bookout provided an update related to upcoming deadlines, future meetings, and other pertinent topics related to the Texas Water Development Board. Mr. Evans announced that Bob Hebert resigned his position effective immediately. Mr. Evans stated that Mike O'Connell has been recommended to fill the position representing Small Business and that the vacant position needed to be posted on the website. He continued by stating discussion related to filling the vacancy would be discussed and possibly considered at the August meeting. Mr. Houston announced the passing of former Harris-Galveston Subsidence District General Manager and Region H WPG member Ron Neighbors. Mr. Houston stated that a celebration of life is scheduled for May 21, 2022, in La Grange, Texas.

It was announced the agenda would be followed out of order to discuss and take possible action on Item 7a, which was tabled for further discussion earlier in the agenda.

**7. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

**a. Discuss and consider taking action to adopt proposed amendments to the Region H bylaws**

Mr. Evans requested that Item 7a, tabled previously in the meeting, be revisited for additional consideration. A brief discussion ensued after which Mr. Holland motioned to approve the proposed redline amendments to the Region H bylaws. The motion was seconded by Ms. Forrest and carried unanimously.

**9. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

It was announced that the next meeting of the Region H Water Planning Group will take place on August 3, 2022.

**11. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.