

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, John Bartos, Arthur Bredehoft, Brad Brunett, Carl Burch, Jun Chang, Mark Evans, Jace Houston, Ken Kramer, Ivan Langford, Marvin Marcell, Alisa Max, Byron Ryder, Loyd Smith, Michael Turco, Brandon Wade, Cynthia Wagener, and Kevin Ward.

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ekaterina Fitos for Yvonne Forrest.

MEMBERS ABSENT: W.R. Baker, Caleb Cooper, Robert Istre, Mike O'Connell, and Danny Pierce.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans introduced Mr. Aubrey Spear, General Manager of the San Jacinto River Authority and Ms. Monica Polgar of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2023 MEETING.

Mr. Bredehoft made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2023. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 7.

There were no comments.

5. PLANNING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

a. Discuss upcoming activities related to Regional Water Planning Group and Committee Membership.

Mr. Evans announced the resignations of Ms. Yvonne Forrest, Mr. Glenn Lord, and Mr. Jace Houston. Mr. Evans stated that the Nominating Committee will meet prior to the next meeting to review recommendations.

- b. Receive update on the Brazos Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (Brazos BBASC) and consider taking action to make a nomination for a member of the BBASC representing Regional Water Planning Groups.**

Mr. Taucer announced the resignation of Mr. Tom Michel from the Brazos Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee (“BBASC”). He stated that Mr. Michel recommended Mr. Bret Raley, Lake Conroe Division Manager, San Jacinto River Authority, due to his vast experience in water resources. Mr. Langford made a motion to nominate Bret Raley to the BBASC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kramer and carried unanimously.

6. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding water supply analyses and projected needs for the 2026 Region H Regional Water Plan (RWP).**

Mr. Taucer explained that the Neches, Neches-Trinity, Trinity-San Jacinto, San Jacinto, and Brazos-Colorado basins water supply analyses and projected needs were completed. He stated that changes are not anticipated and should be fairly similar to the last cycle. Mr. Taucer reviewed the completed analyses related to groundwater and the respective approach. Mr. Taucer stated further discussion will take place at the May meeting.

- b. Receive update from the Consultant Team regarding the Region H Technical Memorandum and consider authorizing the preparation and submittal of the required documentation to Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).**

Mr. Taucer explained that the Technical Memorandum summarizes the initial steps in the planning process and includes critical elements as defined by 2.12.1 of the TWDB Exhibit C – *Second Amended General Guidelines for Development of the 2026 Regional Water Plans*. He went on to explain that the contents of the memorandum signify draft representations of the water demand, supplies, and needs anticipated for the sixth round of planning. Mr. Taucer provided a brief overview of the summary progress related to population and demand, source availability, existing supplies, needs, strategy identification, and administrative milestones. Discussion ensued. Mr. Brunett made a motion to authorize the preparation and submittal of the required documentation to the Texas Water Development Board, with the addition/notation of hydrocarbon projects, to the memorandum. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wagener and carried unanimously.

- c. Receive report from Consultant Team and Water Management Strategy (WMS) Committee regarding potential WMS analyses and consider taking action to approve a notice-to-proceed request and authorizing the Consultant Team, WMS Committee, and San Jacinto River Authority to submit the request to TWDB, coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information, and execute the subsequent contract amendment issued.**

Mr. Taucer explained that a Notice to Proceed (“NTP”) must be initiated for all of the smaller studies for regions of a certain size. Mr. Bartos explained that the WMS Committee reviewed the aspects of the NTP and explained the various tasks that would be included. It was requested that funds in the amount of \$20,000 be allocated for hydrocarbon/emerging technologies. Mr. Turco made a motion to approve a notice-to-proceed request to include the \$20,000 allocation for hydrocarbon/emerging technologies, and authorize the Consultant Team, WMS Committee, and San Jacinto River Authority to submit the request to TWDB, coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information, and execute the subsequent contract amendment issued. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bredehoft and carried unanimously.

7. GENERAL UPDATES AND OUTREACH

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

Mr. Taucer provided a recap of the schedule of events and upcoming tasks for the 2026 Region H RWP.

b. Receive updates from liaisons to other planning groups.

There were no updates.

c. Receive report regarding recent and upcoming activities related to communications and outreach efforts on behalf of the Region H Water Planning Group.

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the upcoming Gulf Coast Symposium and Water Forum taking place on February 22, 2024, as well as the Texas Industrial Energy Efficiency Program Forum taking place on March 7, 2024, in Pasadena, Texas.

d. Receive update from TWDB.

Ms. Rose reported that TWDB continues to work on rule making processes related to Proposition 6.

e. Other agency communications and general information.

There were no other agency communications.

8. Receive public comments.

There were no comments.

9. Next Meeting: May 1, 2024.

It was announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2024.

10. Adjourn.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.