

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 4, 2018**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Bob Hebert, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Kathy Jones, Glenn Lord, Marvin Marcell, Carl Masterson, William Teer, Michael Turco, and Pudge Willcox.

**DESIGNATED ALTERNATES:** Alisa Max for John Blount, Brad Brunette for David Collinworth, Bill Holder for Kevin Ward, and Paul Nelson for Jimmie Schindewolf.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Istre, Ivan Langford, James Morrison, and Ruth Stultz.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lann Bookout and Kristin Lambrecht

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2017 MEETING**

Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bruner and carried unanimously.

**3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 4 THROUGH 14**

There were no public comments.

**4. RECEIVE NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECT OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE REGION H WPG AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE MEMBERS TO FILL VACANCIES ON THE REGION H WPG**

Mr. Hebert, Chair of the Nominating Committee provided a recommendation of the Nominating Committee for the election of officers and members to the Executive Committee. Mr. Henson made a motion to elect Mark Evans as Chairman, Marvin Marcell as Vice Chairman, Jace Houston as Secretary, John Bartos and Pudge Willcox as Directors. The motion was seconded by Ms. Max and carried unanimously. Mr. Hebert then made a motion to declare the river authorities' position, previously occupied by David Collinworth, vacant and to appoint Brad Brunette to this position as a voting member representing river authorities. The motion was seconded by Mr. Langford and carried unanimously.

**5. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H RWP**

Mr. Taucer provided an update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan (“RWP”) stating that they are at the halfway mark and on schedule. He stated that the technical memo is due in September, the Initially Prepared Plan due in March, 2020, and the Final RWP due in October, 2020. Mr. Taucer briefly discussed the major activities. Mr. Evans stated that committee assignments are on the Region H Water Planning Group website and he went on to discuss the logistics related to committee quorums, alternate member participation, and teleconference participation relative to the Open Meetings Act.

**6. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND SURFACE WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE REGARDING DRAFT SURFACE WATER SUPPLY AVAILABILITY ESTIMATES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) A REQUEST FOR POTENTIAL EXCEPTIONS TO SURFACE WATER MODELING REQUIREMENTS**

Mr. Taucer reviewed the draft surface water supply availability estimates. He stated that TWDB requires a certain methodology be applied to determine the existing supplies which is based on TCEQ’s Water Availability Model (“WAM”) Run 3. He went on to say that the WAM Run 3 is a water rights model that simulates all existing permanent water rights and environmental flow requirements, in priority order using historical hydrology. Mr. Taucer went on to briefly discuss the different methodologies related to reservoirs, run-of-river, municipal sole source, and local supplies. He then reviewed the draft supply numbers related to river basins which included Brazos (Run-of-River), San Jacinto-Brazos, San Jacinto (Run-of-River), Lake Conroe, Lake Houston, Trinity-San Jacinto, Trinity (Run-of-River), Lake Livingston, Neches-Trinity, and Neches. He stated that a formal request be submitted to TWDB for any changes beyond major reservoir sedimentation and the request must provide a description, justification, availability impacts, and approval by RWPG. Mr. Henson made a motion to authorize the consultant team to develop and submit to TWDB a request for potential exceptions to surface water modeling requirements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willcox and carried unanimously.

**7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND SURFACE WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE REGARDING DRAFT REUSE SUPPLY AVAILABILITY ESTIMATES**

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the draft reuse supply availability estimates. He stated that reuse supplies have increased over the years in Region H, with both direct and indirect usage. He explained that reuse is not typically included in the surface water models or the groundwater models, therefore making it a challenge to find a firm amount. He explained that TWDB provides guidance on limiting the existing supply numbers for reuse to ensure it is not overstated. Mr. Taucer reviewed a list of new or additional reuse sources since the previous plan.

**8. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND GROUNDWATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE REGARDING GROUNDWATER SUPPLY AVAILABILITY ESTIMATES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE SUPPLY ESTIMATES**

Mr. Taucer provided an update regarding the groundwater supply availability estimates. He reviewed the GMA 11, GMA 12, and GMA 14 availabilities. He discussed the MAGs for Fort Bend, Galveston, and Harris Counties. He went on to review the Non-MAG supplies and data sources related to Carrizo, Sparta, Queen City, Yegua Jackson, and the Brazos River Alluvium. Mr. Taucer stated that the Groundwater Supply Committee recommended the approval of the groundwater supply estimates for use in the 2021 Region H RWP. Mr. Hebert made a motion to approve the groundwater supply estimates for use in the 2021 Region H RWP which includes the use of values in 2016 RWP. Mr. Turco seconded the motion and carried with all present voting aye.

**9. RECEIVE REPORT FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND GROUNDWATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE REGARDING MAG PEAK FACTORS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO AUTHORIZE CONSULTANT TEAM TO COORDINATE WITH GROUNDWATER REGULATORY ENTITIES TO DEVELOP PEAK FACTORS FOR REGION H AND SUBMIT AN ASSOCIATED REQUEST TO TWDB**

Mr. Taucer explained that TWDB has incorporated peak factors into the planning process to assist in bridging the gap between the regional planning process and the groundwater processes. Further, he stated that a percentage factor greater than 100% can be applied to MAG volumes in order to reflect that in some circumstances, temporary increases in pumpage could be more than the MAG volume. He stated that if this factor is to be included in the plan, it will have to be applied to each decade and requires approval prior to the IPP by the GCD, GMA, and EA. Mr. Masterson made a motion to authorize the consultant team to coordinate with groundwater regulatory entities to develop peak factors for Region H and submit an associated request to TWDB. Mr. Lord seconded the motion and carried with all present voting aye.

**10. RECEIVE REPORT FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (WMS) COMMITTEE REGARDING WMS ANALYSES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE THE NOTICE-TO-PROCEED REQUEST AND AUTHORIZING THE CONSULTANT TEAM 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 the Water Management Strategies (WMS) analyses funds were allocated by TWDB under Phase 2 of the planning cycle totaling \$948,695 for Region H. He stated that TWDB requires additional steps in order to obtain a Notice to Proceed, which include the documentation related to scope and fee requests for each strategy analysis. Additionally, those requests must be approved by the RWPG prior to submittal to TWDB. Mr. Taucer reviewed the scope and budget for each analyses which totaled \$482,200. Mr. Bartos made a motion to approve

the notice to proceed request and authorize the consultant team and the San Jacinto River Authority to submit the request in the amount of \$482,200; coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information; and to execute the subsequent contract amendment issued. The motion was seconded by Mr. Masterson and carried unanimously.

**11. CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SAN JACINTO RIVER AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH TWDB FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

Mr. Taucer explained that funds for the planning cycle are allocated by TWDB. Further, a number of amendments will be executed between TWDB and SJRA for same. Mr. Hebert made a motion to authorize the San Jacinto River Authority to execute a contract amendment with TWDB for additional funding. The motion was seconded by Mr. Masterson and carried unanimously.

**12. RECEIVE REPORT FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND WMS COMMITTEE REGARDING WMS ALLOCATION SAFETY FACTORS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO DESIGNATE A SAFETY FACTOR FOR USE IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

Mr. Taucer explained the theory behind the calculation of the management supply factor. He stated that TWDB allows WPGs to declare a goal for management safety factor. He stated that if one is declared, it must be documented. Mr. Taucer stated that the WMS Committee recommended declining the option to set a declared goal and to allocate management strategies as have in prior years based on projects and needs. Mr. Turco made a motion to designate a WMS allocation safety factor for use in development of the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and carried unanimously.

Upon further clarification and discussion, Mr. Turco made a motion to reconsider previous action taken under agenda item 12. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and carried unanimously. Mr. Turco then made a motion to report safety factors as they are calculated on a project-by-project basis but decline the option to establish a goal for the safety factor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and carried unanimously.

**13. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP**

Mr. Taucer reported on the recent meeting of the Baytown Area Community Advisory Panel.

**14. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mr. Bookout reported on recent meetings of the TWDB Board.

**15. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**16. NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting will take place on June 6, 2018.

**17. ADJOURN**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.