

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, John Blount, Robert Bruner, Brad Brunett, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Glenn Lord, Marvin Marcell, Carl Masterson, Michael Turco, and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Gary Ashmore for Kathy Jones, Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf, Tom Michel for Bill Teer, and Jim Sims for Kevin Ward.

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Comin, Bob Hebert, Ivan Langford, James Morrison, and Ruth Stultz.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristen Lambrecht and Lann Bookout.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Evans welcomed Kristen Lambrecht of the Texas Department of Agriculture and Paula Paciorek, designated alternate for John Bartos.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2018 MEETING

Mr. Masterson made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 13

There were no public comments.

5. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Taucer provided an update regarding the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2021 Region H Water Plan listing various items and scheduled completion/due dates for same.

6. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND GROUNDWATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE REGARDING EXISTING SUPPLY AVAILABILITY AND MODELED AVAILABLE GROUNDWATER (MAG) PEAK FACTORS

Mr. Taucer provided a brief overview of the mechanism developed by TWDB to help reconcile the two processes utilized by regional planning and groundwater planning relative to peak factors. He stated that this process is intended to represent potential temporary increases in groundwater use in drought conditions consistent with the Desired Future Conditions (“DFC”). Mr. Taucer explained that approval of this concept is needed by Groundwater Conservation Districts (“GCD”), Groundwater Management Areas (“GMA”), Planning Group, and the TWDB Executive Administrator in order to be incorporated into the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan. He provided an overview of the counties and GCDs that approved, are considering, or declined the MAG peak factors. He reiterated that this mechanism is solely for regional planning purposes and does not affect any permitting, regulatory plans, DFCs, etc.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE CATAHOULA FORMATION OF THE GULF COAST AQUIFER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO DIRECT THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO UPDATE THE SOURCE AVAILABILITY FOR THE CATAHOULA FORMATION

Mr. Taucer explained that the 2016 Regional Plan was the first time the Catahoula was recognized as a specific supply in the regional plan. He stated that at that time, there was limited available information and the existing supply was based upon the anticipated use from the GRPs and the best knowledge at that time. Mr. Taucer explained that the Water Planning Group agreed at a previous meeting to retain 2016 plan values for all non-relevant, non-MAG groundwater formations, and locations for those groundwater sources not having a specific MAG. He stated that according to the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District, the permitted amount from the Catahoula has increased over the years. Mr. Taucer explained that updating the Catahoula Formation’s existing supply will reflect the total permit allocations of 8,761ac-ft/yr. Mr. Henson made a motion to update the source availability for the Catahoula Formation to 8,761 ac-ft/yr. Mr. Bartos seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

8. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING NON-MAG AVAILABLE GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES IN THE GULF COAST AQUIFER IN TRINITY COUNTY AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO REQUEST A NEW SOURCE TO REFLECT THIS AVAILABILITY

Mr. Taucer stated that the Gulf Coast in Trinity County is the most recent GMA process listed as non-relevant. He went on to say that this formation did not exist in the last planning cycle, therefore showed no available supply in the 2016 plan. He stated that TWDB’s modeling revealed that the Gulf Coast aquifer did have some availability. He explained that there is no MAG and is still considered non-relevant, however because it revealed some availability and for consistency purposes, staff recommends it be added as a new source. Mr. Houston made a motion to authorize the consultant team to request a new source to reflect non-MAG availability of the Gulf Coast Aquifer in Trinity County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

9. DISCUSS THE PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SIMPLIFIED PLANNING AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO FORGO PURSUIT OF SIMPLIFIED PLANNING FOR THE 2021 REGION H RWP

Mr. Evans explained that Senate Bill 1511 of the 85th Legislative Session established a simplified planning process. He reiterated that the Region H Water Planning Group (“RHWPG”) had previous discussions and concluded that it was not advantageous for RHWPG’s planning process. Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the simplified planning process. Mr. Lord made a motion to forgo pursuit of simplified planning for the 2021 Region H Water Regional Water Plan and approve documentation of this action in the Technical Memorandum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turco and carried unanimously.

10. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE REGION H TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM AND CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. Taucer explained that the technical memorandum is a major deliverable that documents and summarizes the first few major steps of the regional planning process which looks at populations, demands, sources, allocation of existing supplies, and projected needs and is intended to focus on the numbers. He stated that this is a draft and alterations can be made at a later date if needed. Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the process as it relates to the public comment period the discussed the various information included in the technical memorandum. He provided an overview of projected demand, source availability, existing supply, and needs. Mr. Masterson made a motion to authorize the consultant team to prepare and submit the required technical memorandum documentation to the TWDB and authorize the consultant team to make minor non-substantive changes discussed hereto (Catahoula and Trinity supplies, update TWDB’s minor changes to supplies, and include RHWPG’s decision to forgo simplified planning). The motion was seconded by Mr. Henson and carried unanimously.

11. REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Taucer explained that TWDB sets the initial task budgets and gives the planning groups some flexibility to adjust said tasks. He stated that any adjustments over thirty-five percent must be approved by the planning group. Mr. Taucer explained that the original distribution of funds for population and non-population demands tasks as well as the supplies tasks were not enough to completely fund the additional level of effort needed to complete the tasks. He explained that this is just a reallocation of funds and no increase in the overall budget. Mr. Chang made a motion to approve a budget amendment for 2021 round of Regional Water Planning increasing Non-Pop Demands line item (\$9,000); Pop Demands line item (\$20,000); Supply line item (\$35,000), and decreasing Impacts of RWP line item <\$26,000>; Drought Response line item <\$21,000>; Recommendations line item <\$4,000>; and WIF Report line item <\$13,000>. The motion was seconded by Ms. Forrest and carried unanimously.

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

There were no recent or upcoming activities reported.

13. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Evans suggested that because of the upcoming legislative session, that the RHWPG authorize the executive committee to act on behalf of the RHWPG, speak to proposed legislation, and report back to the group. It was discussed that a Legislative Committee be formed to discuss pending legislation and would be further discussed and considered at the next meeting.

14. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

15. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting will take place on October 3, 2018.

16. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.