

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 31, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, Brad Brunett, James Comin, Mark Evans, Bob Hebert, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Kathy Jones, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Carl Masterson, Michael Turco, and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Alisa Max for John Blount, Veronica Osegueda for Yvonne Forrest, Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf, Tom Michel for Bill Teer, and Jim Sims for Kevin Ward.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marvin Marcell, 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. Bruner introduced Mr. W.R. Baker of Polk County and requested that he fill the Small Business position on the Region H Water Planning Group. Mr. Evans stated that the recommendation would be considered at the next Nominating Committee meeting, whereby their recommendation would be placed on the agenda at the next Region H Water Planning Group's meeting for consideration.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2018 MEETING

Mr. Masterson made a motion to approve the minutes of August 1, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 14

There were no public comments.

5. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE PROPOSED APPLICATION BY GULF COAST WATER AUTHORITY TO AMEND THE 2016 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN AND CONSIDER APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL OF THE APPLICATION PACKAGE TO TWDB FOR THE DETERMINATION OF MINOR AMENDMENT STATUS

Mr. Afinowicz provided information related to the proposed application by the Gulf Coast Water Authority (“GCWA”) to amend the 2016 Region H Regional Water Plan. He stated that the proposed amendment will reflect GCWA’s water supply plans for the future. He described the different aspects of the amendment, stating that it will align their strategies with the plan, reflect anticipated sources, and provide for consistency. He stated that it will impact several strategies and projects throughout the plan. Mr. Afinowicz provided an overview of the primary strategies identified by GCWA. He then briefly explained the necessary revisions to the Plan and the necessary procedures for implementation. Mr. Lord made a motion to approve the submittal of the application package to the Texas Water Development Board (“TWDB”) for determination of a minor amendment status. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hebert and carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the milestones for the development of the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan by stating that they are rapidly transitioning into management strategies. He reviewed upcoming due dates for scheduled events and tasks.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING NON-MAG AVAILABLE GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES IN THE GULF COAST AQUIFER IN SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT COUNTIES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO UPDATE SOURCE AVAILABILITY

Mr. Taucer explained that TWDB determined that subsidence districts were non-MAG and their availability is up to the discretion of the planning group. He explained the methodology of using the regulatory pumpage as the availability for the Gulf Coast Aquifer in Harris, Fort Bend, and Galveston Counties. Mr. Turco explained that the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District planning process, as related to the regulatory plan, is based on expectations related to population projections, migration, and per capita use as opposed to a worst case period of record drought. Further, he stated that to date, the regulatory plan is the best methodology to determine the availability of groundwater in Harris, Fort Bend, and Galveston Counties. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Turco made a motion to authorize the consultant team to update source availability for the Gulf Coast Aquifer in Subsidence District counties. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lord and carried with all present voting aye.

8. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING MODELED AVAILABLE GROUNDWATER (MAG) PEAK FACTORS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO SUBMIT THE PEAK FACTOR REQUEST TO TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB)

Mr. Taucer provided a brief overview of Modeled Available Groundwater (“MAG”). He explained the methodologies and data used and stated that the numbers in the Regional Plan are compatible with the GCDs and the GMAs. Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the process to date. Mr. Lord made a motion to submit the peak factor request to TWDB. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

9. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING STATUS OF INVESTIGATION OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE 2021 REGION H REGIONAL WATER PLAN

Mr. Taucer provided an update of water supply investigations. He stated that the development of WMS planning database is nearing completion which is key to efficient plan development. Further, he stated that Groundwater Reductions Plans are in progress and interrelated with existing supplies. Mr. Taucer then provided key processes occurring in the near future.

10. RECEIVE REPORT FROM CONSULTANT TEAM AND WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE REGARDING POTENTIAL WMS ANALYSES AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO APPROVE A 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 stated that TWDB allocated \$948,695 to Region H for Water Management Strategies. He explained the process for TWDB to release funds and provided background on previous requests. He provided an overview of potential WMS projects which include brackish groundwater and groundwater blending, regional return flows, WUG-level reuse, BRA system operation permit, interbasin transfers, Northeastern Water Purification Plant expansion, and other facility and storage projects. He stated that the aforementioned tasks total \$348,100, leaving approximately \$118,395 of unassigned, unallocated funds. Mr. Chang 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 to TWDB, coordinate with TWDB as needed on follow-up information, and execute the subsequent contract amendment issued. The motion was seconded by Mr. Comin and carried unanimously

11. DISCUSS THE 86TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND APPROVE THE REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Evans proposed that the Planning Group authorize a legislative committee for the upcoming 86th Legislative Session. He explained that the purpose of the committee would be to take a proactive approach and to provide information to the legislature to clarify information related to Region H's Regional planning. Mr. Chang made a motion to approve the Region H Water Planning Group Legislative Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Masterson 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

There were no communications or general information to report.

14. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION REGARDING THE 2018 GALVESTON BAY REPORT CARD

Ms. Thompson provided an overview of the 2018 Galveston Bay Foundation report card.

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 February 6, 2019.

17. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.