

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, James Comin, Mark Evans, Yvonne Forrest, Bob Hebert, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Gary Ashmore, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, William Teer, Michael Turco, and Pudge Willcox.

DESIGNATED ALTERNATES: Alisa Max for John Blount, Aaron Abel for Brad Brunett, Robert Thompson for Marvin Marcell, Ken Kramer for Carl Masterson, Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf, and Jim Sims for Kevin Ward.

MEMBERS ABSENT: W.R. Baker and James Morrison.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Lann Bookout and Melinda Silva for Wayne Ahrens.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

There were not introductions.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2019 MEETING

Mr. Henson made a motion to approve the minutes of June 5, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 15

There were no public comments.

5. RECEIVE FINAICIAL REPORT FROM REGION H ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY

Ms. Pam Steiger presented the financials of the Region H Water Planning Group.

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

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the milestones for the development of the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan by stating the current ongoing tasks were the WMS analysis, drought contingency

plan recommendations, and legislative recommendations. He provided upcoming due dates for scheduled events and tasks.

7. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING STATUS OF INVESTIGATION OF WATER SUPPLY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE 2021 REGION H RWP

Mr. Taucer provided an update related to the investigation of water supply alternatives for the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan by providing statistics related to the five major strategies: advanced conservation; irrigation conservation; water loss reduction; expanded groundwater; and municipal reuse. He stated that just these initial strategies have produced favorable results.

8. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING CURRENT WATER CONSERVATION PLANNING IN REGION H AND DISCUSS CONSERVATION PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Taucer stated that there is a subchapter of the plan that focuses on conservation which looks at current planning as well as RWP recommendations. He stated that this planning cycle, industrial conservation will not be measured due to water demand projection methodologies. He also stated that more focus will be on outdoor conservation versus indoor conservation. Mr. Taucer provided an overview of the survey responses detailing implemented water conservation plan measures and new water conservation plan measures. He went to provide an overview of the recommendations that water districts and suppliers strive to meet goals in their conservation plans; strive toward the conservation already included in TWDBs projections; and all WUGs reach a per capita level consistent with the implementation of water loss and advanced conservation recommendations.

9. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING CURRENT DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN REGION H AND DISCUSS DROUGHT CONTINGENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Taucer provided an overview of drought contingency planning stating that over 253 new drought contingency plans were received along with approximately 77 survey responses. He provided details related to same. He explained the different challenges and risks related to the inclusion of drought contingency planning as a strategy. Discussion ensued. Mr. Houston stated that if drought contingency planning was included as a strategy it would provide a water offsetting need, therefore the need to develop fewer strategies to meet demands would be less. Mr. Turco stated that if drought contingency plans were to be included as a strategy, it could be a viable strategy that could be utilized by some, but not be overstated. Mr. Kramer stated that there is more of an interest in implementation of drought contingency plans from public officials. He stated that water plans are based upon meeting demands in a period of time in which drought is worse than the current historic drought of record. Mr. Hebert stated that drought contingency plans are designed to clip demand in response to the reduction in supply. He stated that the plan is to develop water, and drought contingency plans need to be a part of the plan, however, not to advocate developing more water than reasonably needed. Further discussion ensued and it was determined that the consultants would provide several different drought contingency plan options/assumptions based upon the comments.

10. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING EMERGENCY INTERCONNECT FACILITIES IN REGION H AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT TO THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the existing emergency interconnect related to drought and emergency conditions. He stated that this is a confidential report provided to TWDB's Executive Administrator and delivered separately from the regional plan. Mr. Henson made a motion to authorize the consultant team to submit a confidential emergency interconnect report to the TWDB. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hebert and carried unanimously.

11. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM THE REGION H LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2021 REGION H RWP

Mr. Taucer provided a brief overview of certain legislation related to regional planning.

12. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO NOMINATE ONE OR MORE RHWPG MEMBERS FOR THE INTERREGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the Interregional Planning Council. Mr. Hebert made a motion to nominate Mr. Evans as the Region H member for the Interregional Planning Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kramer and carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the budget stating that there is no change in the overall budget, however a shift in WSP task and expense is needed. Mr. Lord made a motion to approve the amendment of the budget for the development of the 2021 Regional Water Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartos and carried unanimously.

14. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE RHWPG

Mr. Taucer stated that there were no recent activities.

15. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Bookout provided updates relevant to regional water planning from the 86th Texas Legislature.

16. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

17. NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting would be November 6, 2019.

18. ADJOURN

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47.m.