

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGION F WATER PLANNING GROUP
10:30 A.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012 AT THE SAN ANGELO
CONVENTION CENTER, 500 RIO CONCHO DRIVE, SAN ANGELO, TEXAS**

The Region F Water Planning Group (WPG) met at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2012 at the San Angelo Convention Center, San Angelo, Texas. Voting members present were: Wendell Moody, Terry Scott, Alan Zeman, designated alternate for Larry Turnbough, Will Wilde, Len Wilson, Richard Gist, Charles Hagood, Caroline Runge, Tim Warren, Scott Holland, Kenneth Dierschke, Merle Taylor, Stephen Brown, John Grant, Robert Moore, John Shepard, Woody Anderson, Luke Crowder, designated alternate for Ben Shepperd, Paul Weatherby, Raymond Straub, Gilbert Van Deventer and Jerry Bearden. Non-voting members present were: Tom Hoysa, Winton Milliff, Tisha Burnett, Cindy Weatherby, Jon Cartright, Jim Polonis, Leatrice Adams, Sue Young. Other interested parties present were Simone Kiel and Jeremy Rice, Freese & Nichols, James Beach, LBG-Guyton, Stuart Purvis, Midland, Allan Lange, Lipan-Kickapoo WCD, Ann Pierce, City of San Angelo and Matt Nelson and Doug Shaw of the Texas Water Development Board.

Call to Order

Chair, John Grant called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Voting and non-voting members and audience attendees introduced themselves.

Consider Approval of Minutes for the Region F Water Planning Group Meeting, July 21, 2011.

Paul Weatherby noted that under the Water Level History for Wells of Region F discussion, the word Pecos County on page 4 should be changed to Region F. Motion was made by Kenneth Dierschke and seconded by Merle Taylor to approve the minutes with this correction. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Will Wilde reported the Administrative Account had no expenditures since the last meeting and had a balance of \$29,923.27. The TWDB has approved the contract with Freese & Nichols for \$191,234 and there have been no expenditures to this point. Motion was made by Merle Taylor to accept the financial report and was seconded by Paul Weatherby. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Planning Group Voting Membership and Groundwater Management Area Representation

The Irrigated Agriculture position held by Woody Anderson is open for consideration. Stephen Brown moved that Woody Anderson be reappointed and it was seconded by Len Wilson. The motion passed unanimously.

John Grant discussed the legislation that required each groundwater management area (GMA) that falls within a regional planning area to be represented on the planning board. There are three groundwater management areas within Region F. A motion was made by Woody Anderson and second by Stephen Brown that by resolution we amend the membership of the Region F Planning Group to delete the two Groundwater District positions and add positions to the board for GMAs 2, 3 and 7 with Raymond Straub representing GMA 2, Paul Weatherby representing GMA 3 and Scott Holland representing GMA 7. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Designated Alternates

Voting members were encouraged to submit a designated alternate.

Update from the TWDB

Doug Shaw was introduced as the new Project Manager for Region F.

Matt Nelson, TWDB, Manager, Regional Water Planning, presented an overview of changes proposed to the Water Planning Rules. The purpose of the changes is to bring the current rules into compliance with what the state passed in the last legislative session. Some of the changes include the requirement for GMA representation on planning groups; use of MAG's in ground water planning; eliminate redundancy and organize sections of the rules; add a section that will address implementation of water management strategies; and add a section to identify potential emergency sources for small systems.

Matt Nelson also reported that a Water Conservation Savings Quantification Study had been done for the TWDB by BBC Research and Consulting. The primary goal of the study was to identify existing and potential ways of implementing and measuring the effectiveness of conservation.

The overall findings of the study were:

- Estimating actual water conservation savings is not a simple task, and Texas is not alone in struggling with this challenge.
- Comparison of GPCD between providers is not helpful in assessing conservation savings.
- Providers currently use a variety of methods to estimate savings, with top down (GPCD-based) approaches being the most common.

- Providers are interested in assistance from TWDB in developing more consistent data and in analyzing the data.

Recommendations from the report were:

- Consider developing a statistical (econometric) model to estimate statewide and regional conservation savings.
- Consider developing a new “desktop” tool to assist providers in standardizing data collection and analyzing data.
- Seek to develop a common, web-based, data collection and reporting system.

Discussion and Consideration of Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections

Presentation was made by Jeremy Rice, Freese & Nichols on the agricultural demand projections for irrigation and livestock. Draft projections for irrigation were based on reported irrigated information from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for the 2005-2009 period.

Livestock water use estimates were calculated by applying a water use coefficient for each livestock category to county level inventory estimates from Texas Agricultural Statistics Service.

Mr. Rice stated that the irrigation and livestock projections are lower in the evaluation of Region F counties. Irrigation demand is down about 150,000 acre feet and livestock is down about 9,000 acre feet from the 2012 plan.

Alan Zeman stated that the projections for Reeves County based on FSA reports probably are not representative since there are producers that do not participate in the FSA program. Woody Anderson stated that in Mitchell County, there have been a lot of wells installed recently and the short term trend used in the planning projections may not be representative of the future planning period. Scott Holland recommended that information on water use from water districts be utilized in developing the projections.

Simone Kiel stated there are two items that will be needed for the planning projections. The first is to establish a starting 2010 demand number. The second is, what the rate of change should be for the planning period. It was decided that Freese & Nichols would send out a questionnaire to all planning group members to gather information on water use which would be brought back to the next meeting for consideration of modifying draft projections.

Non-Municipal Water Demand Draft Projections for the 2016 RWP presented by James Beach, LBG-Guyton.

The other three categories of non-municipal demand are mining, manufacturing, and steam-electric.

- Manufacturing projections were based on 2004-2008 water use survey data from the TWDB. Adjustments were made in counties with low or conflicting reported employment data. There were no significant changes to manufacturing projections from the approved State Water Plan. Total demand over the planning period is projected to steadily increase.
- Steam-electric numbers came from the 2008 TWDB Water Demand Projections for Power Generation. There were no significant changes to steam-electric projections from the approved State Water Plan. Total demand over the planning period is projected to steadily increase.
- Mining projections are directly from a TWDB contract report by the Bureau of Economic Geology. There are numerous significant county-level changes to mining projections and the total demand over the planning period has decreased from the approved State Water Plan.

James Beach asked that planning group members provide any information and proposed changes to the projections for these categories on the questionnaire that Freese & Nichols will be sending out.

Discussion and Consideration of Requesting a Modification of the Water Availability Models for Region F Water Planning.

Simone Kiel explained that surface water availability for the region is based on a TCEQ water availability model (WAM) that was developed in the 1990's. The hydrology used in the model was from the 1940's through 2000. In the past two rounds of water planning, Region F has used a mini-WAM that utilized only the upper Colorado River basin. For the Pecos River Basin, models that have been used in the previous planning will be used with updated hydrology through 2010 for the 2016 plan. A motion was made by Will Wilde and seconded by Stephen Brown that a letter be sent to the TWDB regarding the use of a min-WAM for the upper Colorado River Basin; that one year safe yields be used for reservoirs; and that the hydrology in the Upper Colorado River Basin be extended through 2010 with updated information as described in the draft letter to the TWDB. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Consideration of Groundwater Availability for Region F Water Planning.

James Beach stated that in GMA 2, 3 and 8, all MAG's are final. In GMA 7, the MAG's have draft status due to a petition that has been filed by Grass Valley Water, L.P. appealing the DFC of the Edwards-Trinity Aquifer in Val Verde and Kinney counties. Public hearings for both Kinney and Val Verde Counties were held in Sonora on January 18 and 19, 2012. TWDB will hear the petition on April 19, 2012 to determine if the DFC is reasonable.

Public Comments and Discussion

There were no public comments.

Discuss Schedule for the Planning Cycle

Simone Kiel stated that the planning cycle has been divided into two phases. Phase I is the current contract and includes the water availability and water demand projections. A technical memorandum that describes and puts all of this information together will have to be submitted to the TWDB by February 20, 2028.


Funding for Phase II should be available later this year. Phase II will include items such as strategies, water conservation, and description of the Region.

Next Meeting Date


The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2012.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



Wendell Moody, Secretary
Region F Water Planning Group



John Grant, Chair
Region F Water Planning Group