

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGION F WATER PLANNING GROUP
10:30 A.M., THURSDAY, MAY 17, 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, May 17, 2012 at the San Angelo Convention Center, San Angelo, Texas. Voting members present were: Wendell Moody, Will Wilde, Richard Gist, Charles Hagood, Caroline Runge, Scott Holland, Kenneth Dierschke, Merle Taylor, Stephen Brown, Robert Moore, Ben Shepperd, Paul Weatherby, Raymond Straub, Jerry Bearden and Don Daniel, alternate for Terry Scott. Non-voting members present were: Doug Shaw, Winton Milliff, Tisha Burnett, David Huie, Sue Young, Cindy Weatherby, and Joe David Ross. Other interested parties present were Simone Kiel and Jeremy Rice, Freese & Nichols, James Beach, LBG-Guyton, Allan Lange, Lipan-Kickapoo WCD, Jim Polonis, Sutton County UWCD, and Ann Pierce, City of San Angelo.

Call to Order

Vice-Chair, Will Wilde called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. A quorum was present.

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Wendell Moody opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Mr. Wilde stated that Len Wilson, John Grant, Woody Anderson, Tim Warren, Gil VanDeventer and Larry Turnbough had provided notice that they would not be attending the meeting.

Consider Approval of Minutes for the Region F Meeting on January 26, 2012

Motion was made by Kenneth Dierschke and seconded by Stephen Brown to approve the minutes with the addition of a note that the Texas Farm Bureau hosted the meal at the January 26th meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Total TWDB Planning Grant is \$206,234.00. Expenditures to date have been \$5,780.49 to Freese & Nichols with a balance of \$200,453.51.

The administrative fund has a balance of \$29,923.27 with no expenditures since the last meeting. Motion was made by Wendell Moody and seconded by Merle Taylor to accept the financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Planning Group Designated Alternates, Non-voting Members, and Regional Liaisons

Will Wilde stated that Woody Anderson's term had expired and that he indicated he was interested in continuing to serve on the board. Motion was made by Stephen Brown and seconded by Scott Holland that Woody Anderson be reappointed. Motion carried unanimously.

Leatrice Adams, General Manager of the Permian Basin UWCD, submitted an application to serve as a non-voting representative for Howard and Martin counties. Will Wilde stated that at this time Todd Darden from Big Spring represents Howard County.

Caroline Runge moved that Ms. Adams be appointed the representative for Martin County and the motion was seconded by Wendell Moody. The motion passed unanimously.

Update From the TWDB

Doug Shaw, TWDB representative, presented information on changes proposed to the regional water planning rules. The purpose of the revisions is to align the rules with state statute, consolidate and organize existing rules, and update the planning process. Drought plans will be consolidated into one section in the report. A new section will include the identification of potential emergency sources for smaller entities. There would also be a section to review the progress entities are making on implementation of strategies identified in the last plan. Joe David Ross stated that the regional water planning projections need to be consistent with the desired future conditions adopted by districts. David Huie stated that water demands for an aquifer should not be divided by county lines, but looked at on a regional basis. Doug Shaw said that for areas that don't have MAGs or DFCs, the water availability will be done as in the past, but where there are MAGs, these will have to be used.

Discussion and Consideration of Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections

Simone Kiel, Freese and Nichols, presented an overview of the methodology used by the Board in developing irrigation and livestock demands. The Board based their irrigation demands on historical use information from 2005 to 2009 for establishing the base year and the future demands over the planning period were adjusted using the same rate of change as in the previous planning cycle. Paul Weatherby provided information on projected water demands for Pecos County based on future cropping patterns which indicated an upward irrigation trend over the next planning period. Ms. Kiel presented revised irrigation demand projections for the region incorporating the additional information. Motion was made by Jerry Bearden, seconded by Paul Weatherby to recommend to the Board the revised irrigation demands for the region. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kiel presented the Board recommendations on livestock demands for the region. The projections are based on livestock head counts and do not take into consideration wildlife. Discussion followed on the changes in the region where ranchers are no longer running cattle but are converting to deer and specialty hunting. Simone suggested that for livestock demands, the planning group consider using the highest amount in the 2005 to 2009 period from the Board's information as the base year and request the Board include an additional line item for wildlife demand based on Texas Parks and Wildlife estimates of wildlife water use. Motion was made by Charles Hagood and seconded by Wendell Moody to accept the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

James Beach, LBG-Guyton, presented the Board's draft water demand projections for mining, power and manufacturing for the 2016 plan. Mr. Beach said that Will Wilde had submitted information to drop the steam-electric demand in Tom Green County to zero since all the power plants had been shut down. Discussion followed on the amount of water being used for fracking in the oil and gas industry and how these numbers are being considered in the demand projections. Scott Holland stated that their district has been tracking water used in these operations. Mr. Beach suggested that the group consider adopting the Board's demand projections for manufacturing and steam electric (with the decrease for Tom Green County) and that Districts submit information on demand projections for fracking by August 1 for updating base line data that would be used for mining. A motion was made by Scott Holland to accept the recommendation, seconded by Stephen Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Consideration of Surface Water Availability for Region F

Simone Kiel explained the Board uses a WAM Run 3 model for assessing surface water supply. WAM Run 3 runs allocate supply based on the states surface water priority call system. The Colorado River Basin WAM utilizes historical records from 1940-1998. The model also considers the firm yield of a reservoir, which means at the end of the drought of record, the reservoir would be completely empty and then refill.

Under previous planning cycles, Region F has utilized a mini-WAM which considers water right demands only for the upper Colorado River Basin. A request has been presented to the Board that the region utilize this methodology for the planning cycle with updated hydrology through 2011 and that safe yields be used for reservoirs (one year of water supply left in the reservoir at the end of the drought of record).

Ms. Kiel stated that a preliminary run of the mini-WAM indicates that available surface water supplies could decrease up to 40,000 acre-feet from the previous state water plan. Charles Hagood stated that subordination conflict on the Llano River water right for Junction with that of the LCRA in the lower Colorado basin needs to be addressed in this plan.

Discussion and Consideration of Groundwater Availability for Region F

James Beach stated that the methodology for determining the available ground water that will be used in this round of planning has changed from previous cycles. Ground water availability had previously been based on aquifer storage and recharge. Under the new methodology, ground water will be based on MAGs. For a county that is not in a ground water district, the available water will be based on the DFC for the aquifer as adopted by the GMA.

Mr. Beach reviewed proposed MAGs in the Board's database. He stated that there are areas where the data didn't match up in the transfer of data from the old data base to the new one. Discussion followed concerning the need to correct the data and a possible methodology for incorporating data in areas where there isn't a ground water district. Mr. Beach suggested that districts review the Board data base and provide any corrections or additions to him before the next meeting. It was suggested that at the next meeting a brief presentation be made on the new methodology being used by the Board for ground water availability.

Discussion and Consideration of Methodology for Identifying Potentially Feasible Water Management Strategies

In compliance with TAC 357.5, Simone Kiel presented information on the various steps in the selection of water management strategies. These include:

- Identification of entities with a need
- Determine if strategies different than what are in the state plan are needed
- Contact the entity to discuss strategies
- Develop strategies
- Present the strategy to the entity for concurrence

Strategies must use a proven technology, be appropriate for the region and have a sponsor.

Mr. Wilde asked for comments on the proposed methodology for identifying potentially feasible water management strategies. Mr. Brown stated that new surface water permits for developed water in urban areas should be included as a potential water strategy for evaluation.

There were no other comments.

Public Comments and Discussion

There were no public comments.

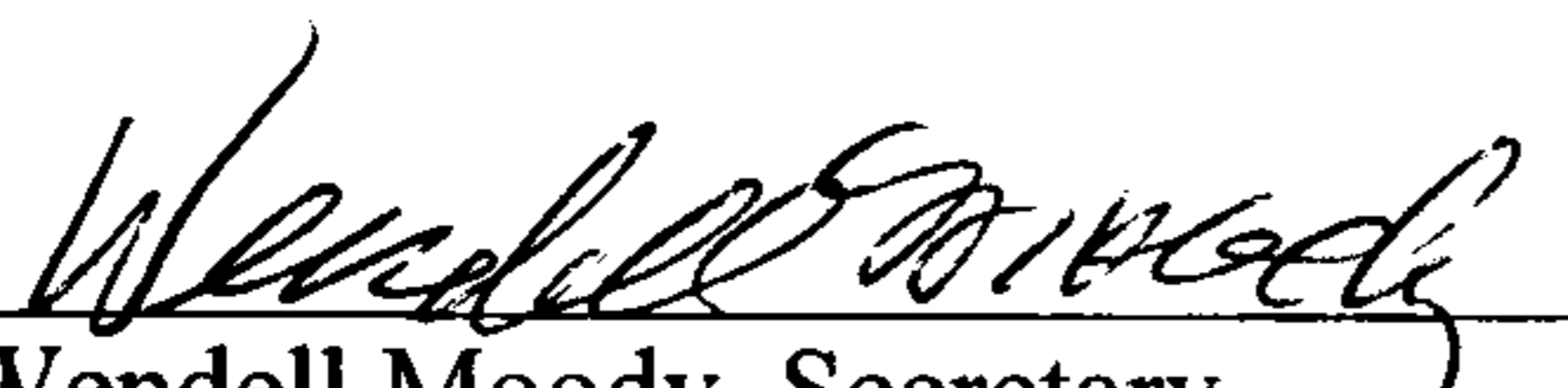
The City of San Angelo hosted the meal for the meeting.

Discuss Schedule for the Planning Cycle and Next Meeting Date

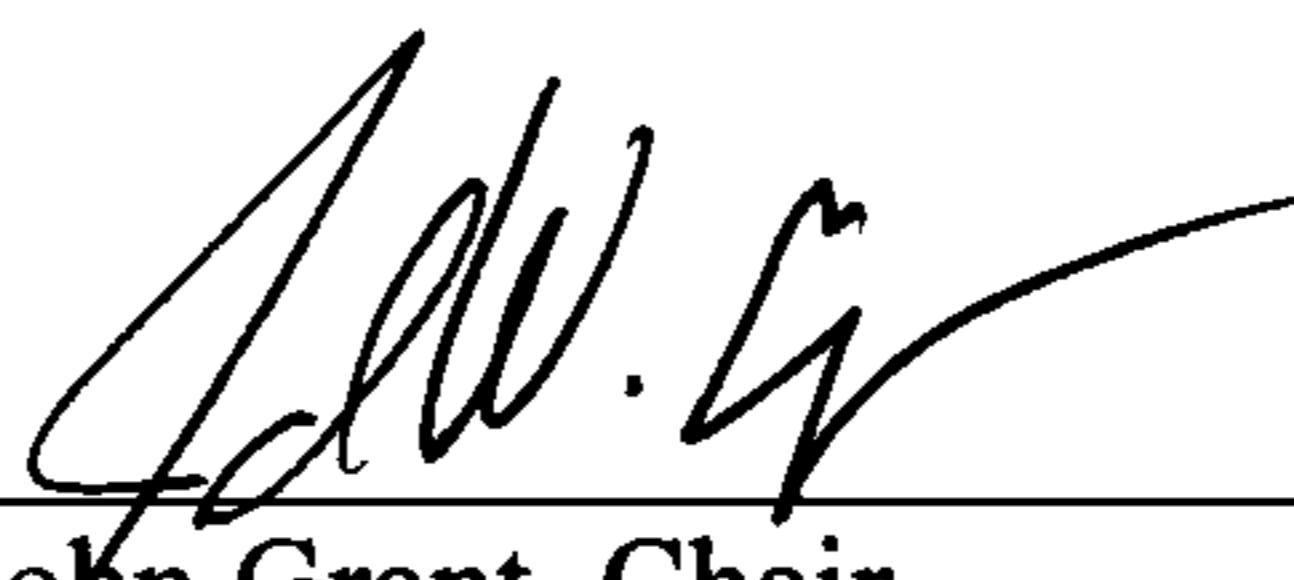
The next meeting date will depend on receipt of population and municipal water demand projections from the Board. A meeting date was not set, but Will Wilde will contact everyone with possible meeting dates when the numbers are released.

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