

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGION F WATER PLANNING GROUP
10:30 A.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 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, August 16, 2012 at the San Angelo Convention Center, San Angelo, Texas. Voting members present were: Wendell Moody, Will Wilde, Len Wilson, Richard Gist, Caroline Runge, Tim Warren, Scott Holland, Merle Taylor, Stephen Brown, John Grant, Robert Moore, John Shepard, Paul Weatherby, Raymond Straub, Gil Vandeventer and Jerry Bearden. Non-voting members present were: Doug Shaw, Tisha Burnett, Leatrice Adams, Sue Young, Jon Cartwright, and Joe David Ross. Other interested parties present were Simone Kiel and Jeremy Rice, Freese & Nichols, Stuart Purvis, City of Midland; Larry French, TWDB; Harvey Gray, MPGCD; Cathy McEntire, SCUWCD; David Hold, PBPA; Darrell Peckham, Water Quest; and Ann Pierce, City of San Angelo.

Call to Order

Chair, John Grant, called the meeting to order at 10:40 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 Meeting on May 17, 2012

Motion was made by Wendell Moody and seconded by John Sheppard to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Total TWDB Planning Grant is \$206,234.00. Expenditures to date have been \$44,673.08 to Freese & Nichols with a balance of \$161,560.92.

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

Consider Designated Alternates, Non-voting Members, Regional Liaisons and Posting Notice for Nominations of Voting Members

John Grant discussed that we need to post notice that we have several voting member positions open and, if members are willing to continue serving the need, to fill out a nomination form. Motion was made by Wendell Moody to authorize the posting of the positions with a second by Richard Gist. The motion passed unanimously.

Voting members were reminded of the importance of having a designated alternate to represent them in their absence.

Update From the TWDB

Doug Shaw presented the update. The staff has been discussing with the regions the possibility of including in the regional plans strategies such as water management, desal and aquifer storage and recovery. Some of the Chairs expressed concerns that those strategies aren't reasonable for every region. Another item being looked at is prioritization of water management strategies. It is not something the Board is requiring at this time, but left it up to the entities to decide. Concerning population projections, the Board has recently heard from the state demographer that they hope to have county level populations to them by the end of September. It will then take about a 3-month turn around to get that broken down to the water user group level and into water demand for the regions. There was some discussion about rule changes. The notice requirements have been simplified and some new information about drought response recommendations and existing infrastructure will be required.

Discussion and Consideration of Non-Municipal Water Demand Projections

Simone Kiel, with Freese and Nichols, presented information on draft demands for non-municipal water demands which included irrigation, livestock, manufacturing and mining demands. At the last meeting, the recommended changes in moving forward with manufacturing and irrigation were approved. A decision on mining demands was developed to allow review of information on recent oil and gas exploration activities.

Scott Holland presented information on Region F reported O&G fracked wells. The reported average demand per oil well (acre-feet per well) is 4.39 with a total of 4,537 wells in the Region. The estimated use at 4.39 acre-feet per well per year is 19,905. The 2020 BEG projected oil/gas acre-feet per year is 19,074. The difference for the whole region is 4 percent, but may be more significant for a particular county.

Doug Shaw stated that they are planning on taking non-municipal demands to the Board in October. There have been regions that said they won't have their mining demands ready. Basically, if everything could be approved other than mining, that would be fine. John Grant stated that the mining numbers in Region F are critical in different counties because there is so much activity. I was the conscience of the group to hold a decision on mining until the BEG report is received.

Jeremy Rice, Freese and Nichols, presented the livestock demands. The TWDB methodology used the averages from 2005 to 2009 and looked at the same data set for 2005 through 2010. They took the highest annual use and, to be consistent with the last plan, they maintained that use throughout the rest of the planning period, so there was no increase in livestock demand throughout the planning period. Since the last meeting, they have looked at demands for exotic species, white tail deer and feral hogs. They utilized data from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for a state-wide census of

exotic game animals. They took the information on a county basis for their estimate of population of axis deer, fallow deer and others. They also contacted TPWD and asked for their count of white tail deer which was provided for 2005 through 2011 on a per 1,000 acres basis. TPWD did not have counts of feral hogs and nowhere else were they able to find data. Feral hogs were not included in the estimate. They then took the Texas A&M water estimate per animal and multiplied it by the number of animals in each county to develop the estimates of wildlife demands in each county. In some counties, wildlife demand can represent a significant amount of total livestock demand, with Upton being the lowest at 100 acre-feet and Mason being the highest at 1,300 acre-feet.

At the last meeting, the proposed livestock demand was 16,942 acre-feet per year on a regional basis. Exotic and Wildlife demands were estimated at 1,134 acre-feet, which brings the Region F livestock demand up to 18,076 acre-feet per year. There was further discussion about feral hogs, as the population is increasing. Simone Kiel feels that the Board would not be receptive to including feral hogs in the estimate. Jeremy stated that the majority of the demand is white tail deer.

Steven Brown made a motion to accept the livestock numbers of 18,076 and the motion was seconded by Caroline Runge. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Consideration of Groundwater Availability

Larry French, TWDB gave a presentation entitled “The World of Relevant/Non-Relevant Aquifers, DFCs, and MAGs”. There are 30 total major and minor aquifers across the state defined by TWDB. There are also non-relevant aquifers which are defined as “the portion or portions of major or minor aquifer within a district for which the GMA determines that: Aquifer uses and conditions or water supply needs and water management strategies within the district do not warrant adoption of a desired future condition; and groundwater conditions will not affect the achievement of desired future conditions in adjacent or hydraulically connected relevant aquifers.” Where there is a non-relevant aquifer, there is no DFC to satisfy and, therefore, no MAG with which to comply. However, groundwater could be used as a regional supply in that area and its availability may have significance to the RWPG work. Even if it’s non-relevant there can be enough water that’s used domestically and it can have a significant impact on Regional funding and the planning process.

Simone Kiel stated that the Development Board divided their contracts into two phases for funding purposes. Phase I is what we’re working under right now and has a scope of work for population demand projections, water supply projections and also included a limited amount of funding for water management strategies. The 4D funds were set out specifically for water management strategies, but those funds cannot be released without approval from the Development Board. There are two strategy types that could get released before they finished their needs analysis. One is the subordination strategy which is the surface water strategy where they talk about retaining water in the upper basin instead of passing water down to senior water right holders as what is modeled in the WAM run 3 model. The second strategy is on conservation which is something that

must be considered when an entity has a need. A motion was made by Stephen Brown to recommend to the Board the two items for the scope of work for Phase I, Task 4D and it was seconded by Robert Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Consideration of Regional Planning Grant Application and authorizing the City of San Angelo to: Submit Planning Grant Application to TWDB; Post Public Notice for Planning Grant; Negotiate and execute contract with the TWDB for Planning Grant; and negotiate and execute contract amendment with Freese and Nichols for additional planning grant work.

Simone stated that the grant application is for Phase II to complete the regional water plan. Phase I is to look at the demands and how much water the region has today. Phase II will address strategies to meet the projected demands. Richard Gist made a motion to submit to the Board a grant application for Phase II of the Region F Plan and authorization for the City of San Angelo to submit planning grant application to TWDB; Post Public Notice for Planning Grant; negotiate and execute contract with the TWDB for planning grant; and negotiate and execute contract amendment with Freese and Nichols for additional planning grant work. The motion was seconded by Charles Hagood and it passed unanimously.

Public Comments and Discussion

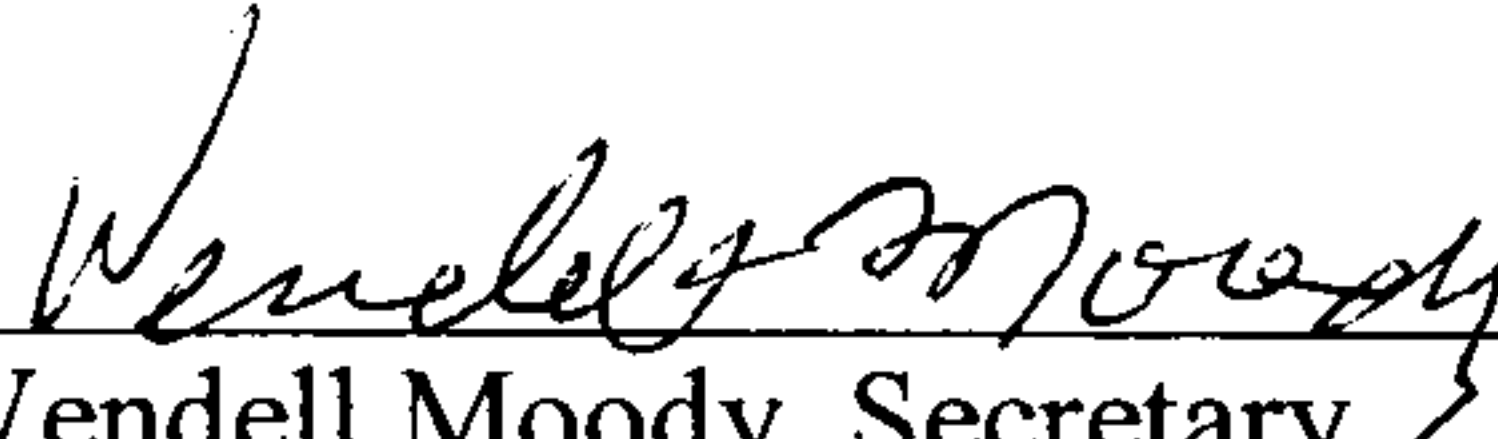
There were no public comments.
Region F hosted the meal for the meeting.

Planning Cycle and Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will depend on the draft demands and will probably be in early 2013.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.


Wendell Moody, Secretary
Region F Water Planning Group


John Grant, Chair
Region F Water Planning Group