

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGION F WATER PLANNING GROUP
10:00 A.M., THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014 AT THE OFFICE OF THE
COLORADO RIVER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT,
400 E. 24TH ST. BIG SPRING, TEXAS**

The Region F Water Planning Group (WPG) met at 10:00a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at the Office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District in Big Spring, Texas. Voting members present were: Wendell Moody, Don Daniel; Designated Alternate for Terry Scott, Ricky Dickson, Richard Gist, Charles Hagood, Caroline Runge, Ricky Lain; Designated Alternate for Tim Warren, Scott Holland, Merle Taylor, John Grant, John Shepard, Woody Anderson, Paul Weatherby, Raymond Straub, and Gil VanDeVenter. Terry Scott, Larry Turnbough, Kenneth Dierschke, Stephen Brown, Mark Barr, Woody Anderson, and Ben Shepperd were absent. Notices were received from Len Wilson and Jerry Bearden that they would not be able to attend the meeting. Non-voting members present were: Temple McKinnon, Nathan Rains, Harvey Everheart, Winton Milliff, Tisha Burnett, Don Daniel, John Cartwright, and Joe David Ross. Other interested parties present were Simone Kiel, Freese & Nichols; James Beach and Jennifer Herrera, LBG-Guyton; David Holt, PBPA; Jim Polonis, Sutton County UWCD; Diana Thomas, Sterling County UWCD; Allan Lange, Lipan-Kickapoo WCD; James Busby, B&N; Sage Dillard, EHT; Scott Hay, EHT; Phillip Arp, Darlene Kelly, Steve Nixon, and Sam Mallory, City of Ballinger; Jason Modglin, Representative Drew Darby's Office; Mandy Scott, Texas Parks and Wildlife Inland Fisheries; Cary Carman, USGS; Matt Irvin, City of Midland; Rex Thee and Bobby Sinclair, City of Monahans; Gary Jacobson and Steven Miller, City of Brady; Lauren Graber and TWDB Board Member Bech Bruun, TWDB; and Katharine Rubio (recorder of minutes) from the Colorado River Municipal Water District.

Call to Order

Chair, John Grant, called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 September 26, 2013

Motion was made by Merle Taylor and seconded by Paul Weatherby to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

John Grant presented the financial reports for the Administrative and Planning Funds.

Expenditures from the Administrative Fund were \$91.78. Expenditures from the Planning Fund to Freese and Nichols were \$65,404.13, minus the 5% retainage, totaling \$62,133.93. John Shepard motioned and Charles Hagood seconded to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Designated Alternates

John Grant reported that Designated Alternate Forms have been submitted for consideration for Eli Torres, alternate for Merle Taylor and David Holt, alternate for Ben Shepperd. Scott Holland motioned to accept the Designated Alternates. Wendell Moody seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Non-Voting Members

John Grant reported that Texas Parks and Wildlife had appointed Nathan Rains as their Non-Voting Member.

TWDB Report

Board Member Bech Bruun introduced himself as one of three TWDB Board Members. The sixteen Chairs of the Regional Water Planning Groups were part of a stakeholder's committee that developed the rules for prioritization. Regional prioritization is one part that the Board will use in the scoring system that is being put together over the course of the year through formal rulemaking, in which the Board will be able to score projects in the State Water Plan in order to decide who can use the SWIFT funding. The Board has had two of three scheduled public work sessions, receiving public input. TWDB staff has had public meetings in Austin. All of the information that is being compiled will be put on the TWDB website that is dedicated to SWIFT that can be accessed through the main website. The next step is for the TWDB to produce a draft rule. That will be around June 2014. Public input on the draft rule will be taken into consideration as the rules are finalized. Finalization will be by the end of 2014. House Bill 4 says that a disbursement cannot be made from the SWIFT funds no sooner than March 1, 2015. There have been many of changes at the TWDB with the governing structure, as well as the organizational chart. There is a new Water Supply and Infrastructure Division that has the 16 Regional Planning Groups with 6 dedicated teams to those regional areas. Doug Shaw has been promoted to the Agriculture and Rural Ombudsman, which is a new position.

Temple McKinnon reported that Doug Shaw was the Region F Project Manager, and two new staff have been hired from within the TWDB to fill that vacancy.

City of Ballinger's Request for Waiver to Amend the 2011 Region F Regional Water Plan

Scott Hayworth with EHT, consultant for the City of Ballinger made the presentation. The city is looking to supplement their water supply with groundwater. The city has historically used surface. If nothing changes, the city is about 17 months away from being without water. The city is looking into additional surface water usage, as well as groundwater.

Merle Taylor motioned and Richard Gist seconded to approve the City of Ballinger's request for waiver to amend the 2011 Region F Regional Water Plan to use groundwater in conjunction with surface water. The motion passed unanimously.

City of Winters Request for Waiver to Amend the 2011 Region F Regional Water Plan

Sage Dillard with EHT, consultant for the City of Winters made the presentation. The city of Winters has approached the TWDB for funding of a shallow groundwater source. The current source of water is surface water. The city is looking to supplement their supply.

Charles Hagood motioned and Wendell Moody seconded to approve the City of Winters request for waiver to amend the 2011 Region F Regional Water Plan to use groundwater in conjunction with surface water. The motion passed unanimously.

Groundwater Supplies

James Beach presented the report. The groundwater shortages limitations and allocations include: evolving legal framework and management areas; groundwater property is a right; the MAG is a cap for planning purposes; can pump as much as possible within permit limits; some counties have no groundwater conservation districts, and therefore, no limits; assumptions must be made about who the shortages will affect; and some shortages are paper and others are real. In previous planning cycles, a tiered approach by use type was used. As a result, most shortages affected only mining and irrigated agriculture needs in most counties. For the current planning cycle, previous assumptions may not be realistic when shortages are large and competition for water is real. It is more likely that all users reliant on a source will suffer to some extent. If there is a groundwater shortage, reduce mining and irrigation supplies up to 20%. If there is still a groundwater shortage, reduce all users by an equal percentage until availability is no longer exceeded. Mining and irrigation are reduced to the previous 20% reduction. There are counties limited by MAGs. The counties and aquifers that are over-allocated are – Ogallala: Andrews, Howard, and Martin; Dockum: Scurry; Hickory: McCulloch. Counties and aquifers that are fully allocated are – Ogallala: Borden; Trinity: Brown; Lipan: Concho; Edwards-Trinity: Howard. For the current planning cycle, it may be necessary to coordinate with groundwater conservation districts.

Water Management Strategies

Simone Kiel presented the report. There is not an update on subordination because the TCEQ is in the process of updating the Colorado WAM. The update will be made available in April 2014. Municipal conservation assumptions will be considered for all municipal water user groups with greater than 140 gpcd. The screening matrix evaluation has screening of 68 best management practices, which include variations of similar strategies. It was evaluated based on cost, potential water savings, time to implement, public acceptance, technical feasibility, and staff resources. Recommendations for entities with populations less than 10,000 include education and outreach, water audits and leak repairs, rate structure, and water waste ordinance. Recommendations for entities greater than 10,000 include education and outreach, water audits and leak repair, rate structure, water waste ordinance, landscape ordinance, and time of day watering limit. The Planning Group asked that meter replacement also be added to the recommendations.

Prioritization of Projects in the 2011 and 2016 Regional Water Plans

John Grant presented the report. The Regional Water Planning Group Stakeholder Committee developed standards on November 25, 2013. It addresses the following criteria: decade of need, feasibility, viability, sustainability, and cost effectiveness. The decade of need will be weighed at 40%, feasibility 10%, viability 25%, sustainability 15%, and cost effectiveness 10%. There are 92 projects to be prioritized in the 2011 Region F Plan. There are many questions that need a definitive response with data from the plan or database. All projects will need additional information for feasibility questions. There are special considerations. There are 10 projects with 0 supply and subordination has \$0 cost units. The draft prioritization from the 2012 State Water Plan is to be submitted June 1, 2014. The Planning Groups are to submit the final prioritization on September 1, 2014. The SWIFT Advisory Committee will recommend rules regarding funding and prioritization on September 1, 2014. The TWDB report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House regarding the use of SWIFT is due December 1, 2014.

John Grant then discussed how the Planning Group would prioritize the projects in the 2011 and 2016 plans. It was the consensus of the Planning Group that a sub-committee be formed to prioritize projects based on data gathered by the consultant. Voting members who are interested in joining the sub-committee will sign up post meeting. The sub-committee will have a conference call. Final prioritization will be approved by the Planning Group.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be Thursday, May 15, 2014.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Wendell Moody, Secretary
Region F Water Planning Group

John Grant, Chair
Region F Water Planning Group