

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGION F WATER PLANNING GROUP
10:00 A.M., THURSDAY, MAY 15, 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, May 15, 2014 at the Office of the Colorado River Municipal Water District in Big Spring, Texas. Voting members present were: Wendell Moody, Len Wilson, Don Daniel; Designated Alternate for Terry Scott, Len Wilson, Richard Gist, Charles Hagood, Tim Warren, Scott Holland, Merle Taylor, John Grant, Jon Cartwright; Designated Alternate for Paul Weatherby, Raymond Straub, Gil VanDeVenter, and Jerry Bearden. Larry Turnbough, Ricky Dickson, Caroline Runge, Kenneth Dierschke, Stephen Brown, Mark Barr, John Shepard, Woody Anderson, and Ben Shepperd were absent. Non-voting members present were: Tom Barnett, Harvey Everheart, Tisha Burnett, and Joe David Ross. Other interested parties present were Simone Kiel and Lissa Gregg, Freese & Nichols; Temple McKinnon and Luis Farias, TWDB; Jim Polonis, Sutton County UWCD; Diana Thomas, Sterling County UWCD; Allan Lange, Lipan-Kickapoo WCD; Ty Edwards, MPGDC; Cody Brooks, Lipan-Kickapoo WCD; Bob Lux, Layne Christensen Co.; Slate Williams, Crockett County GCD; Clayton Vanderburg, TSSWCB; William Ast, Northwest Pipe Co.; Jason Modglin, Representative Drew Darby's Office; and Jennifer Posey 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 of the Region F Meeting on March 20, 2014

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

Consider Approval of Minutes of the Prioritization Committee on April 22, 2014

Motion was made by Len Wilson and seconded by Wendell Moody 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 \$77.52. Expenditures from the Planning Fund to Freese and Nichols were \$14,975.70, minus the 5% retainage. Wendell Moody motioned and Charles Hagood seconded to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Voting Members

John Grant reported that there are no vacancies in voting members, but on September 1, 2014, several voting members' terms will expire; Ricky Dickson, Kenneth Dierschke, Terry Scott, Caroline Runge, Charles Hagood, and Larry Turnbough. These positions will be posted. The Executive Committee will review any nominations and bring to the Planning Group the first meeting after September 1, 2014.

Consider Designated Alternates

No action was taken.

Consider Non-Voting Members

No action was taken.

TWDB Report

Tom Barnett presented the report and said that the draft prioritization is due before June 1, 2014 and the technical memo due August 1. The TWDB will have its last stakeholder meeting for the SWIFT rules development process in El Paso on May 29. These have been a series of meetings around the state where the TWDB has sought input on SWIFT rules. The interactive State Water Plan website was launched two months ago.

Discuss and Consider Approval of the Draft Recommended Needs Analysis

Simone Kiel presented the report. This was first presented to the Planning Group in September 2013. The goal is to capture existing supplies and demands for the region as accurately as possible. Input was gathered from municipalities through the WUG survey. The analysis can be updated for contractual sales and supply allocation, but the TWDB approved demands cannot be changed. The updated TCEQ Colorado WAM may affect supply availability, and thus, needs. Factors affecting the regions needs include higher demands, with increased mining demands and increased population due to mining activity, and source availability due to reservoir yields and MAGs. There are significant groundwater supply limitations both in aquifers – Hickory, Ogallala, and Dockum; and Counties – Andrews, Concho, Howard, Martin, McCulloch, and Scurry.

Consider Authorization to Submit the Technical Report on the Needs Analysis to the TWDB with Approval of the Executive Committee

Merle Taylor motioned and Wendell Moody seconded to authorize the submittal of the technical report on the needs analysis to the TWDB, with approval of the Executive Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Chapters 1 and 11

Simone Kiel presented the report. Chapter 1 includes the big picture overview of the region including economics, population and water demands, water resources, and agricultural and natural resources. This chapter is in the process of being updated due to the wait on the updated Colorado WAM. Chapter 11 is a new chapter. It compares the previous Regional Water Plan with the new Regional Water Plan. It describes projects from the last plan that have been implemented. A draft chapter will be available for review in November. Chapter 11 outlines differences in methodology for demand projections, in which the year 2011 was used as a dry year for most WUGs; the drought of record and hydrologic modeling and assumptions include changes to the Colorado WAM, new drought of record for some areas, and continuing drought of record, which impacted supplies; groundwater and surface water availability, existing water supplies, and identified water needs including new MAG limitations and the effects of any updates to the Colorado WAM; recommended and alternative water management strategies. At the August 2014 meeting, Chapter 2 Demands and Chapter 3 Supplies will be reviewed. At the November 2014 meeting, Chapter 5 Strategies, Chapter 7 Drought, and Chapter 11 Implementation will be reviewed. The Draft Initially Prepared Plan and Appendices will be reviewed in February 2015.

Discuss and Consider Approval of the Draft Prioritized Projects in the 2011 Region F Regional Water Plan

John Grant said that prioritization started in the last legislative session with House Bill 4. The TWDB has the final say in the prioritization within all the plans in the state. The regions must prioritize the projects from the 2011 Plan before projects in the 2016 plan. HB4 says that the TWDB must establish a points system for prioritizing projects. There are 11 items listed in HB4. There are four items in the first group that state that the TWDB should give the highest consideration in awarding points to projects that serve a large population, provide assistance to diverse urban and rural populations, provide regionalization, and meet a high percentage of the water supply needs of the water users. In addition to that criteria, the following is to be considered; the local contribution to be made to finance the project, the financial capacity of the applicant to repay the project, the ability of the TWDB and the applicant to timely leverage state financing and federal funds to make that money available, whether there is an emergency need for the project, whether the applicant is ready to move forward with the project if the applicant is applying for financial assistance, the demonstrated effort of this project on water conservation, and the priority given the project by the Regional Water Planning Group.

Simone Kiel presented the report. The RWPG Stakeholder Committee developed standards on November 25, 2013. Planning Groups must consider the following criteria: decade when needed, feasibility, viability, sustainability, cost effectiveness. The weight of the criteria is – decade of need 40%; feasibility 10%; viability 25%; sustainability 15%, and cost effectiveness 10%. There are a total of 13 questions: 2 for decade of need, 4 for feasibility, 4 for viability, 2 for sustainability, and 1 for cost effectiveness. Assumptions were needed and all assumptions were reviewed by the Prioritization Committee and the Executive Committee.

Len Wilson motioned and Gil VanDeVenter seconded to approve the Draft Prioritized Projects in the 2011 Region F Regional Water Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Authorization to Submit the Draft Prioritized Projects in the 2011 Region F Regional Water Plan to the TWDB

Raymond Straub motioned and Charles Hagood seconded the motion to authorize the submittal to the Draft Prioritized Projects in the 2011 Region F Regional Water Plan to the TWDB. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Authorization for Consultants, Prioritization Committee, and Executive Committee to Address any Comments from the TWDB on the Draft Prioritized Projects in the 2011 Region F Regional Water Plan and Prepare a Final Prioritization Schedule for Approval by the RWPG

Gil VanDeVenter motioned and Raymond Straub seconded the motion to authorize the Consultants, Prioritization Committee, and Executive Committee to address any Comments from the TWDB on the Draft Prioritized Projects in the 2011 Region F Plan and Prepare a Final Prioritization Schedule for Approval by the RWPG. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be Thursday, August 21, 2014.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Wendell Moody, Secretary
Region F Water Planning Group

John Grant, Chair
Region F Water Planning Group